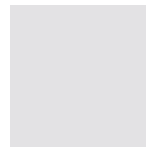


Navigating turbulent waters

ANNUAL REPORT 2022







Content

Navigating turbulent waters	4
What we do	5
War in Ukraine Human suffering at the frontiers of Europe	6
Humanitarian interventions elsewhere in the world Providing basic necessities	8
Development cooperation Tackling the causes of crisis and poverty	10
Reception and integration Individual and collective	12
Social programmes Support towards independence	15
Our organisation The other at the heart of our efforts	19
Communication & Mobilisation See, judge, act	21
Asylum and migration programmes in Belgium	23
International cooperation programmes: map	24
International cooperation programmes: list	26
Financial report	29
Members of the board of administrators	30
Thank you!	31

Navigating turbulent waters



The reception crisis, the resurgence of conflicts, natural or climate disasters, inflation leading to increase in precariousness: 2022 was a harsh and tumultuous year, even if we were glad to

see the gradual decline of the health crisis. More than ever, the action of Caritas turned out to be crucial, both in Belgium and abroad. It bears witness to what is most precious in human nature, that impulse of fraternity and solidarity, that deep desire to leave no one behind. This is the core value of the Caritas mission: it can only be achieved thanks to the motivation, dedication, enthusiasm and competence of all its staff, together with volunteers and donors, both private and institutional, Belgian and supranational.

The crisis in Ukraine is weighing on people's minds. Thanks to an unprecedented solidarity movement, Caritas was able to be at the forefront of supporting the populations affected by this conflict in Belgium, Ukraine and neighbouring countries, sustained by the network of local Caritas, which were immediately up and running.

Our local presence, by means of the Caritas organizations in each diocese, is a unique asset of our network. It guarantees an efficient intervention, with the least amount of squander in time and costs. Not only in Ukraine of course, but also in all our main areas of intervention, in emergency, prevention and development: in Africa, in the Middle East, or in the face of the huge floods in Pakistan and Brazil.

In Belgium, Caritas International's mission is to aid migrants and refugees in all its forms: reception in centres, personalized guidance for minors, legal assistance and support in finding housing, help with return, assistance to host families... Our focus is on providing assistance to the most vulnerable people, who require special, long-term, humane support. This is truly the essence of our action, our "DNA".

Take a look at the following pages of this report which will shed light on our many concrete actions in favour of the most disadvantaged.

A huge thank you again to all those who have contributed with their actions, donations and grants. They are critically needed for us to carry on our missions. The resurgence of inflation is leading to an overwhelming increase in our own expenses and difficulties in maintaining a budgetary balance. It also leads to an exponential increase in the needs of those who require our assistance.

In this world full of turbulence, distress and suffering, let us stick together and show solidarity, so that we can give a future to those who are most affected.

Bernard Woronoff
President of the Board of Directors
Caritas International

What we do

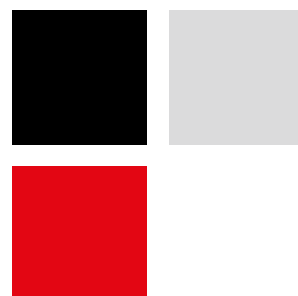
Caritas International supports victims of violence, natural disasters and poverty, in their own country or on the move, in collaboration with its local, national and international networks.

Abroad

- > Continuation of efforts to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and neighbouring countries;
- > Humanitarian assistance for vulnerable victims of disasters and conflicts;
- > Reconstruction and development, with a particular focus on reducing the impact of humanitarian crises;
- > Rural development, agroecology and alternative sources of income generation, including 'off-farm' income generating activities;
- > Providing support to civil society organisations.

In Belgium

- > Providing shelter and social counselling for asylum seekers with a vulnerable profile;
- > Assistance in integrating recognised refugees;
- > Social support for migrants; accompanying family reunification; visiting detention centres;
- > Guardianship of unaccompanied foreign minors;
- > Guidance for voluntary returns and sustainable reintegration in the country of origin;
- > Awareness-raising, organising educational and advocacy activities.



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War in Ukraine

Human suffering at the frontiers of Europe

On the 24th of February 2022 tensions between Ukraine and Russia led to an all-out war with devastating humanitarian consequences. Millions of people living in Ukraine were forced to seek refuge elsewhere in the country or to flee to other European nations, including Belgium. The war and its massive humanitarian ramifications triggered a strong response within the global Caritas network.

By the end of 2022, there were already reported to be more than 6 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine. Nearly 8 million Ukrainians have fled to other European countries. Neighbouring countries such as Poland, Slovakia, Moldova, Hungary and Romania bore the brunt of the response. The European Union made it possible for Ukrainians to request temporary protection status in its Member States.

Since the war began, Caritas has offered assistance to more than 2 million people at numerous locations throughout Ukraine, including some close to the front-line. This assistance has taken many forms: emergency accommodation, food, drinking water, healthcare, supply of hygiene products, psychosocial support, legal and administrative advice, and cash support. More than 2000 employees and volunteers from Caritas Ukraine have dedicated and continue to dedicate themselves to the cause in spite of the risk to their own lives.

Caritas International undertook major efforts in order to help victims in Ukraine. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, around EUR 837,000 was sent from Belgium to Ukraine in 2022.

In addition, we provided financial support for Caritas' activities in Slovakia, Poland and Moldova, where we also visited our colleagues on the ground to show our solidarity, analyse their needs and determine how we could do even better to tackle the humanitarian crisis. Medicines were sent to Ukraine from Belgium via Slovakia.

Caritas International formed a close collaboration with colleagues from Caritas in the east of Slovakia (Spiš and Košice) and in Ukraine (Uzhhorod, Mukachevo and Kharkiv) in order to better align our work with the needs in those areas.

A number of Belgian NGOs, including Caritas International, decided to collect donations via Consortium 12-12, which made a huge contribution to financing activities in Ukraine. Belgian citizens responded very generously to the call for donations launched by Consortium 12-12. In addition, Caritas International was able to rely on the support of brewer AB

Telling Figures

More than **6 million** people received support in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries such as Poland, Romania, Moldova, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria.

Around **50,000** people received support from the 24 regional integration centres in Slovakia.

The Ukraine Info Point (in Belgium) responded to more than **1,800** requests for assistance in four languages (Ukrainian, French, Dutch and Russian).

InBev. Before the war, the multinational company used to brew the Ukrainian beer Chernigivske in Ukraine. When it was forced to transfer production to Belgium, the group came up with the idea to retain its links with Ukraine and to donate profits from the sale of this beer to humanitarian aid organisations in the country. With the funds Caritas International received from AB InBev, we were able to support the work of our colleagues within the country and the activities of Caritas Poland in support of people having fled Ukraine.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN UKRAINE: SUPPORT FROM CARITAS INTERNATIONAL (*)	
For Caritas Ukraine	EUR 837,031
For Caritas Slovakia	EUR 650,000
For Caritas Poland	EUR 100,000
For Caritas Moldova	EUR 80,000
Other interventions	EUR 62,500
Total paid out in 2022	EUR 1,729,531

(*) Not including our support for the Ukraine Info Point in Belgium

Help for Ukrainians in Belgium and Belgian host families

Since February, more than 62,000 Ukrainian refugees have been granted protection in Belgium, most of whom received temporary protection status.

Even in the first few weeks, Caritas International was already present at the Heizel registration centre, where it helped people who were being sent to reception centres. The Caritas team also monitored those individuals who did not receive temporary protection status but had nonetheless fled the war, most of whom did not have Ukrainian nationality. Over time, our team began providing social and legal support to individuals at the registration centre who had questions about getting help in Belgium. These activities were ceased when the number of arrivals at the registration centre started to drop at the end of April.

In March 2022, we launched the Ukraine Info Point. This helpline could be accessed via two numbers: one for calls in Dutch, French and English and another for calls in Ukrainian, Russian and Polish. Belgian and Ukrainian volunteers responded to questions about residency documents, living with a host family, assistance from the Public Centre for Social Welfare or insurance and driving licences. In total, the Info Point has already handled more than 1800 calls.

Since June 2022, Caritas has been working together with the social services Ciré, Convivial and SeSo in Brussels. This collaboration is aimed at providing individual social and legal support for the most vulnerable individuals who have ended up in Brussels after fleeing the war. The organisations involved also help to flag up structural problems and are active participants in working groups aimed at developing an integration strategy for beneficiaries of temporary protection in Brussels.



© Caritas Ukraine

Olena: 'Caritas got me a doctor's appointment'

78-year-old Olena comes from Nova Kakhovka, a city in Ukraine near to Kherson. She had no choice but to leave her home behind and flee the violence of the war. "It was the 25th of February 2022. It took me and my son Stanislav half an hour to find each other. We stuck a few documents in a bag and drove through the night. On the way we saw a lot of cars and tanks. There were aeroplanes flying overhead. We were terribly frightened. We didn't know where to go."

Olena and her son finally decided to head for the city of Lviv, but when they arrived they were advised to drive to Ternopil. "We arrived there at night on February 27th. My son went around knocking doors to see if anyone had room for us, but we had no luck. That night we slept at a gas station; we were hungry and it was cold. But there are still good people in the world; the next morning the gas station attendant told us about Caritas. We received a warm welcome there, were given our own room and everything that we needed."

Olena suffers from eye problems. In Ternopil, she desperately needed to see a doctor. "It was our first time in Ternopil. We didn't know anyone there. Natalya, who works for Caritas, helped us a lot," explains Olena's son Stanislav. "She called a medical centre and arranged an appointment with the doctor. A few days later we were able to go to the regional hospital, and there we were given a date for a procedure."

The operation in the hospital has really helped. A few days after the surgery, Olena was back in her room at Caritas. At the moment she is receiving support via a project providing at-home care for internally displaced persons.

Humanitarian interventions elsewhere in the world

Providing basic necessities

Through our emergency aid we aim to save lives, to prevent and relieve suffering and to preserve human dignity. Together with the Caritas network, Caritas International provides aid in the event of emergency situations but also offers support to vulnerable survivors of long-term crises or war. Unfortunately, there has been an upwards trend in the number of disasters and crises, and sometimes one crisis can hide another. What's more, the impact of climate change is becoming more and more significant over time. 2022 was dominated by the war in Ukraine, but this did not mean that we neglected the many other crises elsewhere in the world.

Drought and famine in Africa

In Spring 2022, Caritas International focused its attention on the huge problems in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. In these areas, 15 to 16 million people required emergency food aid as a result of a devastating drought and an increase in food prices (linked to the war in Ukraine).

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Caritas network was able to ensure that young mothers in Niger could breastfeed again by providing them with suitable food. Severely malnourished children received medical care and therapeutic feeding as well as support from healthcare workers. We also reinforced a similar programme run by our local partner OCADES in Burkina Faso.

One woman lost all her livestock as a result of the drought. "So many people have lost their animals," she told an employee at the local Caritas organisation. "Thousands of animals have died. There is no water for me or my family. I had almost 300 goats, but they are all dead."

"Niger has no access to the sea," explains Abdoul Moumouni Illo, Director of Caritas Maradi. "The country is heavily dependent on imports via neighbouring countries, but Benin, Burkina Faso, Algeria and others closed their borders, banning the export of food. This was a protectionist policy resulting from the war in Ukraine, which caused prices to sky-rocket."

Nourou, a farmer, has seen an immediate impact on his daily life: "The war had a very negative effect on market prices. We normally make bread but now prices have gone through the roof. We can't afford that any more. Now we mainly eat millet, sorghum and black-eyed peas. I'm doing my best to feed my children but it's not easy."



© Johanna de Tessières/Caritas International



Floods in Pakistan

Unprecedented flooding caused enormous human suffering in Pakistan in 2022. The natural disaster damaged houses, bridges and roads, and resulted in the death of huge numbers of livestock. Those who survived the disaster needed tents, bedding, dry food packages, hot meals, clean drinking water and hygiene kits. Caritas International allocated EUR 50,000 to help Caritas Pakistan tackle this humanitarian crisis.

Armed conflict in Ethiopia - Tigray

The situation in Ethiopia, particularly in the Tigray region where an armed conflict has been raging since November 2020, remains extremely fragile. Despite the significant lack of humanitarian access in 2022, our partner was still able to implement a project involving food aid and cash support, financed by the Flemish Government.

Reducing the impact of disasters in DR Congo

The Congolese provinces of South Kivu and Maniema have had to deal with a series of difficult situations in recent years as a result of war, flooding, soil erosion and other crises (such as in the area of public health). These have had enormous consequences: many people lost their lives, their homes or their sources of income, agricultural land was wiped away, families were separated and there was a surge in gender-based violence. All of these disasters increased the vulnerability of the population in the region.

The Caritas consortium, in collaboration with CAFOD and financed by DG ECHO, was able to take swift action on the ground in order to meet the population's basic needs. However, rapid interventions are only part of the solution. If we want to reduce the impact of disasters and improve living conditions, we must also prepare the population for these crises. To this end, we are bolstering local communities

to allow them to draw up their own disaster response plans that will improve their ability to respond to emergency situations in future.

These interventions are being combined with support for local community committees (CLOCs) that serve as mediators and offer solutions in the case of conflict. These committees, which are made up of volunteers, work independently and help to cement peace whilst also preventing violence. Thanks to funding from the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Caritas Spain, Caritas International was able to assist colleagues from Caritas Bukavu and Caritas Kasongo in supporting 40 community committees that will be responsible for protecting more than 400,000 people in the South Kivu province.

Continuing humanitarian crisis in Haiti

Despite no longer having official representation in the country since April 2020, we continue to support our local Caritas partners: in Pestel-Corail they are dealing with the consequences of the earthquake that occurred in August 2021; in Calumette work is underway to improve access to clean drinking water; and in Jacmel efforts are being made to create better living conditions for detainees in the prison there.

Protection activities in four countries

In addition to the various crises that have already been mentioned, Caritas International also runs a multi-annual humanitarian programme thanks to funds from the Belgian Directorate General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD) in four countries: Burundi, Niger, Uganda and Jordan. The emphasis of this programme is on the protection of refugees, internally displaced persons, returning refugees and host families.

In Burundi, for example, Caritas International provides cash support to returning refugees in the provinces of Cankuzo, Bujumbura Rural and Cibitoke. This allows the returnees to buy provisions locally and receive training so that they are in a better position to independently exercise an economic activity and generate their own income. In all of the countries in which the programme is active, attention is also paid to protecting refugee minors and combating gender-based violence.



© Caritas Pakistan

← Unprecedented floods caused great human misery in Pakistan in 2022.

Development cooperation

Tackling the causes of crisis and poverty

Development cooperation is based on the fight against the underlying causes of poverty and crisis situations. Thanks to its structural development programmes abroad, Caritas International aims to sustainably improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable people and marginalised communities. Here, too, we work in collaboration with local, national and international networks and stakeholders.

Social cohesion and resilience within COHERENCE

Following the conclusion of the five-year programme EMMo in 2021, the green light was given in April 2022 during a virtual meeting of all stakeholders for a new five-year programme, COHERENCE (Social Cohesion and Community Resilience). To this end, we are working together with the Belgian Justice & Peace Commission (CJP) and are receiving support from the DGD. COHERENCE will be operating in seven countries: Belgium, Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Niger, Burkina Faso and Palestine. Burkina Faso and Palestine are new partner countries in the programme. We were able

to retain Ethiopia in our programme, but the activities there will start a little later given the difficult circumstances in the country, specifically in Tigray.

Within the framework of COHERENCE, a "triple nexus" approach is applied. In this way, we aim to carry out a combination of different activities in various areas such as emergency, development and social cohesion. In other words, we are investing in an integrated response with a combination of different activities in various domains, such as emergency, development and social cohesion. Together with local partners, we will work to strengthen social cohesion and socio-economic position of communities, while also concentrating on disaster risk reduction.

Food security in Ethiopia

In 2022 we concluded a multi-annual project in the Jimma-Bonga region in the south of Ethiopia, focusing on food security for vulnerable families from the marginalised Menja community.



TESTIMONY FROM JIMMA-BONGA

“More income from selling honey and vegetables”

Kebebush Kochito (30) has been living in Keyakella Kebele for 15 years. “The selection committee chose me to participate in a bee-keeping project. Now I make honey myself in my own garden. I was also selected to be involved in the vegetable growing project. This has allowed me to provide better food for my family. I have been able to increase my income by selling surplus vegetables and honey to others. I was then able to use the money I earned to buy an ox.” Now Kebebush Kochito uses her ox, together with animals belonging to other farmers, to plough the fields. She has also started keeping chickens.



© Guerchom Ndebo/Caritas International

Female entrepreneurship in DR Congo

One noteworthy success is a small-scale project funded by the Brussels Capital Region in which Caritas International and Caritas Développement Kinshasa supported the establishment of a small company that produces (100% organic) cassava flour and sells it in the region of ‘Plateaux des Batéké’ (120 km from Kinshasa).

The project is primarily aimed at female farmers who produce cassava and sell their produce to the ‘Centre de Transformation de Dumi’, where it is then turned into flour. The flour is subsequently sold locally as well as in Kinshasa. Buyers include social centres, education centres and restaurants.

The project has created jobs, and a committee made up of representatives from the local community is responsible for supervising the company, which has in turn created a real social dynamic. The profits made are being used to finance initiatives for the benefit of the community.

The project was concluded in March 2022, but a follow-up was launched via our new DGD five-year programme in the form of technical capacity building.

Climate change

Local farmers remain extremely vulnerable to drought, desertification and the decline in biodiversity. In countries such as Niger, Uganda and Palestine, Caritas International helps farmers to introduce agro-ecological practices that respect the environment and help to address climate change.

At the COP 27 climate conference in Sharm El Sheikh in November 2022, further steps were taken towards greater financial and political solidarity with the most vulnerable countries. In the spirit of the words of Pope Francis (Laudato Si’), Caritas International continues to listen to the concerns of the poorest people and advocate for the rights of the many communities confronted with the effects of climate change and other ecological challenges.

Reception and integration

Individual and collective

Caritas International has an agreement with the federal government to accompany and welcome people who have applied for international protection, with a focus on those with a vulnerable profile. These are mainly unaccompanied minors, lone individuals and families (with or without children), and people suffering from medical or psychological problems or a disability. When they obtain refugee status they are expected to live independently, but some need a transitional phase and additional support. They can benefit from this in transit housing.

Caritas International welcomes and accompanies these people in collective structures (Charleroi, Liège and Scherpenheuvel), in grouped apartments with individual and collective support (Wavre) and in individual housing (Antwerp, Mechelen, Liège, Mortsels and Brussels). At the end of 2022, we had a total of 642 places available.

Ransart Reception Centre

For Ransart (Charleroi), 2022 was the year in which the reception project was consolidated. The reception centre was full, with an entire floor taken up by unaccompanied foreign minors. The team there entered into collaboration with various not-for-profit organisations in the Charleroi area and invested itself in the local associative sector. On 3 June 2022 a second open day was held, which was a great success among local residents, partners, inhabitants and staff.

A new coordinator has now also joined the team, and she is working together with the rest of the staff to ensure that the centre in Ransart grows even stronger local roots.

In a society that is becoming increasingly digital, computers are essential for finding a job, studying, communicating and meeting or staying in touch with people. Caritas International wants to bridge the digital divide for asylum seekers living in reception centres in order to allow them to live a more independent life in Belgium.

Imane volunteers at the reception centre in Charleroi (Ransart). She helps young children with their homework. After school, she goes through the children's lessons with them and helps them with their exercises. "It's amazing, I really love it," says Imane. "The more often I come, the more I enjoy the work. I feel more and more motivated to come here!"

Scherpenheuvel Reception Centre

After a few difficult years due to COVID-19, volunteer activities in Scherpenheuvel and at other sites have recommenced, meaning that more activities could once again be offered for children and young people in Scherpenheuvel.

The centre, which is now under a new coordinating team, also worked on a conference run by Odisee College on accommodating for children in reception centres. This also had an impact in Scherpenheuvel, where a special room was set up for children to play in with their mothers.

The reception centre was full for most of the year, which resulted in a heavy workload. The profile of the residents became increasingly vulnerable. Many people have to wait a long time for a decision to be made on their case, which can cause a lot of tension.



© Caritas International

In terms of healthcare, it is apparent that providing for residents with psychological problems is no simple matter. There is no appropriate facility for people in this situation. Moreover, directing them to specialists is not always easy either.

Many people struggle to find somewhere to live once their asylum request has been granted, particularly those with psychiatric problems who are unable to live fully independently. Large families also struggle to find an adequate housing.

At 70 years old, Nicole Joillet is one of people responsible for keeping Den Tember (Zichem) looking shipshape. Den Tember is an offshoot of the Caritas International reception centre in Scherpenheuvel, and is a shop where refugees and other people in need can purchase clothes, household items and toys. “Why do I do it? Because I’m mad!” giggles Nicole. “It’s actually my daughter’s fault – she once pointed out that the children from the reception centre who were attending nursery school were wearing such shabby clothing. That inspired me to go and sort clothes at the Peeterskasteel, and I kept on going! It might also partly be because my own mother was a refugee during the Second World War. When I hear the stories about refugees today, it reminds me of what my mum must have gone through.”

Louvranges Reception Centre

In Louvranges (Wavre), which also saw the arrival of a new coordinator, efforts are being made to improve the centre’s pedagogical project. New partnerships were forged in the area of medical and psychological support. It also proved necessary to find partners to help with residents with disabilities.



© Caritas International

Volunteers are once again being brought on board, and their contribution has made a huge difference.

In Louvranges, too, staff have noticed that residents’ profiles are becoming more complex and more challenging than in the past. The childcare team also welcomed a new staff member. The apartments in Louvranges are almost always fully occupied.

Integration, reception and support in Liège

Caritas International carries out many activities in Liège. These include integration (training), reception and support in becoming independent (YIS, YIT and TVU) as well as volunteer projects.

Liège has its own social and legal service and runs a range of training courses and intercultural activities. Since September 2022, the staff there have also received funding in connection with the Walloon integration programme. In addition to being taught how to read and write in French, participants can also attend social orientation classes.

Youth in Transit (YIT, for young, vulnerable people who are trying to build a life for themselves here) and Transit Vulnérables (TVU, for vulnerable young people who want to make the transition to independence) increased their collaboration in the area, for example through communal gardening projects and increased contact with a local health centre.

YIS (Youth in Shelter) continued to develop its pedagogical activities. YIS focuses on unaccompanied minors between the ages of 12 and 18, and has gained broad recognition in the region. One of the YIS nurses completed a course in facial massage therapy. This technique appears to be extremely effective in ensuring the well-being of young people. In April 2022, YIS organised an Eid celebration for young Muslims with delicious food and music. Together with the not-for-profit organisation Surya, YIS offers support to minors who have been victims of human trafficking. An increase in the number of asylum requests from Afghan nationals being rejected meant that some young people went on the run, which had never happened before.

Auton’Home also has the wind in its sails, providing assistance to 45 families last year. Auton’Home supports people with a migrant background who are already living in their own home. It is likely that Auton’Home will be recruiting more staff.

In terms of volunteer projects an initiative aiming at finding ‘buddies’ for unaccompanied minors has now been launched. There are already around 40 of these buddies. Working with buddies appears to be having a positive impact on the young people concerned.

Support in becoming independent in Brussels

Last year, the Brussels-based projects Youth in Transit (YIT) and Transit Vulnérables (TVU) were merged. The new, larger team has additionally started supporting vulnerable families in transit as well as vulnerable young people, helping them towards a more independent life. A good balance has now been struck.

Much of the support work involves helping people find accommodation, a particularly challenging task in 2022. Fortunately, Caritas International still has its 'home-owners in solidarity' who can sometimes offer solutions. As a result of the accommodation crisis, families and young people had to be put in short-term accommodation in Brussels on more than one occasion. That had an impact on the day-to-day work of the team.

Antwerp province: helping vulnerable people with special needs

'High Care' (Mortsel) works with highly vulnerable individuals who are not immediately able to live fully independently due to medical or psychiatric problems. The team was joined by an integration coach and an intern. An open day in Mortsel helped to improve acceptance of the organisation's work among local residents.

The team at 'Health Care' (Antwerp) saw the addition of one new nurse. This project focuses on families or individuals undergoing asylum proceedings who are medically vulnerable.

Nora fled her home all on her own, and arrived in Belgium two years ago. "My greatest wish is to find my family again," she says. Nora turns 17 in a few weeks, and because she will miss her family even more on that occasion, the Caritas team in Mechelen are doing everything they can to make sure she still has a wonderful day. "We'll put up balloons, eat cake and organise a surprise for her," says integration coach Sifa.

The activities to help vulnerable individuals transition to being more independent were grouped in Antwerp so that Mechelen could focus on YIT. In Antwerp, extra housing was put into use.

Even in the wider Antwerp region, the housing shortage is a major problem. It is difficult to find social rental accommodation, renting on the private market is becoming increasingly expensive and there is growing competition between would-be tenants.

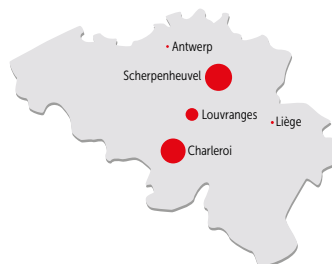
Finding a general practitioner or psychological support is no less complicated. The energy crisis brought yet more strife, both for the families receiving support and for Caritas International.

Youth In Transit (YIT) in Mechelen is doing extremely well, and is now able to house 16 young people thanks to the purchase of a building. The team is doing a lot of networking with external partners, and is therefore able to quickly get young people on the right track when it comes to education, healthcare and leisure activities.

Maryam (72) from Palestine spends most of her days in bed. She has heart problems, high blood pressure and diabetes, and her legs don't work as well as they used to. But when the social assistants from the Caritas team in Antwerp come by, she perks right up. "My good, good friends!" "I have many friends," says Maryam. "Many, many friends: Belinda, Katrien, Rein..." The few people who do come and visit her are all social assistants from Caritas. Her friends.

NUMBER OF SPACES IN CARITAS INTERNATIONAL ACCOMMODATION:

642



For people requesting international protection:

431

- Health Care Antwerp: 19
- Logis de Louvranges: 78
- Charleroi Reception Centre (Ransart): 151
- Scherpenheuvel Reception Centre: 165
- Youth in Shelter Liège: 18

For recognised refugees:

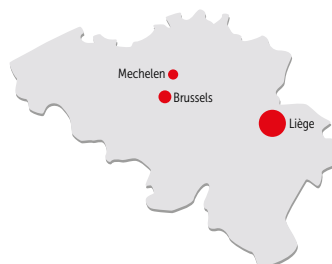
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TRANSITION TOWARDS AUTONOMY FOR VULNERABLE REFUGEES (TVU)



- Antwerp: 30
- Brussels: 55
- High Care (Mortsel): 10
- Liège: 42

TRANSITION TOWARDS AUTONOMY FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (YIT)



- Brussels: 19
- Liège: 40
- Mechelen: 15

Social programmes

support towards independence

The Social Programmes department at Caritas International provides social services with a focus on front-line support, family reunification, visits to detention centres, guardianship of unaccompanied minors and projects in the area of voluntary return and reintegration.

The staff involved in all of these activities work relentlessly on a daily basis to ensure respect for the rights of people with a vulnerable profile. These rights may seem self-evident, but on more than one occasion it has been necessary to fight for people's ability to exercise them. Caritas International is doing everything it can to help those receiving support get on the right track, whilst always respecting them as human beings.

In 2022, there was a real show of solidarity for refugees from Ukraine in Belgium. A flexible policy was put in place that allowed these refugees to obtain 'temporary protection' status. As early as March 2022, shortly after the war broke out in Ukraine, Caritas International set up a Ukraine Info Point here in Belgium (*).

Caritas and its employees are professionals and boast unique expertise in their field. They also try to put this expertise to good use by sparking public debate and by informing the competent bodies about the impact of their policy on our target groups. The Ukraine Info Point is a good illustration of how we are making use of the expertise of our lawyers.

Social services

The coronavirus pandemic had a clear impact on the work of our social services. In 2022, we were once again able to receive people from our target groups in person. Our social services frequently helped people who had not received reception spots and aided them in finding a lawyer in order to access this right. These cases were a result of the ever-worsening reception crisis in Belgium.

In practice we found that remote work was still the norm in many places, including among city and municipal authorities, trade unions, health insurance providers and so on. Appointments had to be taken digitally, and files were managed online. However, not everyone is at ease

(* Find out more about the Ukraine Info Point in the section on our International Cooperation department and our efforts in relation to the war in Ukraine.



↑ The Ukraine Info Point is an example of the expertise of our legal experts.

with digital technology, which can jeopardise their ability to exercise certain social rights. Many people found themselves forced to call upon a social service such as the one provided by Caritas International in order to get their 'file' moving. Digitalisation is now an integral part of day-to-day life in our society, but we must not forget the emerging digital divide and the effects this can have on vulnerable individuals.

In 2022, the Caritas International social service handled no fewer than 1915 cases. These primarily concerned voluntary return (851 cases), front-line work (691), family reunification (236) and detention (124). Around two thirds of the social service's clients were men. In terms of nationality, the majority of clients came from Brazil (427 people) followed by Syria (94), Belgium (85), Morocco (81) and Romania (77).

Our front-line work is focused on legal, administrative, psychosocial and practical problems. The majority of these cases concern public administrations, residency, housing, daily life, finances, health and detention. Many people from the target group are struggling with the effects of the severe housing crisis (high rents, shortage of supply, discrimination).

In the area of family reunification, our specialised help desk dealt with 300 requests each month on average. On top of the existing cases, 236 new cases were opened. Those requesting family reunification were primarily Afghans (40), Belgians (37), Syrians (26), Somalis (24) and Guineans (14).

In the area of voluntary return, 854 new requests were dealt with. These cases involved a surprisingly high proportion of Brazilians (460 requests). The remaining requests came from nationals of countries including Romania (73), Colombia (40), El Salvador (37) and Morocco (23). Many of the Brazilian nationals were individuals who had not been in Belgium for very long and had been subject to labour exploitation. They were contacted while still in Brazil with a tempting offer to travel to Belgium where they would be given a 'well-paid job'. When they arrived, however, the reality was quite different: they were often exploited for months without ever receiving any wages. Only a small number of these individuals filed a complaint against their employer, as the others refrained from doing so for fear of reprisals.

Social service employees also pay visits to people in detention centres. In 2022, 81 cases were opened for people being held in detention centre 127bis, and 45 cases were opened for people being held in Holsbeek. When it comes to detention centres, Caritas International is also involved in the MOVE coalition. MOVE works in partnership with other human rights organisations to provide social and legal support to migrants being held in detention centres via accredited visitors. The objective of the political and awareness-raising activities pursued by MOVE is to put an end to the detention of migrants and reassert their right to freedom.

Unaccompanied minors in transit and need for pre-reception

Unaccompanied minors are foreign nationals under the age of 18 who have been separated from their parents or other relatives. They have travelled far from their home country without their parents and have arrived in Belgium completely alone, often after a long and arduous journey. These individuals are a highly vulnerable group, and are also able to benefit from specialist counselling provided by our social workers and professional guardians. We offer them the same services as we offer all those we support: we defend their interests and help them find long-term solutions, whether that is in Belgium or elsewhere.

Partly thanks to a report published by our Xtra MENA guardianship project, the 'Nekotel' was opened in Brussels in October 2021 under the direction of Doctors Without Borders. This is a centre specifically for unaccompanied minors. The Xtra MENA team continued to actively advocate for every unaccompanied minor in transit. They also organised training and networking meetings. The team remained an essential link between the formal and informal network surrounding the target group.

Since October 2022, Xtra MENA has in particular played a key role in helping unaccompanied minors who have not been assigned a place in a reception centre despite requesting international protection. Caritas International provided these young people with information and tried to stay in contact with them to prevent them from 'disappearing'. Our staff also negotiated to find a place for these young people in the formal reception network.

There is still a huge demand for guardians. Two new guardians joined Caritas International in 2022. The help desk providing support and guidance to French-speaking guardians is keeping up its good work. This project has been extended by another four years.

Hassan is a 17-year-old Afghan boy who is currently living in a reception centre. He receives support from Bieke, one of our guardians. "Bieke is my guide," explains Hassan. "She knows the answer to many of the questions I have. Bieke also gives me motivation and encouragement. She helps me get things moving. She's really easy to talk to. Without a guardian my life would be a lot harder."



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Our guardians accompany young people in vulnerable situations. It is essential to ensure that their situation does not grow even worse, which is why these guardians are so desperately needed. For unaccompanied minors, their guardian is essentially the only constant in their lives, which are otherwise in a total state of flux. For example, these young people might have to move from one reception centre to another or the contact persons they normally deal with might be changed.

Voluntary return and reintegration

The voluntary return and reintegration team work hard to facilitate the reintegration of voluntary returnees in their country of origin and support them throughout the process. In Belgium, we work in close collaboration with Fedasil and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Our staff are responsible for preparing individuals for voluntary return, offering support when they arrive in their country of origin and carrying out monitoring, which also allows them to make further improvements to the project. The reintegration team is also active at European level. In April 2022 the JRS (Joint Reintegration Service) project was launched, which allows us and our partners to not only provide support for people returning to their home country from Belgium, but also for those departing from other EU countries.

During the preparatory phase, the team organises an in-person meeting with the individual who is considering returning voluntarily to their country of origin. During the meeting, the potential returnee receives information about their options. The requirements and expectations are discussed. Feedback is also provided to the partner organisation in the country to which the person wants to return.

Upon arriving back in their country of origin, they receive support from our local partner organisation. Staff at the partner organisation meet the returnee, talk to them about the reintegration project and ensure they receive further guidance. For example, returnees can get help opening a

small shop, training to be a hairdresser or building a business as a taxi driver. The project receives financial support from Fedasil, the government body that is responsible for voluntary returns.

The work done by the team in Belgium does not stop when a person has actually returned to their home country. The staff remain available to help local colleagues where necessary so that the organisation in the country of origin can focus on the person. Caritas International is continuing to monitor the situation in order to ensure the project is as sustainable as possible. It also provides feedback to Fedasil in this regard.

In 2022, the team was able to offer support to a large number of returnees: 634 cases were dealt with involving 959 returnees. In total, they have handled 827 cases involving 1223 people.

Various exchanges with local partner organisations featured among the highlights of 2022. After all meetings were moved online as a result of the pandemic, in 2022 it was once again possible for colleagues to meet up in person. For example, colleagues from Iraq, Morocco and Ethiopia came to Brussels in March, and the team hosted colleagues from French-speaking African countries in September. Caritas International employees visited their colleagues in Ghana, Morocco, El Salvador and Armenia.

In 2022, the team also released three 51-minute podcasts containing information about voluntary return to El Salvador. These podcasts featured testimonies from returnees. According to recent figures, they have already been listened to 671 times.

At the start of December, the voluntary return and reintegration team visited Caritas Armenia. There, they met with a family that had returned in 2022 and received reintegration support. Thanks to the project, the family were able to invest in the patch of fallow land next to their house. They want to grow vegetables and keep cows, which should provide them with enough income. As the family themselves explain: "Without our family and the good relationship we have with our neighbours in the village, we wouldn't be able to survive. We're not yet producing enough to sell at the market, but we do have enough to trade with or sell to other neighbours and family members. In return, everyone is prepared to give us a hand when we need it."

Integration and resettlement

Worldwide, the majority of refugees end up being hosted by other countries in their own region, where they often live in deplorable circumstances. This is the case for Syrian refugees in camps in Jordan and refugees from DR Congo living in camps in Uganda. Some of the most vulnerable refugees living in these camps without any future prospects are eligible for resettlement.

'Vulnerable refugees' include people who are at risk in their home country, suffer from a complex medical condition or disability for which there are no facilities in the host country or are single parents with children under the age of 18. After being carefully selected by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), they are eligible for resettlement in one of 34 countries across the world, including Belgium.

The integration and resettlement team aims to give people who want to build a new life for themselves in Belgium the best possible chance of successfully becoming a fully-fledged member of our society. In 2022, there was a real show of solidarity for the victims of the war in Ukraine. Unfortunately, the situation was quite different for other groups. For example, the resettlement programme for vulnerable refugees run by UNHCR was frozen in our country because Fedasil did not have enough capacity in its reception centres. 1250 'arrivals' were expected in Belgium, but in practice only 71 people were able to make it here. Most of them were taken in by reception groups through community sponsorship initiatives or by family members already living in the country. All of the families affected were invited to workshops on personal development; 12 people participated.

With the support of Fedasil, Caritas International has a community sponsorship team that provides support to the reception groups. This team organises various meetings between the reception groups and the refugee families. They also help the reception group when dealing with the authorities (immigration office, Fedasil etc.) and with completing the paperwork for a range of services (social services, health insurance etc.).



The number of arrivals under the community sponsorship initiative was also much lower than planned due to the major housing shortage. Various reception groups decided to focus on the reception and support of refugees from Ukraine.

Community sponsorship is an innovative model that offers inspiration for the future. It is essentially a system of reception and integration run by a group of volunteers who provide support to vulnerable individuals. This model allows people to access international protection without having to risk their lives in the process.

Last year, the team did have more leeway to work on improving the quality of their services. There was a greater focus on professional, individual support, involvement of intercultural mediators and bridging figures, collective exchange of knowledge and experience, second-line support for committed helpers and collaboration with volunteers. In August 2022, a meet-and-greet day was held in Brussels for the families and reception groups involved in community sponsorship. The staff also took part in international workshops and helped seek out new legal pathways for refugees wanting to study in another country.

The resettlement programme is run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It involves transferring people who have sought refuge in a third country to a different country that has agreed to take them in. Once they have arrived in Belgium, these individuals face a host of challenges: they must find accommodation, learn the language, understand how the various services and institutions work, etc. We support these individuals on their path to independence via projects such as community sponsorship and 'Peer2Peer' in collaboration with Fedasil.

Our organisation

The other at the heart of our efforts

Personnel and welfare

After a difficult period due to the effects of COVID-19, in 2022 our staff were fortunate enough to be able to return to the office. The Human Resources (HR) and Communications teams joined forces to organise a number of events to try and restore a positive atmosphere.

In 2022, we continued work on implementing an action plan that was drawn up following a survey on well-being at work carried out in 2020. HR began harmonising all of the role descriptions and made a record of the various work equipment needed.

We are also putting the finishing touches to a rewards system for employees who have reached a certain number of years of service with us. New agreements were also concluded regarding working from home.

Soft HR

The HR department improved its collaboration with the Communications team. The information on our intranet was added to and improved.

As a result of a high employee turnover, we have had to recruit 45 new staff members in the past year. Major modifications were made to the onboarding process for new employees. The welcome brochure and guide for expatriates were also overhauled.

HR is continuing to work on implementing the 2020–2022 training plan. For example, a training course was held for front-line employees wanting to learn how to better deal with aggression.

The coordinators responsible for the various teams and sites also participated in a consultation with HR. This allows HR to gather information that can help the team better meet staff expectations. The performance review procedure was also revised.

Payroll administration

Changes were gradually introduced in payroll administration to improve the quality of the services provided. Adjustments in line with social legislation and indexation of wages resulted in a significant extra workload. Efforts were also made to improve working procedures.



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Social dialogue

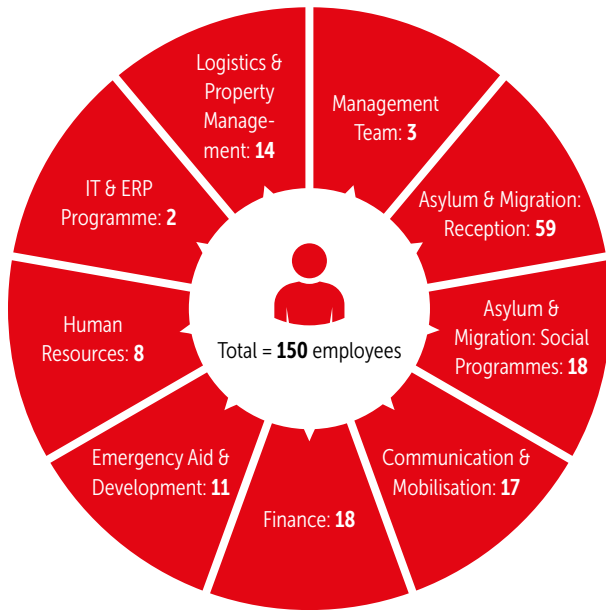
We have also been busy engaging in social dialogue. Collective agreements were drawn up regarding an increase in the value of meal vouchers and the number of days of non-statutory leave.

A proposal was made regarding a new approach to supporting employees over the age of 45. Caritas International also recruited a new internal prevention advisor. In addition, it was possible to find and train up two new persons of confidence.

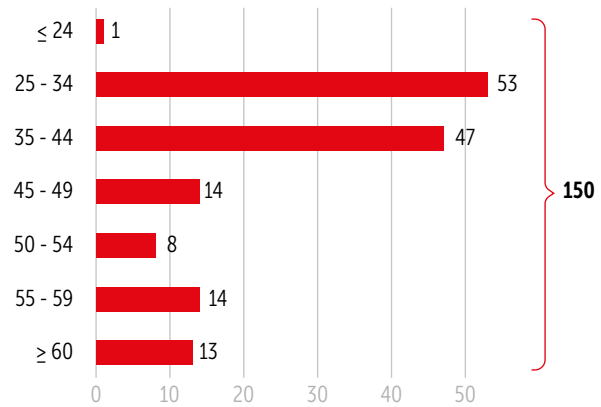
Employees as of 31 december 2022

The figures concern only the staff of Caritas International in Belgium. Abroad, we work with local partners and have representation in a limited number of priority countries: Burundi, DR Congo, Niger, Ethiopia, Uganda, Bosnia for the Balkans and Palestine. For some projects in Belgium and abroad, we also pay for the services of people external to the organisation.

PERSONNEL BY DEPARTMENT



PERSONNEL BY AGE



Ethics and integrity

Anyone who has reason to doubt the integrity of Caritas can proceed with a report via the address ombudsman@caritas.be or by telephone on +32 476 47 23 23.

Our ethical charter as well as all the measures taken in terms of ethics and protection can be consulted on the site: <https://www.caritasinternational.be/en/emergency-development/ethics-integrity/>.

For our interventions abroad, procedures for handling complaints have also been put in place with our local partners and the communities concerned.



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COMPLAINT REGISTRY 2022

18 notifications were registered in 2022:

- > 17 via ombudsman@caritas.be and one via telephone on +32 476 47 23 23.
- > Two of the notifications were not relevant in the context of ethics and integrity.
- > Three notifications were not resolved due to serious inconsistencies, conflicting messages or unrealistic expectations with respect to whistle-blowers.
- > Two notifications were not related to Caritas International, but to other legal entities within the Caritas network; they were forwarded to the organisations concerned.
- > Three notifications came from home owners who were concerned about the potential consequences of the behaviour of the residents designated by Caritas. One complaint came from a person who felt that it was taking too long to process their file.
- > Three whistle-blowers submitted notifications that required special attention due to the potential for corruption on the part of employees or third-parties involved with our Caritas partners abroad. In two cases, the suspicions were not confirmed; we have now reinforced our procedures. The third case concerned an individual who had attempted to obtain money from the beneficiaries of one of our projects.
- > Four complaints came from employees regarding harassment by colleagues. In two cases the individuals' employment contracts were terminated due to a lack of respect for their fellow employees. In the other two cases it was deemed sufficient to remind those individuals of the rules.

Communication & Mobilisation

See, judge, act

Our Communication & Mobilisation department can also look back on a busy year. Below you will find a few examples of our work.

Policy work

In 2022, our policy work was also largely dominated by the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the consequences thereof. Together with its partners in the region, Caritas International carried out a needs analysis whilst reiterating humanitarian principles and calling for extra care to be taken in protecting vulnerable individuals. This analysis was shared with the competent administrations.

The Belgian Minister for International Cooperation visited our partners close to the Polish/Ukrainian border. When it came to the reception of Ukrainian refugees in Belgium the government was largely reliant on the regions and private individuals, so a dialogue was launched between the regional governments and organisations such as Caritas International which have experience in facilitating and organising the reception of newcomers.

We participated in various working groups in Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia, where we put forward our recommendations. Although newcomers faced, and continue to face, huge challenges in terms of paperwork and finding accommodation, jobs and schools, looking back we find ourselves convinced that with political will, solidarity and cooperation we can guarantee a dignified reception for all people seeking international protection in Belgium and elsewhere in the world.

However, the fact that this is not yet the case was made apparent each and every day in 2022: Belgium was unable to guarantee places in reception centres for thousands of people who sought this protection. This is a worrying observation. Although the situation in 2022 was an exceptional one, we still expect the Belgian government to be better prepared. It must continue its current efforts and gear up those efforts so that in future we as a society can offer all those seeking international protection a safe place to live and can guarantee compliance with the rules. That applies to Ukrainians as well as people of all other nationalities who come knocking at our door.

Additional buffer places are required to this end, as well as a structural expansion of the reception network. In the autumn, the shortages in reception spots left us faced with a stark truth: we as a country could not even guarantee unaccompanied minors a place to sleep. They joined others

on the streets, where they faced numerous risks. As soon as we realised this was the case, we raised the issue with various policy-makers. This can never be allowed to happen again.

Cultivating solidarity

How can we prevent this? For one thing, we can continue to cultivate the solidarity that we saw re-emerge in the spring by encouraging local policymakers, grassroots organisations and volunteers and, where necessary, by providing guidance on how best to support newcomers. With our 'Other Talk Goes Local' project we are doing just that. Together with small global associations, reception groups and local decision-makers we are looking at how we communicate about migration and refugees in our society. We have noticed that the migration debate has become even more polarised, dominated by the loud voices that drown out the 'silent centre'. In collaboration with the aforementioned three target groups we are trying to determine how we can get this large group of people to break their silence and re-join the debate. Our hope is that this will bring back some nuance and transform the debate into a dialogue. Each of the three target groups are in contact in one way or another with citizens and residents who belong to that silent centre. We discuss and exchange our experiences of 'framing' as well as non-divisive and inclusive communication. Together we are trying to write a new narrative that will inspire citizens and enhance local solidarity.

This focus on local solidarity is no coincidence; for us it is a crucial pillar of our work towards creating a warm and welcoming society. It is an approach that involves collaborative reflection and one that we also incorporate into our policy work outside of Belgium.

Five-year programme across seven countries

That is why the concept of 'co-construction' also plays a key role in our new five-year programme COHERENCE, which is being subsidised under the Belgian development cooperation framework: in collaboration with the Justice & Peace Commission and with the support of our partners from the Caritas network (in DR Congo, Burundi, Niger, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Palestine) we carried out policy analyses and sent our recommendations to policymakers in Belgium and in the affected countries. A new edition of our series of publications entitled 'Local actions, global lessons' included three analyses drawn up together with our local partners. In Uganda we worked with Caritas

Hoima to produce an evaluation of the long-term reception of refugees, in particular unaccompanied minors and victims of violence. In Burundi we were able to rely on Caritas Muyinga to analyse the situation of refugees who returned to their country after years of exile. And in Niger we reflected together with CADEV on possible solutions for the underlying causes of food insecurity, such as humanitarian aid, climate adaptation and safe migration.

Our work with local partners also brought about initiatives to raise awareness among the general public in Belgium via social media and the press. For example, in 2022 we produced four witness testimony videos (three with Caritas Niger and one with Caritas Europa). These videos were watched by more than 816,000 people on Facebook and Instagram. We published seven press releases. Caritas was mentioned in the press 256 times. Caritas International is increasingly giving a voice to the most vulnerable and making sure they are heard thanks to its international network with local partners and other civil society stakeholders in Belgium.

Personal encounters are a powerful means of combating prejudices and helping people realise that we are not that different from each other after all. That is why we also advocate for global citizenship education. Where possible, we like to organise in-person meet-and-greets where we visit a school together with a witness. Around 300 pupils were able to enter into dialogue with a refugee at school as a result. However, we are also heavily promoting 'Walk In My Shoes', an interactive journey based on true stories of young refugees that immerses pupils in the life of a refugee. In 2022, more than 20,000 'Walk In My Shoes' sessions were registered on our website and 40 teachers received training via a brand-new webinar on how to use this game with their pupils in class. We were also able to provide training to 126 teachers and gave workshops to almost 500 pupils as well as running training courses for around 50 volunteers.

Digital learning platform for teachers

A needs analysis we performed revealed that the majority of teachers do not necessarily feel adequately prepared to tackle the subjects of migration, refugees and diversity. In connection with the 'Other Talk - Teaching Migration' project, Caritas therefore launched a digital learning platform in November 2022 that provides relevant content, practical tips and methods as well as high-quality background information about migration, identity, media literacy, diversity and dialogue in class. Teachers can work through the content on this platform at their own pace. 250 teachers have already signed up, and that number is continuing to grow.

Fundraising

In 2022, Caritas International went to considerable lengths to raise essential funds, including for humanitarian aid for victims of the war in Ukraine and for those who fled across the border. The drought and famine in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa required special attention and financial resources. Structural help was needed for the most vulnerable refugees in Uganda, most of whom come from Eastern DR Congo.

Caritas International was able to rely on the incredible generosity of its donors. In 2022, we raised more than 3.4 million euros to help tackle the crisis in Ukraine. The Hunger Fund, intended for providing food aid in the Sahel and Horn of Africa among other things, racked up around 900,000 euros. We also received around 450,000 euros in donations for victims of crises; these funds are used for activities such as providing counselling to individuals who have requested international protection in our country.



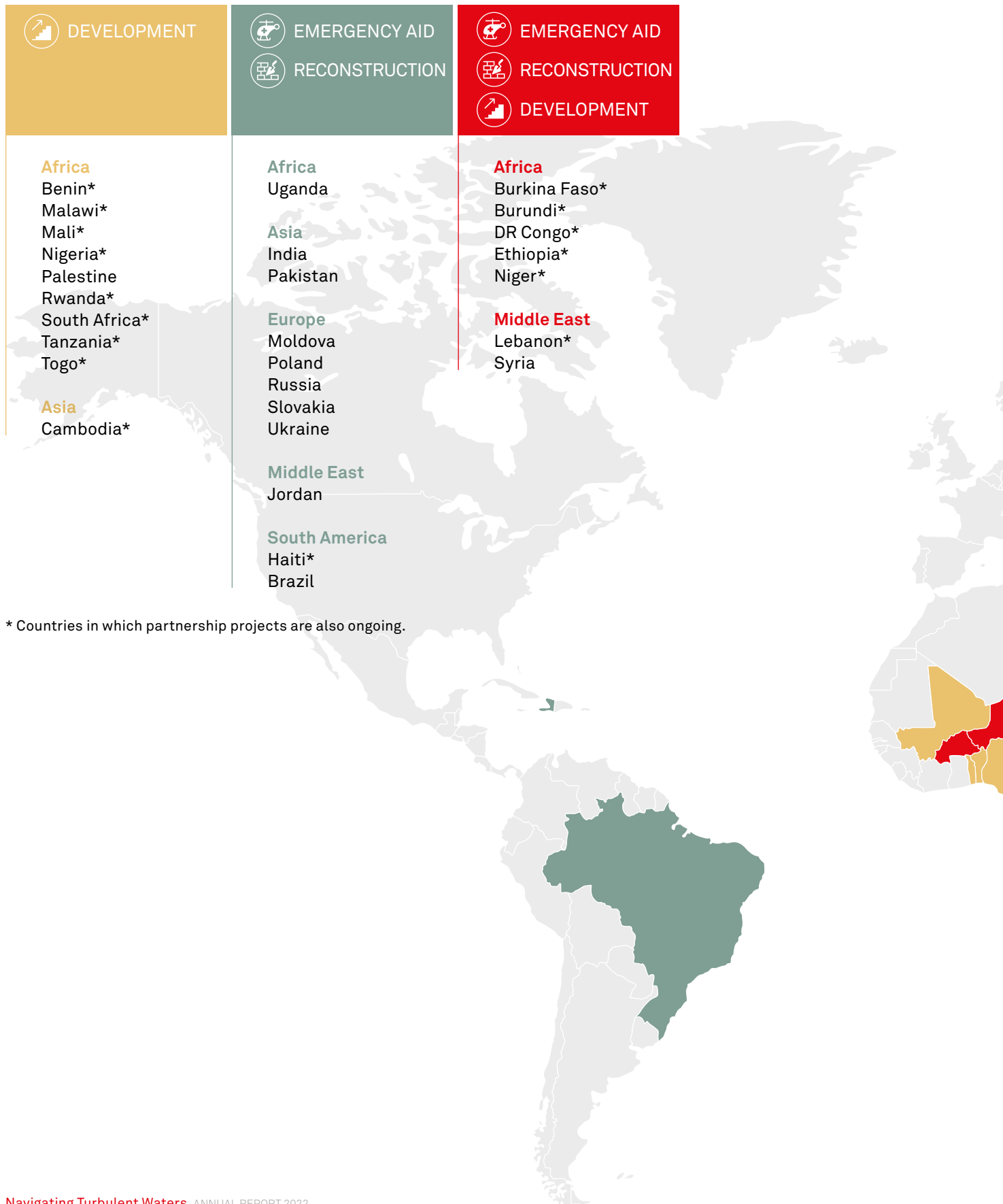
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Asylum and migration programmes in Belgium

TITLE OF THE PROJECT	SPECIFIC SUBJECT	FUNDERS
TAILOR-MADE RECEPTION AND ASSISTANCE – APPLICANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION		
LOGIS DE LOUVRANGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reception centre for single women with or without children. Grouped apartments. 	Fedasil Co-funded by the municipality of Wavre
SCHERPENHEUVEL RECEPTION CENTRE (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families, individuals, people with disabilities or psycho-medical needs. 	Fedasil
RANSART RECEPTION CENTRE (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families, individuals and unaccompanied minors. 	Fedasil
YOUTH IN SHELTER LIÈGE (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reception centre for unaccompanied minors aged 14–18. 	Aide à la Jeunesse (Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles)
HEALTH CARE ANTWERP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reception centre for people or families with medical needs. Family accommodation. 	Ciré
RECEPTION AND SUPPORT TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE FOR PEOPLE WITH A RESIDENCE STATUS		
TVU BRUSSELS, LIÈGE, ANTWERP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable refugees. 	Fedasil
YOUTH IN TRANSIT LIÈGE, BRUSSELS, MECHELEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unaccompanied minors. 	Fedasil, Ciré
HIGH CARE MORTSEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugees with serious medical needs. 	Fedasil
INTEGRATION		
LOCAL INTEGRATION INITIATIVE LIÈGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy, socio-legal information points, interculturalism. 	Walloon region
APL CHARLEROI (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help in finding accommodation for those who are poorly housed or who have difficulty in finding a decent home. 	Walloon region
SOCIAL PROGRAMMES		
REINTEGRATION FOLLOWING VOLUNTARY RETURN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counselling prior to departure. Supporting partners in reintegration projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Belgium. From other European countries (ERRIN). 	Fedasil, AMIF Belgium AMIF Europe, Frontex
PRIMARY CARE (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychosocial services, family reunification, assisted return, visiting detention centres. Counselling unaccompanied minors in transit. 	CAP/CAW Brabantia Fedasil
INTEGRAL GUIDANCE FOR REFUGEES IN LEUVEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-year trajectory of psychosocial counselling for refugee families with additional vulnerabilities. 	City of Leuven
SOCIAL SERVICES FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS AND INTERNS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for students with a limited visa, enrolled in a university or college. 	Orval and Scourmont Fund
GUARDIANSHIP (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guardianship of unaccompanied minors and support of guardians. 	Ministry of Justice Fedasil, CAP/CAW Brabantia
COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counselling reception groups when receiving resettled Syrian refugees. 	Fedasil
RESETTLEMENT: PEER2PEER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collective activities for resettled refugees, training ambassadors, Facebook group. 	Fedasil
FINANCIAL SUPPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In exceptional cases, a loan is allowed for family reunification and rent guarantees. 	Own funds

In Belgium, some projects are implemented in collaboration with our privileged partners, Caritas Flanders (1), Caritas Wallonia (2) and CAP/CAW Brabantia (3).

International cooperation programmes: map



* Countries in which partnership projects are also ongoing.



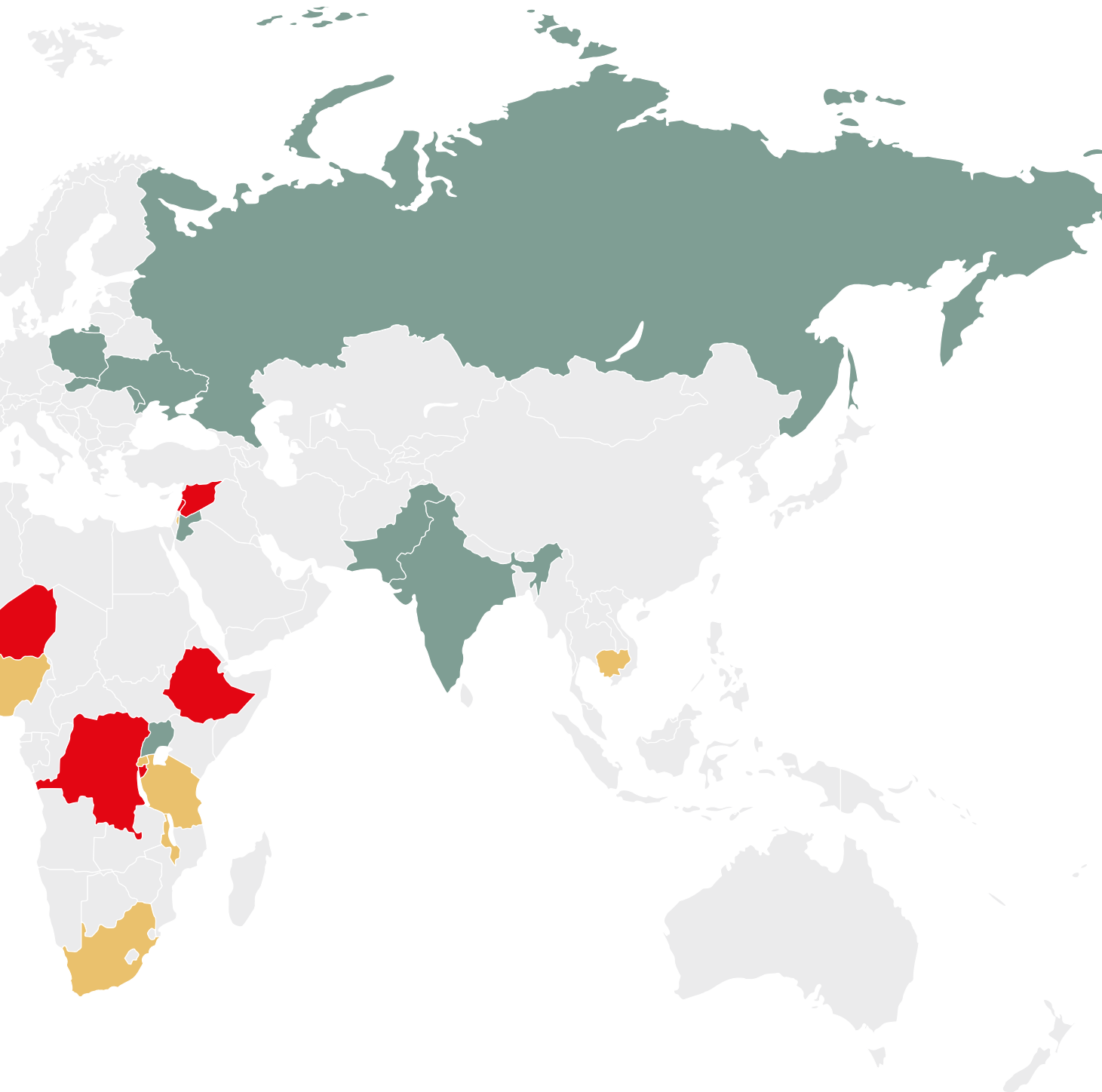
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International cooperation programmes: list

Our programmes abroad are always run in cooperation with the national or local Caritas of the country concerned. The global Caritas network has 162 national Caritas organisations.

Emergency aid

The main objective of emergency aid, also referred to as humanitarian aid, is saving lives, reducing human suffering and protecting and safeguarding human dignity.

COUNTRY	PROJECT	TIME FRAME	BUDGET IN EUR	FINANCING	EXPENDITURE 2022 IN EUR	CONTRIBUTION BY CARITAS INTERNATIONAL
Burundi	Reduction of vulnerability - Tugabanye	2020-2022	1,000,000.00	DGD	280,583.00	0
DR Congo Niger Uganda	Humanitarian aid and improved resilience for victims of displacement - PAHRVID	2020-2022	3,000,000.00	DGD	388,424.51	0
Burundi Niger Uganda Jordan	"Protection at the heart of humanitarian action - PROHUMA "	2021-2023	7,820,000.00	DGD	3,767,715.40	0
Brazil	Emergency response for vulnerable people affected by floods in Bahia and Minas Gerais	2022	1,000,000.00	ECHO	1,000,000.00	30,000 (Cl. be) and 70.000 (Caritas Switzerland)
Brazil	Emergency response for vulnerable people affected by floods in Pernambuco	2022	550,000.00	ECHO	550,000.00	15,000 (Cl.be) + 35,000 (Caritas Switzerland)
Ethiopia	Humanitarian response in Tigray	2021-2022	225,000.00	Flemish Government (€ 200,000), province of Vlaams Brabant (€ 25,000)	97,431.01	
DR Congo	"Humanitarian aid for vulnerable communities in Kasai - RéBHUN "	2020-2022	1,185,000.00	German government	171,786.22	45,000
DR Congo	"Emergency response to disasters and multisectoral response to humanitarian crises (Bukavu, Kasongo and Kwamouth)"	2021-2023	6,243,260.00	ECHO	3,515,692.23	190,000 (Cl. be / DGD) + 110,000 (CAFOD)
DR Congo	Consolidation of peace - Social cohesion in South Kivu	2022-2023	403,012.98	Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	167,598.16	
TOTAL					9,939,230.53	



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Development

Development cooperation is rooted in the fight against the underlying causes of poverty and crisis situations.

COUNTRY	PROJECT	TIME FRAME	BUDGET IN EUR	FINANCING	EXPENDITURE 2022 IN EUR	CONTRIBUTION BY CARITAS INTERNATIONAL
Burundi	"Enhance resilience of communities in Buyenzi - PRARECOM"	2018-2022	1,715,000.00	EU	410,523.22	5%
Burundi, DR Congo, Rwanda, Haiti, Niger, Ethiopia, Belgium	Empowerment in a world on the move - EMMO	2017-2021	12,839,807.99	DGD + 11.be + WBI	71,287.80	
Belgium, Burundi, DR Congo, Burkina Faso, Niger, Ethiopia, Palestine	Social cohesion and resilience - COHERENCE	2022-2026	12,107,400.00	DGD + 11.be + CNCD + WBI	1,544,081.42	20%, with contributions from Caritas Luxembourg and Secours Catholique
DR Congo	"Measures against food insecurity in the city/province of Kinshasa - SECAL Kinshasa Bateke (women's entrepreneurship)"	2020-2022	126,000.00	Région de Bruxelles-Capitale (116.000)	22,046.71	10.000
Ethiopia	Better access to drinking water and sustainable water management for 60 families in the countryside, Irob district, Tigray	2020-2023	44,000.00	King Baudouin Foundation / Fonds Amélie Elisabeth	0.00	4.000
Haiti	Rainwater harvesting and sanitation in Calumette	2021-2022	60,000.00	WBI	39,471.92	6.000
Niger	Access and sustainable water management in the communes of Korahane and Gafati	2022-2023	104,800.00	Vivaqua (54.792 EUR) + Lokumo (50.000 EUR)	14,989.45	0
Lebanon	Education project for children of migrants and refugees in Beth Alep	2021-2022	75,000.00	King Baudouin Foundation	75,000.00	0

TOTAL 2,177,400.52

Emergency aid programmes with the Caritas network

Thanks to the Caritas network we are well placed to carry out emergency aid programmes. In doing so, we can rely on other organisations in the network which have strong local roots.

COUNTRY	CRISIS	EXPENDITURE 2022 (EUR)
Burkina Faso	Drought	20,000.00
Niger	Drought	20,000.00
Ethiopia	War in Tigray	30,000.00
Haiti	Crisis	40,000.00
Lebanon	Crisis	100,000.00
Pakistan	Flooding	50,000.00
DR Congo	Conflict	35,000.00
SUB-TOTAL		295,000.00

UKRAINE CRISIS

Ukraine	Emergency response	837,031.00
Slovakia	Support to Ukrainian refugees	650,000.00
Poland	Support to Ukrainian refugees	100,000.00
Moldova	Support to Ukrainian refugees	80,000.00
Russia	Support to Ukrainian refugees	62,500.00
TOTAL		1,729,531.00



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Socio-economic projects

Caritas International finances a number of activities for which there is no institutional funding.

COUNTRY	PROJECT	EXPENDITURE 2022 (EUR)
Ethiopia	Empowerment Menja minority - Jimma	26,094.25
India	Post covid migrant workers	50,000.00
Rwanda	Transition activities following EMMO	45,000.00
Syria	Livelihood assistance in the Littoral	75,000.00
TOTAL		196,094.25

Partnership projects

Caritas International has partnerships with a number of Belgian organisations for projects that are in line with its vision and mission.

COUNTRY	EXPENDITURE 2022 (EUR)
South Africa	8,210.00
Belgium	93,172.00
Benin	2,195.00
Burkina Faso	4,030.00
Burundi	3,845.00
Cambodia	1,560.00
Ethiopia	2,125.00
Haiti	18,512.00
Lebanon	49,122.00
Malawi	2,632.00
Mali	19,302.00
Niger	10,500.00
Nigeria	1,200.00
DR Congo	55,520.00
Rwanda	28,382.00
Tanzania	4,650.00
Togo	17,200.00
TOTAAL	322,157.00

Financial report*

Results account 2022

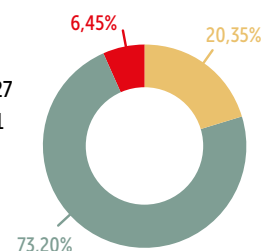
REVENUE	%	2022 (EUR)	2021 (EUR)
Donations	11,39	4,936,767.10	3,802,406.00
Donations via consortium 12-12	2,67	2,454,000.19	19,382.64
Legacies	16,54	7,169,536.32	2,260,649.63
Wallonie Bruxelles International	2,53	1,093,761.08	1,159,404.42
The Walloon region			30,000.00
Towns, communes, provinces...	0,30	130,800.00	65,606.14
Multilateral institutions	0,50	214,689.16	317,296.72
Flemish Government	0,45	194,845.95	
Belgian government - DGD	14,05	6,090,976.94	6,197,320.42
Ministry of Justice – Ministry of Home Affairs	1,22	527,594.27	
Belgian government - Fedasil	28,07	12,167,160.21	10,406,189.29
Coordination et Initiative pour Réfugiés et Etrangers	2,66	1,151,028.40	1,424,698.53
11.11.11	0,21	90,770.32	64,054.31
European Union	12,44	5,390,328.89	1,212,114.43
Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen	0,05	23,215.00	54,660.00
Foundations, other Caritas organizations, ...	2,20	952,289.18	1,246,868.78
European reintegration network	0,64	276,835.67	712,663.33
Joint Reintegration Services	1,92	830,767.37	
Subsidies for employment (Actiris, Maribel, ...)	0,89	384,635.59	347,809.93
Other operating income	0,76	330,133.96	300,862.91
Other			
Financial products	0,42	183,975.59	206,027.35
TOTAL WITHOUT EXCEPTIONAL		43,298,019.51	29,828,014.83
Exceptional products	0,19	43,308.22	55,469.55
TOTAL WITH EXCEPTIONAL	100	43,341,327.73	29,883,484.38

EXPENDITURE	%	2022 (EUR)	2021 (EUR)
Reception of asylum seekers	33,23	14,647,347.00	12,506,128.00
Social services for migrants and refugees (frontline, guardianship, integration...)	1,78	785,694.00	527,425.00
Voluntary return	3,41	1,504,505.00	1,126,446.00
International cooperation	35,66	15,718,738.00	10,779,325.00
Communication and mobilisation	3,24	1,426,656.00	1,185,875.00
· Education	0,06	24,780.00	31,937.93
· Fundraising	0,72	318,807.00	571,280.43
· Advocacy - Coherence - Other Talk	1,87	823,591.00	246,534.54
· External communication	0,42	184,066.00	260,189.26
· Internal communication	0,17	75,412.00	75,932.84
Operating costs	22,68	9,999,706.30	3,779,438.78
· Inheritance taxes	13,93	6,138,857.00	892,680.00
TOTAL	100	44,082,646.30	29,904,637.78

	2022 (EUR)	2021 (EUR)
YEAR RESULT	-741,318.57	-21,153.40
Increase (-) / Decrease (+) of designated funds	741,318.57	21,153.40
OVER TE DRAGEN WINST	0.00	0.00

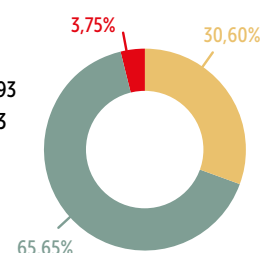
REVENUE 2021

- Donations and legacies: € 6,082,438.27
- Government funding: € 21,873,103.21
- Other: € 1,927,942.90



REVENUE 2022

- Donations and legacies: € 13,264,211.93
- Government funding: € 28,453,423.53
- Other: € 1,623,692.27



* Results as presented by the Board of Administrators to the General Assembly of June 15th 2021.
More information: www.caritasinternational.be

Members of the board of administrators

Mr Frank De Coninck †, chairman (*until 11 March 2022*)

Mr Bernard Woronoff, chairman

Rev. Philippe de Dorlodot, vice-chairman

Mr Dominic Verhoeven, vice-chairman

Rev. Bruno Aerts

Mgr Jan Dumon

Mrs Marie-Christine d'Ursel-ter-Hark

Mrs Marie-Paule Moreau

Rev. Martin Mvibudulu

Mr Marc Nuytemans

Mrs Emmeline Orban

Mr Hubert Sanders

Mr François Cornet, General Director

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Thank you!



Sincere thanks to all those who work by our side for a society of solidarity where all can enjoy a dignified life. 2022 was a year of navigating turbulent waters. What we achieved would not have been possible without the support, cooperation and enthusiasm of many people, organisations and institutions. We thank you wholeheartedly!

François Cornet, *director*

Special thanks go out to:

- > All our donors
- > All our enthusiastic volunteers, interns, 'community sponsorship' reception groups and 'home-owners in solidarity'
- > Our employees at home and abroad who breathe life into our mission every day
- > Dioceses, parishes and religious congregations
- > King Baudouin Foundation / Elisabeth and Amélie Fund / Porticus Foundation / Abbé Pierre Foundation
- > Lokumo Fund
- > The umbrella organisations: II.11.11 / CNCD-II.11.11 / NGO Federation / Acodev / Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen / CIRÉ / CONCORD / VOICE
- > Caritas Internationalis / Caritas Europe / Caritas in Belgium / Various affiliate organisations of the international Caritas network / Netwerk Rechtvaardigheid en Vrede / Justice & Peace Commission / Kruit and Annoncer la Couleur / School zonder Racisme / Iles de Paix / Belgian Red Cross / CAP/CAW Brabantia / Casa Legal / ERSO network / Consortium 12-12 / Move Coalition and all our other partners at home and abroad
- > The media: Kerknet / Kerk & Leven / Tertio / Cathobel (Dimanche and RCF)
- > The schools, students and teachers who have enthusiastically taken us up on our educational offer.
- > Brewer AB InBev
- > **Our institutional partners**
 - United Nations**
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
 - European Union**
Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operations (ECHO) / DG International Partnerships (DG INTPA) / Refugee Fund / Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) / Frontex
 - Federal Government**
Belgian Development Cooperation (DGD) / Belgian Development Agency (Enabel) / Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Fedasil) / State Secretariat for Asylum and Migration and Social Integration / FOD Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue – Social Maribel / POD Social Integration (Article 60) / Guardianship Service / National Lottery / Maribel social fund
 - Flemish Government**
Department of Education and Training / Flemish Partnership Water for Development
 - Wallonia-Brussels and Walloon Region Federation**
Wallonia-Brussels International (WBI)

Aide à la jeunesse, Housing Fund

Department of Public Works, Health, Social Action and Patrimonies
 - Brussels Capital Region**
Employment Agency (Actiris) / Brussels Environment / Joint Committee for Community Matters (Cocom)
 - Provinces, cities and municipalities**

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