

Our Work worldwide

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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Caritas Germany
International Department



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This report refers to the worldwide work of the German Caritas Association (DCV). The statutory annual report of the DCV board (Insights) can be found at: www.caritas.de/geschaeftsbericht

“A Pandemic Knows No Borders”



Also for the German Caritas Association and its international relief organization, the year 2020 was marked by the Corona pandemic. Together with partner organizations in many countries around the world, Caritas Germany provided aid to people who were particularly affected by the consequences of the Corona crisis. At the same time, the conflicts and disasters have not diminished in the past year. Ten years of war in Syria, the plague of locusts in East Africa, tropical storms in Central America and Southeast Asia present huge challenges for the work of Caritas - especially under pandemic conditions.

In this interview, the President of the German Caritas Association, Prelate Peter Neher (left), and its international director, Oliver Müller (right), explain how Caritas is responding.

The Corona pandemic has fundamentally changed the world. Can you classify the impact of the crisis - from your personal perspective and from the perspective of Caritas?

PETER NEHER: It is hard to make a classification, because we have not yet experienced such a global crisis yet. All over the world, people are falling ill and dying from Covid-19. Medical and nursing staff are reaching their limits or have already gone beyond them. And it cannot be avoided that also Caritas employees are affected. Caritas has always been close to the people and therefore we experience directly the suffering as well as the solidarity and the willingness to help.

OLIVER MÜLLER: In the poor regions of the world, the immediate consequences of the disease are accompanied by many indirect effects: If migrant workers in India or Bangladesh lose their jobs as a result of the pandemic, their livelihoods and those of their families are at risk. If the markets in East African cities are also closed as a result of the lockdown, then the farmers can no longer sell their

goods - and have no unemployment insurance and no welfare state to help them. These social consequences of the Corona crisis have challenged us at Caritas Germany as much as the pandemic itself.

How is Caritas Germany able to help at all in particularly poor countries and in crisis areas under the very restrictive conditions

MÜLLER: Caritas Germany has always worked with partners on the ground, mostly with national and regional Caritas organizations. This partner principle enables us to act quickly after disasters because the aid-workers are already there on the ground. Under the restrictions imposed by Corona, we would otherwise not be able to help the displaced people in South Sudan, hundreds of thousands of whom are living in very simple camps. Staff of our partner organizations have been working there for many years now, and are able to build wells, to supply people with food and drinking water, and now also to implement projects for corona prevention. >>

NEHER: The pandemic exacerbates crises that have often been going on for a long time. In Syria, for example, war has been raging for more than ten years, and only about half of all hospitals are still fully functional. Here, the corona crisis meets poverty and shortages - not to mention continued armed conflict. Nevertheless, help is possible in a concrete way. In Aleppo, for example, Caritas used to distribute food at central points in the city. During the peak of the pandemic, staff began delivering food directly to peoples' doors in order to avoid crowds and to protect against the spread of the virus. Caritas aid is also very adaptable in other ways. Nevertheless, after more than ten years, we urgently need political solutions to move closer to peace in Syria.

Can such a solution be envisaged? Or at least an improvement of the situation?

MÜLLER: Large parts of Syria are again controlled by the Assad government. So the country is far from peaceful or even democratic development. Real reconstruction is not even on the horizon. Nevertheless, there is hope: Our local partner, Caritas Syria, is very involved in education and in helping children. In Homs, for example, Caritas Germany supports two early support centres run by experienced partner organizations. Social workers, psychologists and therapists accompany and motivate the children on their way to a more self-determined future. Projects of this kind with disabled people also help to again develop more empathy and



© Caritas Bangladesh

more social interaction in a society marked by war. Civil society is also active in other parts of the country, and we can observe a coexistence of solidarity between the people, especially in the context of the pandemic.

Many refugees from Syria live in exile, often in refugee camps and without a secure residence status. What is your assessment of the situation for refugees in the context of the pandemic?

NEHER: At Europe's external borders, in Greece, in North Africa or at the Bosnian-Croatian border, thousands of refugees live in appalling conditions. The cramped conditions in the camps and poor hygienic conditions were already unacceptable previously, with the dangers caused by Corona, they can become life-threatening. Therefore, the German Caritas Association demands better forms of accommodation and humane conditions of residence, at least for those people who belong to the risk groups. And we need a more humane refugee policy which protects refugees and does not deter them.

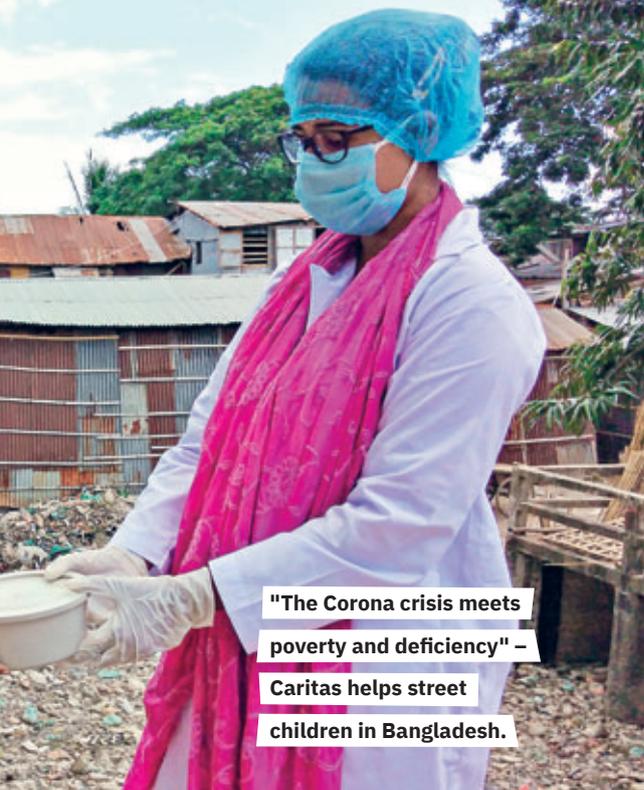
MÜLLER: The blaze in the largest European refugee camp Moria on the Greek island of Lesbos has once again confirmed the crisis of European refugee policy in a terrifying way. The blaze was ultimately the result of the sealing-off policy of the European Union. Politicians closed their eyes for years. The people have been left to their fate despite all the criticism and in full knowledge of the devastating conditions in Moria. That was a disaster which could be predicted. And unfortunately things have not improved since then.



"After ten years, we urgently need political solutions to come closer to peace in Syria."

PETER NEHER

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"The Corona crisis meets poverty and deficiency" – Caritas helps street children in Bangladesh.

In the Corona crisis, many countries seem to focus even more on sealing themselves off and on national ways. How do you perceive this development?

MÜLLER: There are several parallel developments. There are national solo operations and there is a stronger sealing-off at the borders. On the other hand, we experience a stronger solidarity between the people. There are volunteers in the refugee camps and in crises areas, people who are helping, who are funding and who are at the side of the people affected. And despite all the justified criticism of global inequality, there are also aid funds and there is support from rich countries for countries which are particularly affected.

When it comes to the distribution of vaccines, however, the World Health Organisation (WHO) complains of a lack of solidarity among the states ...

MÜLLER: With the Covax initiative, the World Health Organisation initially sent a positive signal to make vaccination possible for people in poor countries. But Covax is unfortunately stagnating because the promised funds are not flowing and because there is a shortage of vaccines. A central point of global solidarity is therefore to lift patent protection for all medical products that are necessary for the prevention, treatment and containment of Covid-19.

NEHER: The latter, however, is a long-term perspective that does not create vaccines in a hurry. Together with numerous other Caritas organizations around the world, we have called on the German government and the EU member

states to agree to the suspension of patent protection.

Moreover, there is also the possibility of "compulsory" licences, for example, which could provide a quicker remedy. For a pandemic knows no borders. Accordingly, its end can only be achieved by global interaction. To achieve this, we need more cooperation and more solidarity. From a scientific point of view this is necessary because the virus spreads rapidly and new mutations arise where people are left alone during the pandemic. From a Christian moral point of view, solidarity in the crisis is an expression of love for one's neighbour, on which our value system is based on.

So you are optimistic that empathy and solidarity will last even in the crisis?

NEHER: Yes. We can tell this last but not least by the continuing willingness to donate: According to the market research institute GfK, the Germans donated more in 2020 than ever before - 5.4 billion euros in spite of the Corona crisis. For the work of Caritas Germany alone we received 36.7 million euros. In addition to that, there are grants from, for example, of the Archdiocese of Freiburg, the Episcopal Ordinariate of Rottenburg-Stuttgart and the Archdiocese of Cologne.

MÜLLER: We receive a great deal of encouragement and support for our work. Despite all the justified concern about our own health and that of family and friends, our supporters remain loyal to us. We very grateful for that.



"We get a lot of encouragement and support for our work. For this, we are very grateful."

OLIVER MÜLLER



Worldwide Aid in the Fight against Corona

When the scale of the pandemic became apparent, Caritas Germany established a Corona Relief Fund and appealed for donations. It was a success: In 2020, Caritas rendered Corona aid in more than 70 countries, supporting around million people with this work. About seven million euros for awareness raising, hygiene measures, food and help for self-help reached people in need.

Self-help in Times of Corona

Lockdown, travel bans, border closures - Corona has led to massive restrictions on the freedom of movement worldwide. This has also brought (and still brings) about drastic changes to humanitarian aid as well, which often made aid efforts harder or even impossible. On the other hand, a development was pushed in which those affected by hardship and crises take the initiative into their own hands.

For many years now, organizations from the Global South in particular have been calling for a "localisation" of humanitarian aid. New studies confirm that this makes aid better and more effective. Caritas Germany has always based its work on its partner principle, a way of working in which the local structures of Caritas, local communities or other local organizations are an integral part of the aid efforts. Does this mean that localisation approaches

A Lockdown with Existential Distress

ERITREA/ETHIOPIA Like many other countries, Eritrea also experienced a long period of lockdown in 2020. Curfews, most of which were stricter than in Germany, represented a much greater obstacle for the people in the Horn of Africa than elsewhere. After all, the droughts of the past years had plunged many families into hardship, and now even more people were starving who had neither financial reserves nor the opportunity to earn money. Caritas Germany and its local partners provided emergency aid as well as awareness raising and distributed food to thousands of families in order to prevent famine. The situation is similarly problematic in neighbouring Ethiopia. As a result of the restrictions aimed at containing the Corona pandemic, activities in the street children's centre in Mekelle, for example, which is supported by Caritas Germany, also had to be interrupted. The children live in very precarious conditions and do not have enough to eat. The social workers therefore distribute food and hygiene items. Moreover, Caritas continues to pay the school fees, allowing the children to continue their studies at home with schoolbooks.

Caritas Germany provided Corona relief in Eritrea with a total of **228,000 euros**, **75,000** of which came from the Redel Foundation. The Corona relief in Ethiopia amounting to about **92,000 Euros**, **61,000** of which were used for the street children project, could be financed with donations.

are already an immanent part of Caritas work? Or do we need to take further steps?

The Corona pandemic has put the structure and working methods of Caritas Germany to the test: How are we to protect people acutely from the virus and how are we to protect people's livelihoods from the effects in the medium and long term? How does Caritas respond to the diverse and challenging situations in the more than 80 countries in which it is operating? What opportunities do we have to continue the existing food-security and psychosocial projects? Still there are uncertain situations through which we, as

Double Need for Protection



BANGLADESH The lives of street children in Bangladesh have always been marked by poverty, danger and unsafety. In the wake of the Corona pandemic not only did the number of street children increase, because parents have lost their jobs, poverty has increased, and children have to earn money on the streets. In addition to the many dangers - especially from violence - there is now also the risk of a Corona infection. Caritas staff in the street children's centres try to help the children and their families to survive the Corona period and temporary lockdowns. They maintain their education and protection services in the centres as far as the pandemic allows and distribute food parcels to the people most in need - apart from street children also day labourers, disabled and old people.

In addition to the funds for ongoing projects, Caritas Germany had **70,000 euros** available expressly for Corona aid in 2020.

if in a fog, must navigate carefully. Quite often, out-of-the-box ideas make it possible to continue the work. Lots of things are turned upside down.

In terms of "localisation", however, Caritas Germany did not have to reinvent the wheel or adapt itself but was reinforced in its way of working. Since travelling was hardly possible and international staff was withdrawn, the aid efforts could only be implemented locally by the partners and people on the ground. It is in the DNA of Caritas Germany that the people affected are the ones who conceive, plan and implement projects.

Self-help in a Country with an Irresponsible Government

BRAZIL Brazil is one of the world's most Corona-affected countries. The situation is particularly severe in the poor areas (favelas) and within the indigenous population. Already back in May 2020, Claudio Moser, Caritas Germany's project officer for Latin America, expressed his concerns about the overall situation in South America: "The figures have risen dramatically." To date, President Jair Bolsonaro is still unwilling to seriously combat the pandemic but is instead fuelling it with a crazy corona policy, thus risking human lives with full knowledge of the facts. "It is the Afro-Brazilian and indigenous populations which suffers most from this irresponsible leadership," Moser complains. The metropolis of Manaus, which is home to a particularly large number of indigenous people, has repeatedly become the Covid hotspot of the South American country. Caritas Germany has been helping there since mid-2020 with financial support of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, in order to improve medical care and infection control in both the favelas of the city and in the surrounding area. This is only possible because, over the years, we have close and trusting cooperation with local partners. In this area as well as in the states in the north and northeast of the country, Caritas and its partners are providing corona emergency relief, distributing hygiene kits, protective masks and food to the people and are also providing information via posters, loudspeaker announcements and social media about protective measures against the virus. 38 smallholder cooperatives and



groups of producers of the solidarity-based economy are producing respiratory masks and deliver food parcels for distribution in the favelas of the cities. Within the Caritas projects emergency relief and income-generating measures are combined. Another part of the work is the equipment of health stations in the cities and in rural areas with medical equipment, disinfectants equipment, disinfectants and medicines.

In 2020, Caritas Germany had **990,000 euros** for Corona relief in Brazil at its disposal, which were granted by the Foreign German Foreign Office (AA) and **120,000 euros** from donations.

>> This self-perception results not least from the expertise of Caritas in the field of social work: The people are the players within their own help and determine the decision-making process. They are supported in their actions. The role of Caritas Germany as an aid agency is accompaniment, facilitation and advocacy for issues on the ground. It is the worldwide Caritas network that enables us to work with local communities in many regions of the world. They are often themselves directly affected or are already on the ground in the event of a disaster. As "first responders", the partners can

react quickly and efficiently to crises - and do so in a culturally appropriate manner - or even anticipate the threat and pre-empt the catastrophe. In the post-crisis period, people do not have to be withdrawn, but become "long-term helpers". The natural rooting of Caritas structures in the communities makes it possible that short-term help and long-term support take place alongside each other or complement each other. The localisation approach is endorsed, inter alia, in the study "A Window of Opportunity" which was published in November 2020. This analysis by international non-govern-

Medical Support and Education

INDIA In the course of the year 2020, the corona virus had already spread over a large area in India, and with the emergence of the delta mutation, the situation became uncontrollable in 2021. Hospitals can no longer handle the influx of patient, there is a lack of beds and staff. There is also a shortage of oxygen and ventilators. "The colleagues in India are no longer talking of a wave, but rather of a corona tsunami," says Peter Seidel, Caritas Germany's project officer who, based in Germany, is coordinating the Caritas aid projects in India.

Caritas has therefore reinforced its medical assistance. Medical staff and makeshift treatment centres relieve the clinics and allow primary treatment of the sick. Schools and community centres are used for treatment. Where this is not possible, tents, medicines and food are organized in order to provide medical care. At the same time, these makeshift hospitals help to isolate infected people from their families, something that is urgently needed to prevent further infections. In 150 information centres, Caritas staff also provide information about the virus and give people advice on protection, treatment and vaccination.

In addition to ongoing projects, Caritas Germany, in 2020, allocated **130,000 Euros**. For 2021, at least **4.3 million euros** are available, one million of which came from dioceses and **2.1 million** from donations.

mental organisations and the Australian La Trobe University in Australia shows how the scope for local actors to make decisions can be significantly expanded when international staff is withdrawn. The results show how, for example, local know-how was more appreciated and applied, how existing networks were used more and how cooperation between local players increased. Also, a study by the British research institute ODI (Overseas Development Institute) showed in May 2020, that emergency relief projects achieved better results by being more localised.

Jointly Practicing Social Distancing for Elderly People

SOUTH AFRICA At the end of December 2020, the authorities in South Africa declared that one million people were confirmed to be infected with Covid-19. Thus, South Africa is Africa's hardest hit country affected by the Corona pandemic.

In view of the high number of infections, Caritas Germany and its partners have focused their aid on protecting the elderly, who are particularly at risk. For instance, in the model project NOAH ("Neighbourhood Old Age Homes") for senior citizens in Cape Town, the entire staff and the many volunteers, who represent a risk to the social contacts of the elderly, were informed about the dangers and necessary protective measures. The employees delivered masks and food to the elderly people. At the same time, they made sure that human interaction was not neglected. A balancing act to ensure both proximity and distance at the same time.

Caritas Germany supported the model project in 2020 and 2021 with a total of **135,000 euros** from donations, thus reaching approximately 900 elderly people.



Please find more background information and a helpful overview on where we fight worldwide against the corona virus on our website.



For many years, the humanitarian aid system has been trying to localize the structures and working methods and aims to make aid fairer and better in the so-called "Grand Bargain". In this paradigm shift, Caritas Germany feels quite at home. Localisation respects people's dignity and supports their self-help capacities. Thus, it represents a gain in effectiveness. and working methods for some years now and, in the so-called "Grand Bargain", aims to make aid fairer and better.

Protection of Refugees in the Shadow of the Pandemic

Unlike what is often assumed, the coronavirus does not spread more among refugees than it does among other population groups. However, those affected suffer from the fact that refugee camps have been sealed off even more rigorously than before. And in the wake of the Corona lockdowns, they also have difficulties finding work. Therefore, in Bangladesh, for example, or on the southern borders of Europe, Caritas Germany primarily renders medical and emergency aid.



Caritas - here after the fire in the camp of Moria on Lesbos - provides medical assistance for refugees.

© Altea Horst

In mid-March 2020, when the World Health Organization declared Corona a global pandemic, fears were raised that the virus would spread rapidly especially among refugees and might claim countless lives. These conditions make it almost impossible to implement simple measures for hygiene, protection against infection and distancing. Furthermore, there is a shortage of health care personnel and an often-inadequate medical infrastructure, which is hardly prepared for large outbreaks of diseases.

A little over one year after the outbreak of the pandemic, it can be said that, so far, the worst-case scenarios fortunately did not come to pass. Yet, this situation can change at any time in the subsequent course of the pandemic. In many refugee camps, precautionary measures were taken early on, some of them very drastic; major outbreaks could thus be prevented. In the refugee camp of Kutupalong in Bangladesh, home to some 640,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, Caritas volunteers set up hand-washing stations and raised awareness among the camp's residents about the virus and how to protect themselves, thus preventing the spread of misinformation. As a result of the rules and regulations on infection control, however, the work has also become more difficult for humanitarian aid workers, because the government agencies have partially restricted access to the camps for external aid workers. The organizations could not bring their relief items to the people in the camps as usual.

No school, no work

As of mid-February 2021, according to UNHCR, the refugee agency of the United Nations, there were a total of 46,000 documented infections worldwide among refugees. However, the figures are not entirely reliable, because to date there is a lack of sufficient testing capacity in many countries. A very high number of unreported cases can be assumed. The generally low average age of the refugees may have had a generally favourable effect, so that

many infections resulted in milder courses of the disease and the number of deaths did not skyrocket. However, for many refugees, the immediate health risks alone are not the greatest challenge. In many countries there is a drastic increase in hunger and poverty, and also an increase in gender-based violence and xenophobia. Refugees were often among the first ones to experience the economic impact. As a result of the camp closures, but also, more generally, due to the collapse of the economy, many refugees lost their jobs and, in some cases, became homeless. For months, and in some cases until today, children could no longer attend school. At the same time, host countries are also facing economic pressure and are forced to reduce or stop basic services for refugees. More than ever refugees are now dependent on humanitarian support.

The right to asylum de facto suspended

On top of this, many refugees no longer succeed in finding safety in other countries. For many countries, fearing new infections and viral mutations, have once again considerably tightened their entry regulations and sealed off their borders, even for those seeking protection. 168 countries have temporarily closed their borders completely or partially, 90 of them also explicitly for asylum seekers. People are rejected at both terrestrial and maritime borders and sent back to their countries in violation of current international law. According to information of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the number of new asylum applications decreased in the first half of 2020 to one-third of the prior-year level. Even in the European Union, the number of asylum seekers has fallen drastically.

On a global scale, however, the number of refugees remained consistently high at around 80 million. Wars and conflicts did not suddenly disappear as a result of the pandemic. On the contrary, in many countries an increasing intensity of the conflict can be observed. In many regions, refugees are forced to stay in border areas and wait for an opportunity to cross the borders and apply for asylum. In the border area between Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, for example, where there were at times thousands of refugees stranded in extreme weather conditions, Caritas Germany provided acute survival assistance to refugees, supplying them with food and warm clothing, as well as medical aid.

Restore rights, grant protection

For the time being, the pandemic has also put an end to the hope of new life prospects even for many acknowledged refugees. For many countries have temporarily suspended their resettlement programs for vulnerable refugees who are coming from reception countries and are in need of protection, or they have revised their commitments and are admitting far fewer people than announced. Yet, the programs are a key instrument for relieving the burden on first reception countries and for enabling the sustainable integration of particularly vulnerable refugees.

All over the world, elementary refugee rights were curtailed or even abrogated in the course of the pandemic. In the fight against the Corona pandemic, it is all the more important to not only ensure



For years, people of the minority group of the Rohingya have been living in a city of tents.

a fair distribution of vaccines and regulated access for refugees, but also focus on restoring refugee protection and on the observance of elementary rights for refugees.



Please find more info on our Corona emergency relief for refugees here:





An Explosion like in a War Zone

On August 4th, 2020, there was a huge explosion in the port area of Beirut caused by incorrectly stored chemicals. The detonation destroyed large parts of the Lebanese capital. Caritas Lebanon staff and volunteers provided medical assistance and care for people who were left homeless. Caritas Germany supports its local partners also in the phase of reconstruction.

Marita Yaghi is just visiting friends when the huge explosion shakes Beirut. The force of the detonation leaves no doubt that a disaster must have occurred. So, after clarifying that her family is not affected, the young woman goes to the hospital in order to rend some assistance. Marita Yaghi has just finished her medical studies and is working as a volunteer for Caritas Lebanon.

"The emergency room looked like a war zone," she later describes her first impressions of the situation in the hospital. Countless patients, some screaming in panic. Doctors and nurses crying as they care for the wounded - out of concern for their own family or because they are sheerly stunned by the situation.

"We were stitching up people's wounds without anaesthesia – we didn't have any time to do it," the young doctor recalls the hours after the explosion.

24-hour emergency response

The huge explosion in the port of Beirut was triggered by welding work that started a fire in a room where fireworks were stored which, in turn, caused the explosion of almost 3000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate being stored in a neighbouring hall. The detonations destroyed large parts of the port and the neighbouring city districts. According to the Lebanese government, at least 190 people were killed, and more than 6,500 people were injured.

Only a few hours after the explosion, Caritas launched its emergency relief efforts. Lauren Khoury also works as a volunteer for Caritas Lebanon. The 23-year-old distributes food to the many needy people who have lost their entire livelihoods with the explosion. "We work for 24 hours a day. Sometimes I do both shifts, day shifts and night shifts as well," Lauren says. In order not to lose any time, some of the aid-workers sleep right on the street. "Otherwise we would not have been able to take care of everyone. I have experienced first-hand how people suffer - they have no shelter, no food and no medicine." She is glad that Caritas responded so quickly.

The explosion also caused considerable damage to some of the clinics. And because the remaining public hospitals are overcrowded and are no longer able to treat the many victims, Caritas staff members also provide emergency care in their health centres. Moreover, doctors and nurses are treating the injured in mobile Caritas clinics. Psychologists are also called in to offer psychological support to traumatized people.

Strong partners in reconstruction

The disaster comes at the worst possible time. The hospitals have been working at the edge of their capacities for a long time, for the country is in the midst of the Corona pandemic and of a severe economic crisis. The national debt amounts to 170 percent of the gross domestic product. Only in February 2020, the government, for the first time in the country's history, declared that it cannot pay the debts to the foreign creditors. Half of the population fell into poverty. More than 3.3 million people in Lebanon, where, on top of that, more than one million Syrian refugees are living, are dependent on



BEIRUT/LEBANON Post-explosion relief and reconstruction

Funds deployed 2020: 585,000 euros

Measures & impact: Medical aid as well as distribution of food, hygiene items and meals. Reconstruction of homes

Perspective: Almost two million euros are available for the continuation of aid in 2021. Another 730,000 euros have been pledged.

aid. In view of this miserable situation, the Lebanese state is not able to manage the reconstruction of the destroyed city without international support. Thanks to many years of cooperation with the local partners, Caritas Germany is not only able to provide fast and effective emergency relief. Caritas Lebanon and the relief organization of the German Caritas Association are also collaborating in the phase of reconstruction. This includes, for example, repairing damaged homes of Lebanese families. They receive a one-time cash grant to have their windows and doors repaired, for instance. For particular poor families, Caritas finances the entire process: First, engineers inspect the destroyed flats before they are made habitable again in the next step by hired craftsmen. Furthermore, Caritas, for a period of three months, supports the needy with "emergency cash", i.e. cash aid which enables the people affected to provide themselves with the most basic necessities. Caritas also continues to provide psychological support. A special focus is on the support of children and their parents.



Marita Yaghi (left) and Lauren Khoury are committing

themselves as volunteers for Caritas Lebanon

"The Children are Dramatically Malnourished"

The armed conflict in Tigray brought hardship and hunger to the Ethiopian province. The support of Caritas in the area ranges from acute emergency relief to medium-term effective agricultural support.

Life in the barren landscape of Tigray has already been hard enough anyway. But now war, locusts and corona jeopardize survival.



© Bente Sachowske

In November 2020, a few weeks after the conflict between the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and Ethiopian government forces escalated in Ethiopia's northernmost province, pleading appeals from eyewitnesses reached Caritas Germany. "The humanitarian situation in the Tigray region is dire, people there are in urgent need of food and water," reported Patrick Kuebart, Caritas Germany's project officer for Ethiopia. "We have to expand our support there quickly. The first people are already starving," said Kuebart. "Especially the children are already dramatically malnourished."

The war has destroyed crops, livestock has been looted. In addition to the conflict, the plague of locusts in the region and persistent droughts also worsened the people's nutritional situation. Many people had also fled to Tigray from neighbouring Eritrea in order to escape from violence and poverty,

and now hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people were joining them. And, moreover, in the course of the year 2020, the Corona virus also spread throughout the area.

Emergency aid and seeds – hoping for peace

About 4.5 million people in Tigray are now dependent on aid. The hunger is great. Caritas Germany and its local partners are jointly rendering support to save people from starvation. Caritas' local partners distribute packages of food such as cereals, pulses and edible oil to the needy. In some single cases, cash aid is a better solution because it can at least stabilize the local market a little bit. The local Caritas drives water trucks to areas where access to water would otherwise be severely restricted. Hygiene items such as soap and disinfectants are also being distributed to people in order to contain the Covid-19 pandemic. First-aid kits shall bridge the gap in medical care.

Caritas' measures reach beyond acute emergency relief and are based on the motto "Help for self-help": Deliveries of seeds, particularly of millet, are being prepared for the people so that they can, after their return, again cultivate farmland and grow enough food to survive. There are also plans to distribute sheep and goats to those affected by the crisis.

TIGRAY Emergency relief and agricultural assistance

Funds: Nearly **900,000 euros**, including from "Sternstunden", the Archdiocesan Ordinariate of Cologne, the Kindermissionswerk, the Osypka Foundation and from donations. Of this amount, approximately **67,000 euros** were made available in 2020, and most of it for the year of 2021.

Measures & Impact: Emergency relief, Covid-19 preparedness and agricultural assistance reached well over 200,000 people.

Hardship, Sealing Off and Fire: Of the Failing of European Policy

It was only when the refugee camps were burning that the public looked at their miserable conditions and the plight of the people. In Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Greece, Caritas is committed to providing dignified accommodation.

More and more people who are actually seeking protection and safety are stranding at the external borders of fortress-like Europe: in Southern Spain, on the Greek islands and in the countries of the former Yugoslavia. In the camps of Lipa and Moria, the tragedy of this development and the intransigence of politics became obvious.

All of a sudden homeless in winter

When the reception centre of Lipa, close to the town of Bihac in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in which incoming refugees had previously been housed, was closed at the end of 2020 and burned down shortly afterwards, hundreds of people were left homeless in the cold of winter temperatures from one day to the next. True, after protests by the refugees, the military put up army tents. But they do not offer dignified protection, because water seeps in through the tents and there are neither toilets nor showers. The cold and heavy snow exacerbated the situation and threatened the lives of the refugees. They had to wash themselves in rivers which were cold as ice and struggled to survive at night at temperatures as low as minus ten degrees Celsius.

A few weeks earlier, a similar thing had happened in the refugee camp of Moria on the Greek island of Lesbos, although - unlike Bosnia - it is part of the European Union. Here, too, refugees had protested against inhumane living conditions. It was also here that it took the outbreak of fire to draw the attention of the media and politicians to the disgraceful conditions. And here as well people had to stay out in the open air after the outbreak of fire. The refugees from Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan or Bangladesh have often experienced terrible things. At Europe's borders they have to persevere for months or sometimes even years.

Caritas Germany provided emergency and medical assistance to the refugees in Bosnia. Local aid-wor-



© Matteo Piacucci

kers distributed food and warm clothing. Caritas was also on the ground after the fire in Moria, providing medical assistance and distributing water and food to people who had become homeless. In the Kara Tepe camp, just a few kilometres away, it continued its work for refugees unabated: since 2015, Caritas has been offering psychological and later also psychiatric support, as well as language and integration courses.

For a short period of time, this kind of humanitarian aid could help the people affected. But the real problem is more deep-seated: "The shocking pictures from Bosnia once again bring home to us the failure of European migration policy," Caritas-President Peter Neher admonished. "You can't solve the problem by looking the other way and leaving people to endure in the snow and dirt at the EU's external borders.

Winter aid for refugees in Bosnia - many people became homeless in snow and ice.

BOSNIA AND GREECE Humanitarian aid for refugees

Funds deployed in 2020: Approximately 500,000 euros for refugee aid on the Greek islands

Perspective: At least 135,000 euros relief funds will be available for aid in Bosnia in 2021. Humanitarian aid on Lesbos will also be prolonged.

They do not Leave a Single Stalk – Locusts Devour the Crops



One swarm is comprised of about 80 million voracious grasshoppers.

© PACIDA

A little over two years ago, desert locusts first spread from the Arabian Peninsula to South Asia and then caused catastrophic damage to agriculture in 2020, particularly in the Horn of Africa. The affected people in the area, who have been suffering from droughts for years, are supported with food, seeds and tools by Caritas Germany.

The women in Turbi are dancing. Again and again they hold out the displays of their cell phones to each other: finally, the electronic money has arrived! For now, their survival and that of their families is assured. A little more matter-of-factly, the village eldest, Ali Omar, puts it like that: "Our women can now buy food and household goods at the local markets again. We are just grateful for this help."

The electronic money was transferred to the people's cell phones by the aid organization of PACIDA which, thus, distributed a part of Caritas Germany's larger relief-package to the people in the Marsabit County area in northern Kenya. More relief supplies arrive in the form of direct food aid to the people, most of whom live as farming families and cattle breeders in this barren and inhospitable part of Kenya. "Mobile teams," reports Adano Salesa of PACIDA, "first went to the field and visited the people. They drew up a list of the most vulnerable, which was then co-ordinated with the village communities. This allowed us to distribute food according to need." In the end, about 1500 families were on the list. They receive oil, cereals, maize and hygiene items from PACIDA's staff. "This emergency aid project is worth 300,000 euros and was desperately needed because of the locust infestation," explains Ivo Körner, Caritas Germany's project officer in charge of Kenya.

The swarms came almost overnight

Suddenly they were there: locusts, huge swarms, squillions of them. About 80 million of the animals make up a swarm which settles in the fields and

The families affected by the drought and the locust plague receive packages of corn, edible oil, cereals and hygiene items.



© © PACIDA

green pastures. When the insects move on, there is nothing left. Only bare landscapes are left behind. "People have to observe this great feast helplessly," Körner reports. "Although they try to drive the insects away by banging and beating on pots, it doesn't do any good."

A grasshopper eats only two grams a day. Not much, really. But 80 million of the insects consume about 160 tonnes of grasses, cereals and crops. 160 tonnes of food that the families and their livestock are lacking. They are literally left with nothing. "The locusts are destroying the livelihoods of both humans and animals," says Samuel Lentoror from PACIDA. "Good harvests are essential for survival, especially in this area. If there is no food left for the animals, they starve to death, which then also endangers the lives of the people."

As official bodies report, it has been 70 years that swarms of locusts on a similar scale hit Kenya and its neighbouring countries. In the past two years, abundant rains have favoured the extreme spread and proliferation of locusts in the area. The rainfall not only provided an abundant food supply for insects, but also caused, sometimes quite severe, floods and, thus, considerable crop losses for the farming families. "We are experiencing more and more extreme weather events in the Horn of Africa, which threaten the people there. Long periods of drought, during which the rainy seasons fail completely, suddenly alternate with heavy rainfall. It can also happen in Marsabit that one area is drought-stricken, while at the same time, a hundred kilometres away, flash floods destroy buildings and crops. These are signs of climate change, as experts confirm," Körner explains.

"East Africa remains a constant challenge"

The food situation was already tight in Kenya and neighbouring countries in 2019. And the locusts then also consumed the little grain and fodder. In addition to money and emergency food aid, Caritas Germany also provided seeds as well as tools for field work. PACIDA was also able to distribute fodder to pastoralists and to vaccinate cattle and goats to make them more resistant to diseases. In order to better assess the development of the locust plague, men were trained as so-called "locust scouts". They send reports to the Kenyan authorities about the invading swarms, determine the sexual maturity of the animals and closely observe in which direction a swarm moves. This makes it easier to plan the fight against the insects. The government agen-



KENYA Emergency aid for those affected by the food crisis

Funds deployed 2020: 862,000 euros

Measurements and Impact: The relief efforts reached well over 46,800 people in the affected areas. Measures aimed at restoring agriculture benefited around 22,440 people.

Perspective: To continue the aid, at least **854,000 euros** are available in 2021 from donations and church grants.

cies were thus able to precisely coordinate the spraying of insecticides against the locusts. "Caritas also financed the training of the scouts," explains Ivo Körner. He says this not only proved to be the right strategy for insect control, but also provided people with some income. "Furthermore, our aid also had to take into account the prevailing Corona pandemic," says the Caritas project officer. Protection against infections by education as well as disinfectants and masks supplemented the aid package. In addition to that, the construction of wells and a drinking water system in the community of Bubisa are intended to permanently improve the nutritional situation in the area. In total, Caritas Germany has supported the people of Marsabit County with almost one million euros in 2020.

"Unfortunately, East Africa is a permanent challenge," predicts Ivo Körner, "because droughts and floods will return after the locusts have disappeared. So this won't be the last aid measures here."



The locust plague is only one of many reasons for the hunger in East Africa. Read our explanation of the crisis online at:



Ten Years of War in Syria – And No End to the Suffering

Poverty, hunger, homelessness and a never-ending conflict are making life in Syria more difficult than ever before. Caritas Germany keeps on providing emergency relief to ensure survival.

Many people in Syria, like Fawzia Nia-Aly, who lives in a garage, hope for an end to war and hardship.



As the war in Syria enters its tenth year, Fawzia Nia-Aly's living conditions are as hopeless as the situation in the country is. She was 65 years old when the fighting began; it was the start of the greatest humanitarian disaster of our time. Nearly 500,000 people were killed since then, 115,000 of them were innocent civilians, around 22,000 of them children. About 13 million Syrians have had to leave their homes since then and are on the run. At the beginning of the crisis, ten years ago, Fawzia Niaaly was still living with her son Mouhamad. She says he took good care of her.

Now she is 75 years old. Her son was killed in the war; for three years she lived in a refugee camp outside of Aleppo, but in 2017 she was able to return to her old district, Al-Jazmati in Aleppo. Since then she has been dwelling in a small garage, with a

brown and flower-printed cloth serving as a door, all her belongings are a mattress and a shelf with some sugar, salt and spices and a few pots – that's all that is left to her.

Fawzia Niaaly is only one of a total of 11 million Syrians who are dependent on humanitarian aid within the country; almost 90 percent of the population now live below the poverty line. Fact is: During the ten years of the conflict, the Syrian population has never been worse off than now. The country is on the brink of economic collapse, and, due to inflation, the prices for food are rising immeasurably. People spend the night in their cars in front of petrol stations in order to get a few drops of petrol the next day, flats and houses can no longer be heated at all or only sparsely, not to mention the Corona pandemic, which is spreading rampantly

in Syria due to a lack of protective measures and a severely destroyed health infrastructure.

"Since the year of 2020, due to the increasing dramatic situation in the country," says Angela Gärtner, Caritas Germany's project officer for Syria, "we again have to provide more emergency relief."

This means that local staff members distribute food and hygiene items, hand out vouchers which enable people in need to purchase all the necessities of life by themselves, because hardly anyone has savings anymore. Fawzia Niaaly from Aleppo, for example, says she bought shoes and a winter jacket with the vouchers she received from Caritas Germany.

Help under difficult conditions

Activities such as psychosocial care for war victims or educational and leisure activities for children have to be reduced because of Corona. In order to avoid infections, only half of the groups were able to come – under strict hygiene rules. If they can come at all: There were times when the community centre had to close completely for a few weeks. "Single mothers and elderly people," says Angela Gärtner, "are particularly affected by the increasing poverty".

That's why Caritas Aleppo's staff members, who also regularly look after 75-year-old Fawzia Niaaly, regularly go from door to door in the district of Al-Jazmati in order to find out where help is most urgently needed. "In this situation, our local partners' commitment cannot be praised too much," emphasises Gärtner. "For, as a matter of fact, all Caritas employees are also strongly affected by Corona and the economic decline. Sometimes, due to inflation, their wages are already used up at the beginning of the month."

As far as humanitarian aid is concerned, the situation has not become easier. The "Caesar Act", enacted by the US in 2019, was supposed to impose economic sanctions on the regime in Damascus, but it is the population that is suffering much more, because since then aid organizations such as Caritas Germany have more difficulties to transfer funds to the country. The possibilities to transport relief items via neighbouring countries, especially to the north of Syria, were also more and more restricted, mainly due to pressure from Russia. At the moment, there is only one corridor on the border to Turkey.

The war drags on

What's more, the war is also far from being over. In 2020 alone, an offensive by the Syrian army in the



SYRIA Emergency aid and assistance for displaced persons and emergency relief

Funds invested in 2020: 2.66 million euros, thereof 1.7 million euros from the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, 740,000 from donations and church and foundation funds.

Measures & Impact: Medical support and distribution of food, hygiene articles and meals, hygiene articles and meals, psychosocial aid, educational measures.

Perspective: To continue the aid in 2021, approximately the same amount of funds is available from donations as well as from the Federal Government and from church funds.

Idlib area in the north-west of Syria displaced more than one million people. "The media attention for Syria", says Angela Gärtner, "may have diminished. But the sad fact is that our aid in Syria is needed more urgently than ever since the conflict began." Fawzia Nia-Aly, in her small garage in Aleppo, can only confirm this from her own painful experience. She says: "I wait for your visit every day!"



After ten years of war, the public attention for the suffering in Syria has decreased. However, our emergency relief will continue:



"Since the start of the conflict, the help of Caritas is needed more urgently than ever."

Fostering Community Between the Fronts



Syria (page 18) is not the only country where war has been going on for many years. In Afghanistan, Ukraine and the Sahel region, too, armed conflicts are becoming a sad and bloody part of everyday life. For the work of Caritas Germany, this means that emergency and medical aid, for example for internally displaced persons, have to be provided for years. The brochure "In Focus: On the Run in Your Own Country" deals with this topic in greater detail than is possible on these pages.



Social Reconstruction

UKRAINE Since the war began in 2014, 2.5 million people have fled from the embattled areas in the east to western parts of the country or to Russia. In total, 3.4 million people in Ukraine are dependent on humanitarian aid. By linking emergency aid with reconstruction measures - the Nexus Concept - Caritas Germany seeks to secure survival and, at the same time, to develop perspectives for the future. The construction and operation of social centres and day-care centres for children are designed to help improve social interaction. In the east of the country, the provision of food and medical aid remain the main focus of our work.

In 2020, **1.84 million euros** from the Federal Foreign Office were available for emergency relief.

Trained to help

YEMEN War-injured people, malnourished children, patients suffering from cholera and then those infected with Covid-19 - the need for medical aid in Yemen is immense. But the ailing health care system is completely overloaded. Nearly 20 million people don't have access to adequate health care. At the same time, unemployment - especially among young people - is very high. Caritas Germany tackles both problems simultaneously. 133 young people have successfully completed a training program in the health-care sector by the end of 2020, and another 150 young adults will do so from 2021 onwards. Thereby, the goal of empowering women and girls was also achieved: two-thirds of the graduating class were women.

In 2020, the program was funded with **141,000 euros** from foundations and **345,000 euros** from donations. For 2021, **400,000 euros** are available.



Winter Aid in the Afghan Highlands

AFGHANISTAN The living conditions of the people in Afghanistan have deteriorated continuously over the past few years. As a result of the armed conflicts that have been going on for decades and the increasing frequency of droughts and floods, the population currently lives below the poverty line. The unemployment rate among young people is over 70 percent, and infant mortality is one of the highest in the world.

Poverty is particularly high in the structurally weak province of Daikundi in the Central highlands of Afghanistan. And now, the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic in that area have led to further economic declines and price increases. Many people are greatly indebted, deprived of their economic livelihoods and suffering from acute food insecurity. According to recent surveys by the United Nations (UNOCHA), in which Caritas Germany's country office in Kabul was involved, more than

100,000 people in this province alone are dependent on survival relief in winter.

Therefore, Caritas Germany and its partners on the ground carried out survival aid measures in the winter of 2020/21: They distributed warm blankets to the most vulnerable IDPs and returnees and granted life-saving winter aid in cash in order to cover the need for food, winter clothing, shelter and heating costs. Moreover, particularly poor families received fodder for animals, seeds and medicines to deworm livestock, in order to ensure the survival of the animals, and thus also their own survival over the winter. All beneficiaries also received information on the prevention of covid-19 and other diseases.

The project is funded by the United Nations' UNOCHA program for the years of 2020 and 2021 with a total of **425,000 euros**.

Taking a New Perspective Against Terror and War

MALI The occupation of the northern regions of the country by Islamist groups in 2012 forced millions of people to flee – and turned them into internally displaced persons for years to come. Due to the constant terror, rural production collapsed, and the trade was weakened. Many people are unemployed and without any perspective for the future - a breeding ground for criminal gangs and extremist groups. Together with its local partners, Caritas Germany supports unemployed young people and women and assists them in training and employment. Micro-enterprises are supported financially, and self-employment is encouraged. Wells are built and seeds are distributed in order to ensure access to water and food.

The project for professional training and job finding was supported by funds from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) from 2017 to 2020 with **3.3 million euros**.



Find more information on internal displacement and the brochure "In Focus" on our website:



Assistance for Families to Put an End to Social Exclusion

Many Caritas Germany projects follow the socio-spatial approach. It is not individuals or groups that are supported, but their entire social environment. After all, the participation of the families of elderly people or people with disabilities leads to more social acceptance and exchange among the participants. And, ideally, to political and social improvements.



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BOLIVIA More and more young Bolivians are moving from the highlands of the Andes to the larger cities - hoping for work and a better life. Old people are often left behind and by themselves. Many have to not only provide for their own livelihood, but also must raise their grandchildren. Due to the loss of traditional family structures, old people are often regarded as a burden in Bolivian society. But poverty, lack of prospects and violence such as sexual assault, physical abuse and neglect also affect younger people. By means of self-help groups and a multigenerational project, Caritas Germany is working with its local partners to iden-

tify ways out for the people affected. Apart from representing the interests of the elderly on a political level, the work also focuses on assistance and advice in the fields of health, housing and education. Furthermore, elderly people receive courses and training to empower them to stand up for their own rights.

From 2020 to 2022, Caritas Germany is supporting the multigenerational project with funds from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and donations with a total of **552,000 euros**.



Help for Traumatized Women and Girls

CAMEROON For more than ten years, the Islamist terrorist group of Boko Haram has terrified people in northern Cameroon. To date, over 300,000 people have fled to the east of the country. Women and girls are particularly affected by acts of violence: Many of them were kidnapped, became the victims of sexual violence or were forced to marry. Caritas Germany and its local partner organization ALDEPA (Action Locale pour un Développement Participatif et Autogéré) provide psychosocial support to the often severely traumatized victims.

They also use brochures, radio spots, and theatrical plays in order to raise awareness in the communities. For the abused women and girls are often excluded from their own families and village communities, as they are suspected of collaborating with Boko Haram. Caritas Germany also encourages the young women to return to school or to work so that they can lead as self-determined and independent a life as possible.

Caritas Germany supported the project from 2019 to early 2021 with 350,000 euros, of which **140,000 euros** were provided by the Redel Foundation.

Inclusion with Close Family Participation

IRAQ Inclusion starts in the family. Based on this principle, Caritas Iraq has been supporting families with physically and/or mentally handicapped children and adolescents. The program provides individual support and also helps to strengthen the rights of disabled people within Iraqi society. Caritas staff members first visit the parents of disabled children at home to explain to them that disabilities are neither a punishment from God nor a reason to be ashamed. Just raising awareness about the causes and reasons for disabilities often removes their feelings of guilt. As a next step, families are reminded that they are not alone. The parents and their children participate in weekly educational meetings at the Caritas Centre meetings. At the same time they learn, how they can support their children in everyday life.

The approach turned out to be successful, and not only for those involved. Meanwhile, students of social pedagogy take part in Caritas training courses on working with the disabled. And the project cooperates closely with the Pedagogical Faculty of Education at Baghdad University.

Caritas Germany has supported the 2020 project with **200,000 euros** from donations.



Improving Emergency Relief and Preparedness with Good Partners

Scientific predictions according to which the number of extreme weather events will increase with the climate change have now become a sad certainty. South and Southeast Asia, as well as the countries of the Caribbean and Central America, are increasingly experiencing tropical storms. Caritas Germany and its partners are preventing disasters with emergency relief plans, adapted reconstruction and disaster preparedness projects.



New Houses and New perspectives

MOZAMBIQUE The houses built by Caritas Germany and its partners in Mozambique near the town of Dombe are quite simple: two bedrooms, a porch, a latrine. And yet they offer a lot to the people who lost everything in March 2019 with the cyclone "Idai": protection, a perspective for a new start and, above all, a sense of security. After all, these are stable and safe houses for the people who received their house keys here in October 2020.

Other key areas of reconstruction include agriculture and the construction of improved seed storage as a protection against future floods.

In 2020, Caritas Germany provided **1.5 million euros** from donations for reconstruction and disaster preparedness in Mozambique.

Reliable Partners in Flood Relief

INDONESIA The worst floods in 150 years in Greater Jakarta killed more than 60 people in early January 2020. More than 400,000 people had to be evacuated and housed in emergency shelters. The Indonesian Caritas partners, who were also involved in the evacuation process, provided, among other things, soup kitchens and supplied the flood victims with food.

The local staff of our partners were able to respond quickly and efficiently by means of a good emergency aid plan, years of experience and close collaboration on the ground with, among others, the Archdiocese of Jakarta. Also in the field of reconstruction, Caritas Germany can rely on good structures that have been built up over many years of collaboration.

Caritas Germany had, for emergency relief and reconstruction in the year of 2020, **64,500 euros** at its disposal from funds provided by the Association of German Dioceses.



Increase of Typhoons, Improvement of Preparedness

PHILIPPINES In November 2020, the Philippines experienced an accumulation of disasters which was unusual even for this time of year: Within a month, the island nation was hit by five typhoons. Around 240,000 people lost their homes in the wake of Typhoon Goni alone. A short time later, "Vamco" also destroyed thousands of homes and triggered landslides and mudslides.

For hundreds of thousands of people, the typhoons bring hardship and homelessness. Nevertheless, Daniel Apolinarski, Caritas Germany's project officer the Philippines, also points to successes of the Caritas work: "The disaster preparedness measures of our partners and the authorities are apparently having an effect. At least compared to typhoon 'Haiyan' in November 2013, the number of fatalities has dropped significantly." Back then, nearly 10,000 people died in the Philippines. The five storms in 2020 killed about 50.



Caritas Germany and its local partners provided emergency relief right after the storms; staff members distributed food and blankets, provided medical care and psychological victims and offered psychological support. As climate change is expected to lead to an increase in extreme weather events, disaster preparedness will remain to play a key role in the Philippines.

In 2020, in the wake of the typhoons in the Philippines, Caritas Germany provided **100,000 euros** in relief, of which **50,000 euros** each came from the diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart and another **50,000 euros** from donations.

Help After the Storms and Protection from Corona

GUATEMALA/HONDURAS Within two weeks of time, the hurricanes "Iota" and "Eta" struck Central America and caused heavy devastation. More than 400 people lost their lives in the affected areas. In total, more than seven million were affected by storm and flood damage in Honduras and Guatemala. Immediately after the disasters, Caritas Germany launched emergency relief measures, distributed, together with local partners, food and hygiene items and provided meals and medicines in emergency shelters to the people affected. Particularly affected by the disaster were families living in rural areas, in particular the elderly, pregnant women, children and people with disabilities. Alongside the emergency relief efforts after the storms, Caritas Germany also initiated corona protection measures. For there were many people who were infected in emergency shelters because distance and hygiene rules could not be observed.



By distributing protective masks and disinfectants, Caritas helped to contain the spread of the virus. Furthermore, assistance was provided to those affected in repairing and cleaning their homes.

Caritas Germany had a total of **531,000 euros** at its disposal for emergency relief in Guatemala and Honduras, including funds from the Archdiocese of Freiburg, the Archdiocese of München-Freising and of the Ordinariate of Rottenburg-Stuttgart.



Die Zukunft der Syrienhilfe

Hybrides On- & Offline Event

22. September 2020



info@chaberlin.org | www.chaberlin.org | @cha_germany

The Future of Aid to Syria

In an event organized by the Centre for Humanitarian Action (CHA) and Caritas Germany in September, humanitarian assistance in Syria under pandemic conditions was discussed.

How can humanitarian aid still be provided in Syria? Who can safeguard humanitarian principles such as independence and neutrality? And what aid will be appropriate in the future, given the great destruction and the ongoing central role of the Assad government? Only short-term emergency relief or reconstruction for the benefit of the suffering people? These were the questions debated on September 22, 2020, by Muriel Asseburg of the German Institute for Science and Politics, the Syrian economist Salam Said, Thomas Zahneisen, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, as well as Oliver Müller, International Director of Caritas Germany. More than 200 people online and nearly 40 people on the ground in Berlin participated in the event, hosted by the Centre for Humanitarian Action and Caritas Germany, and they were able to share comments and questions in the live chat on Youtube and Twitter. Given the background that the people in Syria are suffering after ten years of war, with a destroyed infrastructure, and the Corona pandemic, the debaters pleaded for an expansion of humanitarian aid. However, they also agreed that this should not be done in cooperation with the dictatorial Assad regime. Oliver Müller proposed to invest more in the basic infrastructure without strengthening the regime. Thus, people might have a "minimal chance of taking their lives into their own hands."

The World-Church's "Sunday of Solidarity"

The German Bishops' Conference, dioceses, world-church relief organizations and religious orders called for church services, solidarity and donations for the victims of the Corona pandemic. A special collection in September 2020 raised 2.4 million euros.

In view of the dramatic global impact of the Corona pandemic, a special church offering was carried out in all Holy Masses on the "Sunday of Solidarity" on September 6, 2020. Donations were also raised to finance international projects. This solidarity event was a supplement to the aid programs, that had already been organized by the dioceses, world church organizations and religious orders in previous months. The World Church Sunday of Solidarity raised more than 2.4 million euros - in spite of the restricted opportunities of visiting Holy Masses due to Corona and, thus, spending offerings.



Archbishop Ludwig Schick, Chairman of the Committee for International Church Affairs of the German Bishops' Conference, thanked the numerous parishes and individuals who had responded to the call: "Many parishes have celebrated this day as an expression of spiritual solidarity within the universal Church and of attention to those suffering all over the world. They have ordered the materials and prayed for the victims of the pandemic worldwide. For this I thank you from the bottom of my heart. The great and generous amount collected with the offering has already been forwarded and will be used for numerous projects of the relief organizations and congregations to help alleviate the suffering of many people."



"Don't Give Up the People in Afghanistan!"

Caritas Germany urged the international donor conference for an expansion of aid efforts. For alongside war and climate change, Corona now also puts the people in Afghanistan in distress.

At the end of November 2020, the countries participating in the international donor conference promised to provide about ten billion euros to support the peace process, reconstruction and development in Afghanistan. In the run-up to the meeting, Peter Neher, President of the German Caritas Association, had demanded that "the international community has to use the funds reasonably and in a way which promotes peace if Afghanistan is to have a real future."

In the light of the announced withdrawal of international troops and the increasing poverty in the country, Caritas Germany urged for more international aid. "The work for the people must and will continue, and Caritas will remain by their side," said Neher. This should also be the clear message from the donor conference. "A strong signal to the people there is required that the international community will not give up on them and the country."

The poverty, which was already quite severe, increased during the Corona pandemic, with more than half of the people living on less than one US dollar per day. The frequent weather extremes such as droughts and floods in recent years and the still tense security situation are preventing people from making a living of cultivating their fields.

Online with Music for Pandemic Victims

On the 15th of March in 2020, "We Against Racism", the youth initiative of the Diocese of Trier, and Caritas Germany organized the "European Solidarity Challenge", a live music event with more than 40 artists. Proceeds from the charity concert were for the benefit of people around the world worst affected by the Corona crisis.

Caritas Germany and "Wir gegen Rassismus" called for donations for the relief organization's Corona Relief Fund by organizing the "European Solidarity Challenge," an online performance by more than 40 international artists. Unlike the "Eurovision Song Contest", the bands did not compete against each other, but, according to the appeal, "all of us together against the virus." The livestream reached over 60,000 users on Facebook and YouTube as well as on the website of Caritas Germany. They donated more than 26,000 euros to Caritas' Corona relief



fund. The live event, starring among others the internationally well-known British pop star JP Cooper, the Cologne rockers Cat Ballou and Kasalla, ran for five hours in the web. All of them promoted solidarity during the Corona pandemic and committed themselves to the Corona aid of Caritas Germany.

Even the Minister for Economic Cooperation, Gerd Müller, became aware of the campaign and gave it his praise. World-wide solidarity is needed, the minister stressed: "The work which Caritas, together with other relief organizations, is doing within the Corona emergency aid is vital. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who, day by day, contribute to this with great commitment."



Watch the trailer of this year's European Solidarity Challenge here:





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50 years after the Biafra War

The surrender of Biafra on January 15, 1970 marked the end of the so-called Biafra war. 50 years later, Caritas Germany reminded, through events, in the media and with a dossier, also of the comprehensive humanitarian aid.

At the end of the 1960s, the embargo imposed by the central government of Nigeria upon the small region of Biafra, triggered a dramatic famine and left about 13 million people dependent on humanitarian aid. Relief organizations of the church thereupon organized the most comprehensive humanitarian aid campaign so far after the Second World War. For more than two years, within the framework of Operation Biafra, relief items were flown to the suffering population of Biafra via an air bridge - comparable to the Berlin airlift. Caritas Germany recalled the events of that time in events, dossiers and interviews, and also used the retrospective to address fundamental questions of humanitarian aid. Caritas Germany recalled the events of that time in events, dossiers and interviews, and also used the retrospective to address fundamental and also used the retrospective to address fundamental questions of humanitarian aid. For it was the unprecedented commitment of all those involved, and the high financial and logistical efforts made, which helped humanitarian aid as a whole to make progress. On the other hand, the way of raising funds with photos of starving children is now regarded critically. The memories of eyewitnesses on the website caritas-international.de are quite impressive. Uchechukwu Obodochina, for example, the current director of Caritas Nigeria, was four years old when the war in Biafra started. In spite of all the hunger and suffering, he also remembers something positive: "People are willing to share and help even in difficult moments. Without knowing if tomorrow will be better."



Read more in our online dossier about the background of the Biafra war, the airlift, the dilemmas of aid, and hear eyewitnesses talk about their experiences.



"Signs of Solidarity and Humanity"

More than 2000 private individuals, initiatives and the department for International Church Affairs of the archdiocese of Freiburg supported the humanitarian aid of Caritas Germany in Peru which is suffering greatly from the Corona pandemic.

As early as mid-2020, Peru, the partner country of the Archdiocese of Freiburg, was already South America's second most affected region hit by the coronavirus, followed by Brazil, with more than 600,000 infections. Therefore, in response to the great suffering, Archbishop Stephan Burger asked the people in the archdiocese in early July to support the Peruvian people. In response, more than 2,100 Catholics from the archdiocese donated around 190,000 euros. This amount was supplemented by the initiative "Valuable Future" and the Department for the World Church of the Archdiocese, so it was possible to hand over 235,000 euros to Caritas Germany. "Many people of faith of the arch-



© Caritas

diocese have recognised the plight of our brothers and sisters in Peru and took action - although many people in Germany are facing an uncertain future due to the economic damage of the pandemic," Burger said. "I would like to thank you for your mercy. Your sign of solidarity and humanity bears witness to the solidarity with our partner country – our prayers will continue to accompany the people of Peru." Caritas Germany is, together with Caritas Peru, rendering humanitarian support in the severely affected and inaccessible Madre de Dios region, among other areas. This is home to many indigenous groups, for whom Covid-19 presents a particularly great danger.



The Youngest Caritas Committed to Paradise

Caritas Fiji, established in 2019, is the youngest member of the worldwide Caritas Confederation, in which 164 countries are represented. Located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, the country with over 300 islands and gorgeous beaches could be the epitome of paradise - if it weren't for the fact that climate change is already massively threatening people's livelihoods.

Along the coasts, erosion is progressing rapidly due to the rising sea-level (picture). Caritas staff member Kose tells us that the water has already moved ten metres closer, and the palm trees are virtually falling into the sea. Now only a small piece of land remains up to the small road and the settlements behind it. The people of Fiji feel abandoned with this problem. More protective measures are urgently needed on the coasts in order to prevent a large-scale resettlement. For this reason, Fiji's Archbishop Peter Chong Fiji's Archbishop Peter Chong also considers commitment in environmental issues the top priority of his country's young Caritas. He also criticises the country's politicians who are permitting foreign investors to exploit raw materials in an ecologically harmful way. Caritas Fiji, for example, has documented how a Chinese company has contaminated an entire bay. Where tourists used to watch schools of dolphins, now a brown broth pours into the Pacific.

"Via Caritas, we raise awareness among the village communities about such large-scale projects. People often don't know their rights to prevent something like that," says Archbishop Chong, who is a determined fighter against the looming dangers. "The plight of the Pacific countries must be heard more around the world."

"Everybody has. No one may."

An online reading by and with Katja Riemann on Caritas Germany's Facebook channel was followed by about 10,000 people. A recognition for humanitarian aid in general, because Riemann's book is primarily about its aid workers.

On 13 May 2020, actress and UN Ambassador Katja Riemann held a public reading from her book "Jeder hat. Niemand darf" (Everybody has. No one may) on Caritas Germany's Facebook channel.

The book focuses on people who work with passion and charity for their fellow human beings, aid workers who through their daily work in crisis areas help to improve the lives of people affected by wars and disasters.

"Katja Riemann is a strong and persuasive voice for all those who do the work with and for the people in need, but who remain silent and invisible," said Prelate Peter Neher, President of the German Caritas



Association. These people deserve attention. "They are the quiet heroines and heroes about whom almost no one talks".

These people were the focus of Katja Riemann's live streaming. For 20 years, she has travelled to all continents of the world and encountered people in their humanitarian work. The chapters of her book tell of commitment and passion, with which staff members of the relief organizations work for other people. In her book, Katja Riemann reports on projects in Burundi and Nepal, on the mission in Lebanon right through to the work of aid workers in Germany.



The reading with Katja Riemann can be found in full length on our Facebook channel.



We Say **THANK YOU!**

Unexpected High Willingness to Donate in the Corona Year 2020

When the Corona virus began to spread around the world last spring, there was great concern for us at Caritas Germany: would people, now that they themselves were affected by a crisis of global dimensions, keep on donating to people in need? However, against all odds, donations in the Corona year were more generous than ever before.



© caritas

Right from the start the Corona pandemics were an emotional rollercoaster ride for me and my team. Back in February 2020, when everything in Germany still seemed quite normal, our partners in Nigeria were already warning us about a virus called Covid-19. It was said that the government in Abuja had already begun to provide widespread information about the mysterious disease.

So we were preparing ourselves for this at Caritas Germany. Because we knew from experience - such as the Ebola epidemic: If there really was a viral wave to come, it would hit the poorest. In that case, we would be urgently needed. Yet, the effects of this global pandemic were not yet tangible at the time.

Then it happened blow after blow. Soon the "novel corona virus" also made the news in Germany, in Europe, indeed the whole world. The people in this country were bewildered; many of them were affected themselves in many different ways. Then, in March, the first lockdown. Our partner organizations around the world gave the alarm. As we had suspected, the curfews mainly affected those who already were marginalized in society. Our partners said that emergency relief on a large scale was urgently needed and that new projects had to be set up quickly in order to prevent even more people from falling ill and suffering from hunger. Our desk officers were concerned: Will we get enough donations to provide the necessary aid on a global scale? The need for help was untold. We have rarely experienced anything like that in humanitarian aid. I was sure that we needed one thing above all: more donations. But I did not have high hopes. After all, our

donors were affected themselves. And the suffering of people in Africa, Asia, Latin America was overshadowed by news of rising infection rates in our country and concerns in our own society which were very justified.

In April, we launched a large-scale communication campaign calling on people not to forget the suffering of the world.

We pulled out all the tools our communications toolbox had to offer: We published websites, newsletters and magazines, wrote letters and made phone calls like crazy. I find it hard to tell you just what great relief we felt when we realised that our pleas were bearing fruit. Although we all had to suffer from the pandemic, our donors showed great compassion for the Corona victims worldwide. This solidarity lasts until today. The generous donations exceeded our expectations by far. Our donors have demonstrated extraordinary solidarity during the Corona pandemic. Thanks to this impressive solidarity our partners on the ground were able to alleviate suffering and create new perspectives. We are both touched and very grateful for the high level of sympathy and warmth, which our donors have shown in this difficult year. Time to say thank you:

Danke - Thank You - Merci - ἰσχυρὴ εὐχαριστία mosa melese

Thanks to the generous support, a further 89 Corona relief projects were integrated into existing aid projects or new projects were launched. This allowed us to help more than one million people during last year's pandemic: with food, hygiene kits or medicine. And with an "open ear", a caring hand and psychological support for relatives, which eased the pain of the pandemic a little bit. **I would like to thank you sincerely on behalf of my team and all of the staff at Caritas Germany, as well as on behalf of all of our partners around the world and of those whom they help every day!** Stay with us and keep supporting us, because the fight is far from being over.

BIRGIT WINTERHALTER
Team Leader, Fundraising

Creative for People in Need

For all the fundraising efforts of our supporters: Thank you very much!

Although it was hardly possible to organize flea markets, community festivals or information events during the pandemic, supporters once again came up with a number of ideas in 2020 to support Caritas Germany with fundraising activities. Some of them used the digital media,

others the intervals between lockdown and restriction, to take action. We would like to thank all those who were so creative and active, as well as the numerous donors, also on behalf of those who benefit from the aid.



“One Million Stars” digitally

In the past year, "one million stars" shone only to a small extent in squares and courtyards in Germany. Yet, almost 6000 people visited the virtual light event, to which Caritas international had called for. Thus, in spite of all the obstacles, the participants expressed their solidarity with children and adolescents who live under the most difficult conditions in the slums of in the slums of the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.



Successful Appeal for Donations for Beirut

Cousins Bilal Omayrat and Ahmad Omeirat were shocked when they saw pictures from Beirut and heard reports from relatives after a huge explosion hit the Lebanese capital. They called for donations via social networks and in the "Schwäbische Post". They were successful: 6250 euros were raised for Caritas Germany's emergency relief and reconstruction work.

Apple Juice for Eritrea-Aid

"We have collected a ton of scattered apples and pressed around 600 litres of apple juice", says Thomas Penschel, "which we sold after a thanksgiving service in Bretten and delivered it to a few regular customers." The campaign raised around 470 euros, which will benefit a project in Eritrea, through which Caritas Germany and its partners are creating water retention basins and are reforesting woodlands in order to alleviate the consequences of climate change - droughts and heavy rainfall.



Rural Church Youth for more Refugee Aid

"A lot has happened again since September, when the refugee camp of Moria on the island of Lesbos burned down. The great media attention has gone, the problems certainly have not," said Andreas Hofer (right), diocesan board member of the KLJB (Catholic Rural Youth Movement Rottenburg-Stuttgart), when he presented a cheque over 10,000 euros to Ursula Finger (left) from Caritas Germany for refugee aid. The KLJB had participated in the campaign "Admit people now".

This what we have achieved together!

The most important facts and figures from 2020 - an overview for you!

134.175

Donors

made our work for people in need possible in 2020. **10,606** of them made a permanent donation.

Thanks to these donations, we were also able to apply for additional funding from public donors such as the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Federal Foreign Office (AA) and the EU.



36.7 million euros

were raised thanks to the commitment of **our donors, numerous foundations and companies as well as many associations and institutions of the Church and Caritas.**



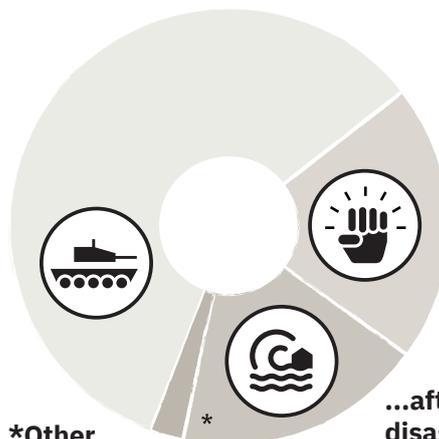
5.3 million people

have been reached, including **people affected by natural disasters, refugees, migrants, children and young people, people with disabilities, elderly and addicts.**

In close collaboration with our **386 partner organizations**

worldwide, we have provided aid where it is most urgently needed...

...in crises and conflicts



...in cases of social injustice

...after natural disasters

*Other



Of every  around
91 cents were spent directly for the project
9 cents were spent for advertising and administrative costs

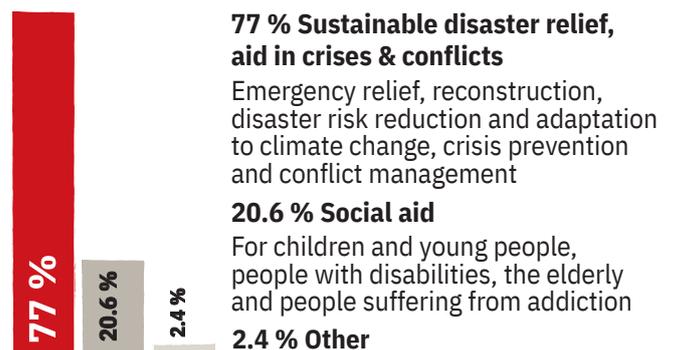
The DZI certifies Caritas Gemany's efficient and responsible handling of donations.

Our voice for people in need



- 52** press releases
- 1,253** contributions in newspapers & magazines
- 141** contributions on radio and television
- 17** E-Mail-Newsletters
- 818** posts on social media

This is how we supported:



Worldwide Aid

Caritas Germany's commitment in 2020 comprised 683 projects in 74 countries. Everywhere, the motto is: **the aid reached those in need of it.**

AFRICA

Africa in general / 5 projects	67.996,84 euros
Egypt / 9 projects	1.236.452,01 euros
Ethiopia / 18 projects	1.440.876,63 euros
Benin / 2 projects	168.155,81 euros
Burkina Faso / 4 projects	451.627,66 euros
Burundi / 3 projects	273.947,78 euros
Eritrea / 2 projects	227.600,00 euros
Guinea-Bissau / 4 projects	294.648,01 euros
Cameroon / 6 projects	1.414.807,08 euros
Kenya / 16 projects	1.106.100,00 euros
Dem. Rep. Congo / 15 projects	3.749.386,39 euros
Liberia / 3 projects	366.256,37 euros
Mali / 12 projects	1.453.906,13 euros
Morocco / 8 projects	671.789,48 euros
Mozambique / 19 projects	3.239.240,76 euros
Nigeria / 9 projects	1.003.476,34 euros
Senegal / 3 projects	389.191,27 euros
Sierra Leone / 7 projects	374.147,58 euros
Somalia / 1 project	161.000,00 euros
Sudan / 2 projects	1.282.023,85 euros
South Africa / 11 projects	465.420,77 euros
South Sudan / 23 projects	2.387.771,40 euros
Tanzania / 5 projects	300.603,14 euros
Chad / 7 projects	1.683.246,95 euros
Uganda / 7 projects	807.168,37 euros
Central Afr. Republic / 2 projects	460.000,00 euros

Africa total / 203 projects 25,476,840.62 euros

EUROPE

Europe in general / 2 projects	115.375,00 euros
Albania / 4 projects	450.268,22 euros
Armenia / 7 projects	422.868,00 euros
Germany / 8 projects	184.943,34 euros
Georgia / 8 projects	462.332,50 euros
Greece / 6 projects	612.250,00 euros
Kosovo / 1 project	18.200,00 euros
Croatia / 1 project	8.600,00 euros
Poland / 1 project	13.714,29 euros
Russian Federation / 11 projects	559.513,00 euros
Serbia / 5 projects	165.323,34 euros
Turkey / 3 projects	172.826,08 euros
Ukraine / 16 projects	4.195.162,57 euros
Hungary / 1 projects	79.050,00 euros

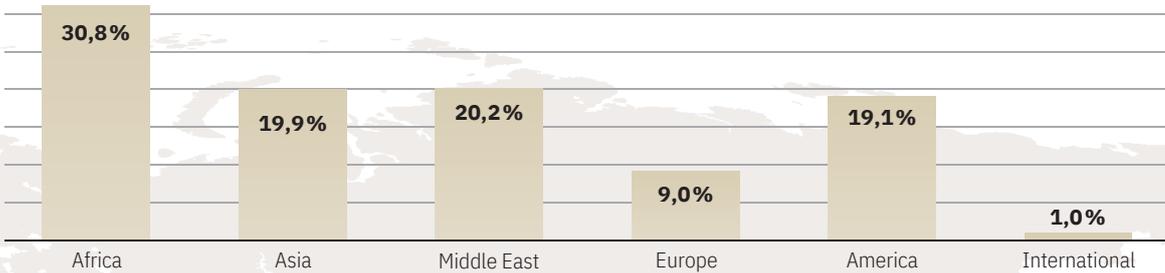
Europe total / 74 project 7,430,426.34 euros

MIDDLE EAST

Middle East in general / 4 projects	49.683,99 euros
Iraq / 22 projects	4.057.816,43 euros
Israel and Palestine / 16 projects	2.906.634,66 euros
Yemen / 5 projects	477.311,00 euros
Jordan / 15 projects	4.208.881,03 euros
Lebanon / 18 projects	2.519.157,05 Euros
Syria / 13 projects	2.488.601,14 euros

Middle East total 93 projects 16,708,085.30 euros

RELATIVE AID WEIGHTING IN PERCENT



ASIA UND OCEANIA

Asia in general / 5 projects	109.262,05 euros
Afghanistan / 17 projects	3.262.688,11 euros
Bangladesh / 21 projects	2.920.242,51 euros
China / 3 projects	401.241,14 euros
India / 33 projects	2.034.720,90 euros
Indonesia / 28 projects	1.588.492,50 euros
Japan / 1 project	200.290,00 euros
Cambodia / 6 projects	843.346,50 euros
Mongolia / 1 project	30.000,00 euros
Myanmar / 4 projects	1.448.539,49 euros
Nepal / 14 projects	632.277,74 euros
North Korea / 4 projects	390.144,78 euros
Pakistan / 7 projects	343.396,74 euros
Philippines / 16 projects	713.347,52 euros
Sri Lanka / 3 projects	50.093,39 euros
Tajikistan / 8 projects	823.478,84 euros
Thailand / 3 projects	250.500,00 euros
Vietnam / 9 projects	380.743,61 euros

Asia and Oceania total
183 projects

16.422.805,82 euros

LATIN AMERICA

Latin America in general / 5 projects	576.370,79 euros
Bolivia / 8 projects	586.993,08 euros
Brazil / 20 projects	3.240.660,44 euros
Chile / 2 projects	191.726,76 euros
Ecuador / 3 projects	1.304.696,97 euros
El Salvador / 5 projects	216.896,76 euros
Guatemala / 9 projects	768.376,87 euros
Haiti / 6 projects	538.054,02 euros
Honduras / 3 projects	213.000,00 euros
Colombia / 28 projects	4.751.954,03 euros
Cuba / 4 projects	239.234,08 euros
Mexico / 3 projects	106.000,00 euros
Peru / 17 projects	1.034.181,26 euros
Venezuela / 4 projects	2.098.026,08 euros

Latin America total
117 projects

15.823.171,14 euros

INTERNATIONAL

International total / 13 projects **829.082,29 euros**

Note

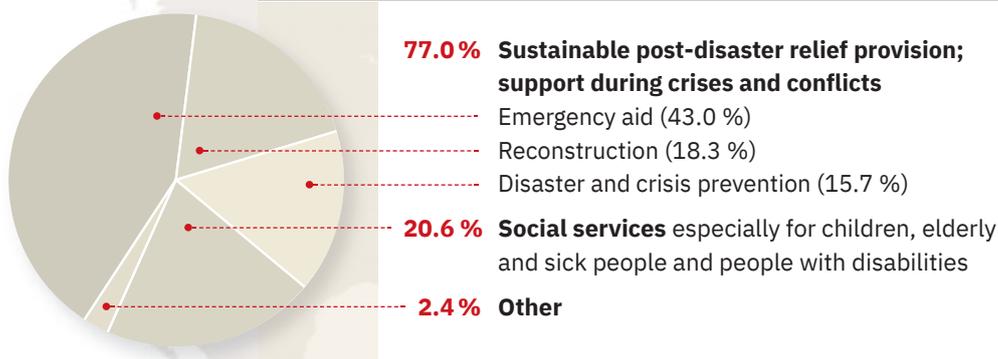
1. The figures in this overview are not completely identical with the donation receipts and grants total for the year 2020. For there are many projects with a timeframe over several years which are being financed gradually. Reconstruction following disasters, such as the one after the cyclones in Mozambique 2019, will often continue for years to come. Funds at Caritas Germany's disposal will accordingly be expended over the long term, with a view to the future. This approach is essential, as responsibly managed disaster aid will necessarily extend to rebuilding social structures and taking steps to improve disaster preparedness.

2. The projects listed in the category "International" comprise especially projects of Caritas Internationalis as well as member fees for this worldwide Caritas-network and for Caritas Europe. Cross-border projects within one continent are being summarized in the respective categories as "general" ("Africa general", "Asia general" etc.)

Project Expenditure

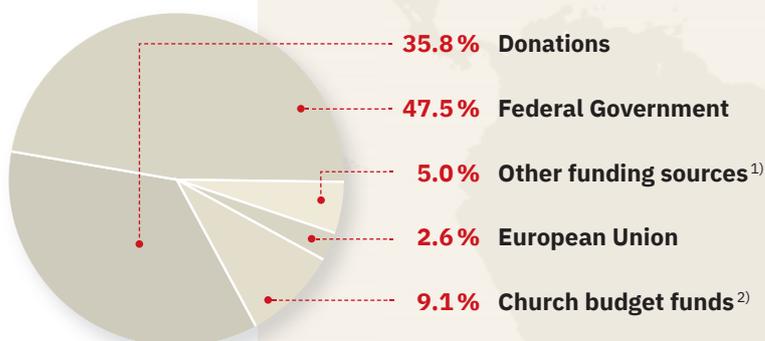
Total expenditure: 82.690.411,51 euros

BY TARGET GROUPS



The categorization in this overview is intended for general guidance only. Because quite often social projects are designed with more than one target group in mind, for instance where aid is intended for disabled children or for victims of an earthquake. In disaster relief, emergency aid, reconstruction and preparedness go hand in hand.

BY FUNDING SOURCE



The diagram shows the funds allocated to projects in 2020. The amount of aid is not identical with the year's donation income and public grants, because many of the programmes run over several years and are financed successively

1) Funds from Misereor, other Caritas associations, etc.; 2) Funds from the Association of German Dioceses as well as grants from the dioceses of Freiburg, Cologne and Rottenburg-Stuttgart.

PUBLIC FUNDING

German government total	39,249,984 euros
thereof: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	21,616,047 euros
thereof: Federal Foreign Office	17,633,937 euros
Church Funds total	7,508,085 euros
thereof: Association of German Dioceses	3,581,544 euros
of which: Dioceses of Freiburg, Cologne, Rottenburg-Stuttgart	3,926,541 euros

European Union total*	2,154,529.31 euros
Emergency aid Egypt	465,363.49 euros
Emergency aid Colombia	839,368.43 euros
Emergency aid Ecuador	703,214.23 euros
Emergency aid Peru	303,047.69 euros
Emergency aid Ethiopia	566,447.40 euros
Social projects Tajikistan	301,994.35 euros



* The EU grants come from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid fund (ECHO) and from resources of the European Development Cooperation. The difference in the total results from reversals from the previous year for the amounts of 2,217.23 (emergency aid Afghanistan), - 998,147.68 (social projects Colombia) and - 24,541.37 (social projects international).

Administrative & Advertising Costs

Administrative and advertising costs are all those expenses which, in view of their content, cannot be directly allocated to the tax-deductible purposes stated in the Association Statutes. According to the DZI (German Central Institute for Social Affairs), administrative and advertising costs exceeding 30% of total expenditure are not tenable. The DZI deems administrative and advertising costs of below 20% to be reasonable. Administrative and advertising costs of below 10% are regarded as low. **In 2020, the share of administrative and advertising costs for Caritas Germany was 9.01 percent.**

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS CALCULATION PURSUANT TO DZI GUIDELINES

Project funding ¹⁾	83,942,720.57 euros	84.93 %
(of which personnel expenses)	(486,031.05 euros)	
Project support	5,054,177.90 euros	5.11 %
(of which personnel costs)	(4,276,153.20 euros)	
Statutory campaigning, education and awareness-raising work	937,605.10 euros	0.95%
(of which personnel costs)	(430,125.26 euros)	
Total project expenditures	89,934,503.57 euros	90.99%
Administration	2,998,411.93 euros	3.03 %
(of which personnel expenses)	(1,357,405.89 euros)	
Advertising and public relations	5,906,198.25 euros	5.98 %
(of which personnel expenses)	(1,207,435.03 euros)	
Total advertising and administrative expenses	8,904,610.18 euros	9.01 %
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	98,839,113.77 euros	100.00 %

1) The figures contain expenditure for the International Department of Caritas Germany, which is allocated to the funding of projects in accordance with the DZI.

Auditor's report on the division result

The international department of the German Caritas Association, the relief organization of Caritas Germany, is integrated into the organizational structures of the German Caritas Association (DCV). The division statement of results for the donation-relevant international department (Caritas Germany, International Department) is derived from Caritas Germany's Annual Report 2020. The annual accounts and situation report were audited by Ebner & Stolz GmbH & Co. KG auditing company based in Stuttgart.²⁾ The auditing company issued an unrestricted audit certificate and established that the audit did not lead to any objections to the correctness of the annual financial statements and the management report, that the management report on the whole conveys an accurate picture of the association's situation and that it accurately presents the opportunities and risks of future development. On the basis of the tasks of the German Caritas Association e.V., proper preparation of the annual accounts and of the situation report in accordance with the provisions of §317 of the German Commercial Code (HGB) were examined in compliance with the generally accepted German standards for the audit of financial statements promulgated by the Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer (IDW). Moreover, the audit of the annual financial statements also took into account the auditing guidelines of the Association of the German Dioceses (VDD), which, as an extended audit subject, require the audit of the correctness of the management and the presentation of the economic circumstances of the association. Within the association, the annual accounts and the situation report are assessed by a financial committee. As an extension of the annual audit, we requested our auditors to examine the divisional results relevant to donations. The results of the international department were audited as derived from the bookkeeping upon which the annual financial statement is based. The annual auditor reported to the board that the audit did not lead to any objections. Moreover, the DZI ("Deutsches Zentralinstitut für Soziale Fragen") regularly checks compliance with the "Guidelines and Implementation Rules for the voluntary commitment for non-profit, supra-regional donation collecting organizations" of the DZI (DZI Guidelines). The DZI guidelines require, among other things, an intended purpose and effective application of funds, commensurability of compensation, true, clear and accurate fundraising, as well as a proper financial statement.³⁾

2) The 2020 annual and business reports for Caritas Germany are published at www.caritas.de.

3) Additional information about the DZI Guidelines 2010/a document on transparency are also available at www.caritas.de/glossare/transparenz.

Statement of Account

The aid programmes of Caritas **Germany** are funded by Church and state grants, and private and institutional donations.

INCOME	2020	2019
Public and church grants		
Federal Government	38,859,049.73 euros	37,023,349.88 euros
Church budget funds	8,227,150.28 euros	7,133,230.00 euros
European Union	3,205,081.72 euros	2,484,914.86 euros
Other public and church subsidies	5,122,160.37 euros	3,893,849.55 euros
Total	55,413,442.10 euros	50,535,344.29 euros
Donations and other contributions		
Project donations	32,242,516.31 euros	27,112,575.12 euros
Foundation contributions and corporate cooperation	4,465,896.91 euros	3,270,929.82 euros
Total	36,708,413.22 euros	30,383,504.94 euros
Legacies and other income		
Income from assets and interest	1,544,765.12 euros	2,016,085.21 euros
Inheritances, legacies	1,414,063.28 euros	935,280.79 euros
Other	132,147.29 euros	180,378.54 euros
Total	3,090,975.69 euros	3,131,744.54 euros
TOTAL INCOME	95,212,831.01 euros	84,050,593.77 euros

Notes

Church funds: Funds from the Association of German Dioceses as well as from the dioceses of Freiburg, Cologne, and Rottenburg-Stuttgart.

Other public and Church grants: Funds from **Misereor**, other national Caritas associations etc.; Caritas Germany cooperates closely with the episcopal aid organization Misereor. The two aid organizations exchange professional expertise, cooperate in programme support and pursue part of their public relations activities on a shared basis. The cooperation also embraces the forwarding of over two million euros annually to Caritas Germany by Misereor. With regard to the programmes that will continue after the disaster aid, both organisations are focusing on the overall situation of people on the ground and thus paving the way for disaster aid to evolve into long-term development. To find out more about our partners and collaborative work, please visit: www.caritas-international.de/ueberuns

Project donations: Donations from private individuals, congregations etc. and Church collections.

Trust fund monies: Includes grants from media trusts such as the BR "Sternstunden" fund (751.090 euros), Bild hilft e.V. „Ein Herz für Kinder“ (300.000 euros) and "RTL-Foundation" (430.372 euros) as well as the Redel-Foundation (150.000 euros), Peter-Osypka-Foundation (720.000 euros) and the PHINEO gAG (652.493 euros).

Interest income: Proceeds from temporarily invested trust funds. Trust funds are funds that have been reserved for and tagged to projects and purposes but could not yet be forwarded to those responsible for implementation.

COSTS	2020	2019
Aid provided		
Sustainable disaster relief; aid in crises and conflicts; health, care, addiction; rights for children; participation for disabled people; opportunities for the disadvantaged		
Total aid provided	82,690,411.51 euros	82,205,835.28 euros
Personnel and material costs, depreciation and amortisation		
1. Personnel costs: Wages and salaries, social security contributions, pensions (of which directly attributable to projects)	7,757,150.44 euros (5,192,309.51 euros)	7,205,930.05 euros (4,576,039.03 euros)
2. Material expenses: Project work, educational and public relations work, fundraising (of which directly attributable to projects)	7,335,057.87 euros (2,051,782.55 euros)	7,818,332.86 euros (2,686,843.41 euros)
3. Levies: Services (e.g. EDP)	957,490.01 euros	960,051.24 euros
4. depreciation	99,003.94 euros	144,404.95 euros
TOTAL COSTS	98,839,113.77 euros	98,499,549.65 euros
RESULTS FOR THE DIVISION	- 3,626,282.76 euros	- 14,448,955.88 euros

Notes

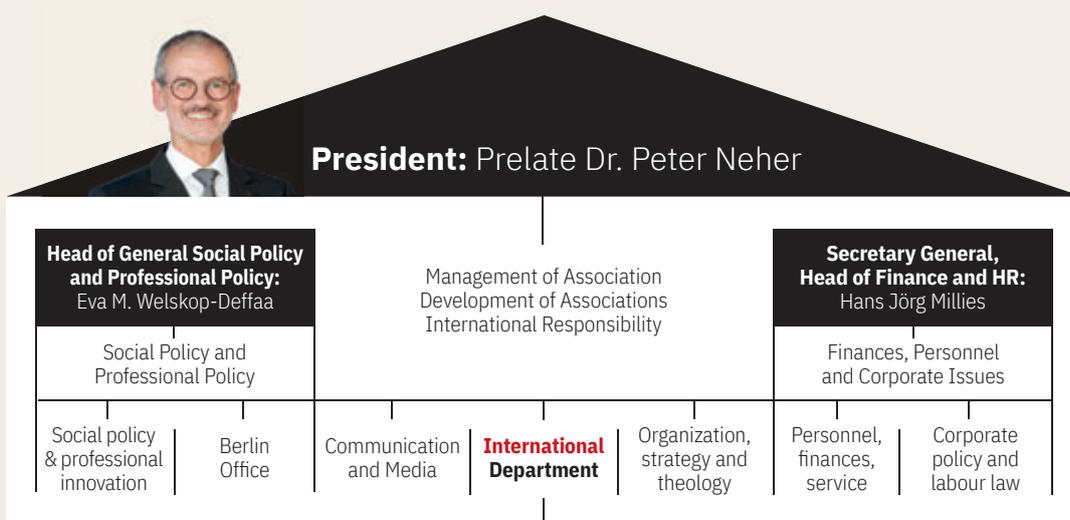
Project expenditure: Expenditure comprises contributions to 683 ongoing aid projects.

Personnel and material costs, depreciation: This includes all expenses necessary for the proper and efficient implementation of projects. These include application processing, monitoring of earmarked use, accounting and accountability to donors.

Divisional result: The result shown in each case is taken from or added to the trust funds. As of 31 December 2020, the funds amounted to 97,643,180.18 euros, in the previous year 101,269,462.94 euros (see explanations on interest income).

The German Caritas Association and its relief organization

ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF CARITAS GERMANY WITHIN THE



THE CARITAS COUNCIL (32 MEMBERS): DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMED OPINIONS AND SUPERVISION

President and Secretary General by virtue of office	12 chairpersons and directors from the DiCV	7 representatives from the specialist organizations and societies	2 representatives from religious orders	5 local level representatives	1 chairperson of the Finance Commission	3 advisory members
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elects the **Secretary General**, the **Head of Social & Professional Policy**, the **Head of Finance & HR**, 7 members of the Finance Commission and 7 members of the Staff Committee

THE ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES (SOVEREIGN 187 MEMBERS)

The Board (3) and Vice Presidents (3) <i>Members by virtue of office</i>	2 representatives each of the 27 DiCV, including at least 1 director plus LCV Oldenburg	2 representatives from each specialist organisation	1 representative from each society <i>Members are sent</i>	6 representatives from the religious orders (through the DOK)	3 representatives each from local level of each DiCV <i>Elected in the dioceses</i>	Up to 7 additional members <i>Elected by the DV</i>
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elects the **President of the German Caritas Association**, **3 Vice Presidents** and the **Caritas Council**

DiCV: Diocesan Caritas Associations; **LCV:** Federal State Caritas Associations; **DV:** Assembly of Delegates; **DOK:** German Conference of Major Superiors

You can find out more about the structures of the German Caritas Association (DCV) in the Annual Report of the Executive Board of the DCV (Insights): www.caritas.de/geschaeftsbericht

ion, the **International Department** of Caritas Germany

NATIONAL CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE GERMAN CARITAS ASSOCIATION

Caritas Germany is the relief organization of the German Caritas Association (DVC) and is, thus, integrated into the organizational structure of the DCV. As a department at the head office of the DCV in Freiburg, it is assigned to the President within the full-time Executive Board. The International Department of Caritas Germany is divided into seven departments.



CARITAS GERMANY DIRECTOR: DR. OLIVER MÜLLER



Department Middle East & North Africa

Director:
Christoph Klitsch-Ott

Department Africa

Director:
Volker Gerdemeier

Department Europe & Latin America

Director:
Claudio Moser

Department Asia

Director:
Julia Gietmann

Department Quality Management & Auditing

Director:
Philippe Balsam

Department Disaster Aid Coordination

Director:
Dr. Oliver Müller

Department Public Relations

Director:
Dariush Ghobad

The four regionally defined departments and the local partners plan, organise and implement projects in the areas of disaster aid and social work. During 2020, Caritas Germany delivered a total of 683 projects in 74 countries

Develops fundamental principles of sustainable aid and evaluates them critically.

Organizes immediate response disaster aid and develops methodology.

Publicises the concerns of the poorest, is in charge of the acquisition of donations

COOPERATION PARTNERS AND ALLIANCES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

The worldwide Caritas network

The German Caritas Association with its international department and relief organization is part of the worldwide Caritas confederation, based in Rome. More than 160 national Caritas organizations are active in this international network which are committed to disaster aid, development cooperation and social projects in nearly 200 countries and regions. More: www.caritas.org

Cooperation with other aid organizations of the Church

The International Department of the German Caritas Association closely cooperates, within the framework of the consortium MARMICK, with the Catholic aid organizations Adveniat, Misereor, Missio Munich and Missio Aachen, Renovabis and the childrens' missionary organization "Die Sternsinger e.V.", with Misereor, in addition to this, also in the fields of support of programmes and partners. The partnership with the aid organisation of Germany's Protestant church, "Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe", comprises project- and media work.

Association for Development Policy and Humanitarian Aid

As an interest group of 140 development policy organizations and Humanitarian Aid, VENRO is committed to "fighting poverty, realizing human rights and preserving the natural basis of life". For Caritas Germany, VENRO is also a forum for professional exchange and positioning.

More information can be found at: www.venro.org

The Goal is: "More and better help!"

Caritas Germany has expanded its strategy for the period up to 2025

Crises, conflicts, climate change - these issues are gaining increasing importance in Caritas Germany's work in addition to aid in the wake of natural disasters, and they present major challenges for the relief organization. The aid organization of the German Caritas Association has defined goals and measures for how it intends to counter these issues in a new strategy paper covering the period up to 2025.

Humanitarian protection in the event of flight and displacement

"The growing number of crises and conflicts has led to a record level of flight and displacement," the strategy paper notes. Caritas Germany countermeasures as follows: "In the years ahead we will strengthen our humanitarian commitment to refugees and internally displaced persons. Our goal is an improved protection for people having to flee." While the fight against the root causes of flight should be at the heart of a preventive human rights policy, it may not be misunderstood as a substitute for a responsible refugee and migration policy."

As far as the climate crisis is concerned, Caritas Germany plans in the next few years, apart from intensified efforts 'in the actual emergency relief, to be even more committed to prevention, so that people do not become victims of sudden extreme or creeping natural disasters at all. This includes the expansion of disaster preparedness and prevention programs and projects for particularly vulnerable target groups, the application of innovative instruments and further technical expertise. "It is often the poorest who are the first victims of weather extremes and environmental disasters, as they hardly have any chances of protecting themselves effectively." Strong communities, the basic idea goes, also strengthens the resilience of people who live in high-risk situations.

The increased requirements also require "qualitative developments in our programs and projects (e.g. with regard to community orientation), locally and professionally adapted strategies including human rights-based approaches, qualified professional support and networking with other socio-political players." The strategy paper illustrates the need to improve social structures by a current example: "Covid-19 has relentlessly revealed the structural deficiencies in the health care system, for example in Peru, where the economic growth of recent years was not invested in the social and health sectors." Therefore, Caritas Germany feels confirmed in its approach of "always focusing on the connection between humanitarian aid and social work, and to take this into account in its project work wherever possible."

Increased alliance expansion

Caritas Germany will maintain its memberships and cooperations in current alliances, and keep on pursuing additional strategically important cooperations, such as those with the German Bishops' Conference, the international Caritas network and the Catholic relief organizations. Caritas Germany's strategy summarizes all of these steps into one big overall goal, to which it is committed in the end: "The response to the growing humanitarian need is: more and better help!"

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Caritas Germany
International Department – Communications
Postfach 420, D-79004 Freiburg
Phone: (0761) 200-288; Fax: (0761) 200-730

E-Mail: spenderbetreuung@caritas-international.de

Internet: www.caritas-international.de

Editors: Dariush Ghobad (responsible),
Stephan Günther, Stefanie Santo, Linda Tenbohlen

Content: Reiner Fritz (p. 16), Stephan Günther,
Ole Hengelbrock (p. 6-9), Johannes Ludwig (p. 16),
Elodie Laferrière (p. 7, 8, 21-23), Sven Recker (p. 18),
Stefan Teplan (p. 42); Nils Utermöhlen (p. 10),
Birgit Winterhalter (p. 30)

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You can find this annual report of Caritas Germany, the relief organization of the German Caritas Association, supplemented by more reports, interviews, overviews and videos at:
www.caritas-international.de/Jahresbericht2020



The International Department of Caritas Germany, the relief organization of the German Caritas Association, provides disaster aid worldwide and sponsors social projects for children, for the elderly, the ill and the disabled. Caritas Germany helps independently of religion and nationality and works with more than 160 national Caritas organisations around the world.

www.caritas-international.de