



Annual Report 2015

Our Work Worldwide

Caritas Germany
International Department



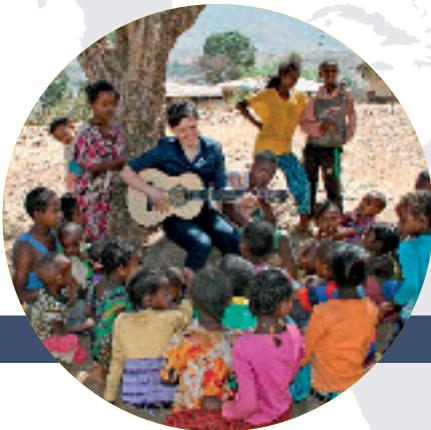


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Dear readers, friends and supporters of Caritas **Germany**,

The past year of 2015 was marked by global crises which triggered a mass exodus and expulsions. Hundreds of thousands of people, especially from the civil war torn areas in Syria and Iraq, left their homeland and sought shelter in exile. However, unlike previous years, the escalation of war in Syria and in parts of Iraq, the increasing air raids, the violence of Islamic terrorists and the subsequent lack of prospects resulted in the fact that more and more refugees did no longer remain in the neighbouring countries and started out on their way towards Europe. Overcrowded refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon and other neighbouring countries and the lack of any prospects to return soon made them move on – to Turkey, first, and then to Egypt, later to Greece and, more and more frequently, to Germany. Whereas 127.000 people applied for asylum in Germany in 2013, that number increased up to more than 200.000 in 2014. Last year there were already more than one million people seeking refuge in Germany. Thus the consequences of five years of war in Syria, of armed conflicts and suppression in Iraq,

THE YEAR 2015 IN PICTURES

Five years after the earthquake in Haiti:

Caritas Germany strikes a positive balance of its projects in Haiti and will keep on supporting its partners. »We know that staying power is required. We won't let people in Haiti down,« says Caritas-President Peter Neher.



© Jürgen Escher

Emergency aid after cyclone in the Pacific:

After cyclone Pam wreaked havoc in the island state of Vanuatu, Caritas Germany participated in immediate relief efforts. Pam hit the Pacific state with a speed of 250 km an hour.

January

March

February

Commitment against the use of child soldiers:

On the occasion of the International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers on February 12th, Caritas Germany calls for stronger efforts in the fight against the recruitment of child soldiers. In its projects Caritas aspires to awareness raising, medical and psychological care and on re-integration into families.

© Ole Schmidt

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in Afghanistan and in many African countries can no longer be overlooked. Most people welcome the arriving refugees with empathy and hospitality alike. Thousands of supporters – last but not least our Church with its Caritas – are committed to these people seeking help, they offer shelter, collect and distribute clothes, are teaching and advising them – and thus help them to gain a foothold in a foreign country.

But unfortunately the refugees are faced with also another attitude, a rejectionist stance. It finds expression in the increasing number of assaults on shelters for refugees which, according to figures by the German Federal Criminal Office, quintupled, compared with the previous year, up to 1.000 in 2015. We have to vehemently oppose this and other forms of mostly radical right-winged violence.

At the same time there must be a social dialogue on how solidarity, mutual responsibility and a better coexistence can become possible in a globalized world moving ever closer together. Pope Francis formulated a guiding position with his encyclical „Laudato Si – On care for our common home“: „We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family.



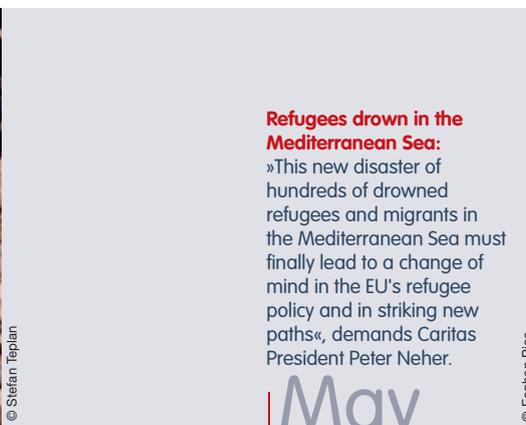
© Stefan Teplan

April

Nepal shaken by severe earthquake:

After the major earthquake in Nepal on April 25th, claiming 8.000 lives and 18.000 injured people, Caritas initiates immediate relief. In the first three months after the quake alone, Caritas was able to support nearly 200.000 people.

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© Eoghán Rice

Refugees drown in the Mediterranean Sea:

»This new disaster of hundreds of drowned refugees and migrants in the Mediterranean Sea must finally lead to a change of mind in the EU's refugee policy and in striking new paths«, demands Caritas President Peter Neher.

May



June

Caritas calls for action against climate change

The German Caritas Association appreciates Pope Francis' encyclical »Laudato Si«, published on June 18th, as »a clear sign to politicians to take action against climate change with more courage.«

There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference.” (52) The responsibility for the „common home“, which the Pope most emphatically urges, applies to the emergency of refugees as well as to all social and ecological crises. In his encyclical Pope Francis combines topics such as the destruction of environment and climate change with criticism of social injustices still existing worldwide, and he claims, out of social and economical necessity, a change of life-style especially in the rich industrialized countries.

Caritas Germany experiences more and more frequently to what extent the steadily growing use of resources influences even remote regions of the world. For example, the number of natural disasters worldwide is twice as much as it was twenty years ago – last but not least as a result of climate changes. With every second there is one person forced to leave its home due to some natural disaster. The droughts in East Africa and the floods caused by heavy rainfall in South-East Asia led to the fact that emergency aid have become the rule in these areas.

The „care for our common home“ requires a fast and fundamental change of mind – out of

THE YEAR 2015 IN PICTURES



July

Summer campaign against oblivion:

The common summer campaign of Caritas Germany and the NGO »Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe« – »Oblivion is the greatest disaster« – this year reminds of the desperate situation of people in Syria and Iraq.

© Christoph Püschner

August



© Caritas International

Floods in Pakistan, India and Myanmar:

»Complete villages were washed away, dams were broken« reports Amjad Gulzar, director of Caritas Pakistan which, supported by Caritas Germany, is rendering aid along with its Indian partners (see page 16).

© Wolfgang Duschl



September

Alliance for refugee aid:

As part of the ZDF-Programme »Menschen auf der Flucht – Deutschland hilft« (»People flee – Germany helps«) the Alliance for Disaster Aid thanks people in Germany for their great commitment to support refugees.

Christian charity and of mutual responsibility. The German Caritas Association with its International Department will tackle the challenges also in the future: by disaster prevention programmes, by long-term aid, by international collaborations and by dedicated refugee aid at home and abroad.



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For your help and support in this, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Peter Neher

Prelate Dr Peter Neher
President of the German
Caritas Association

Oliver Müller

Dr Oliver Müller
Director of the International
Department of Caritas Germany

Earthquake at the Hindukush:

A severe earthquake in Pakistan, India and Afghanistan claims more than 300 lives, thousands are injured. Heavy rainfall and subsequent landslides make aid efforts more difficult.

© Wilfredo Limachi



October

Ongoing drought in East Africa:

Since there had been no rainfall for months, by the end of the year nearly 18 million people in Ethiopia depend on help. It is the worst drought in 30 years.

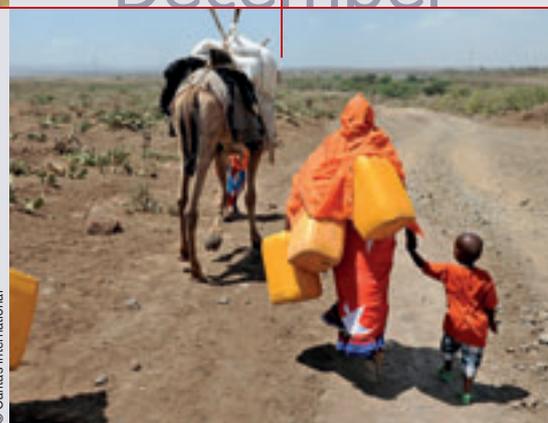
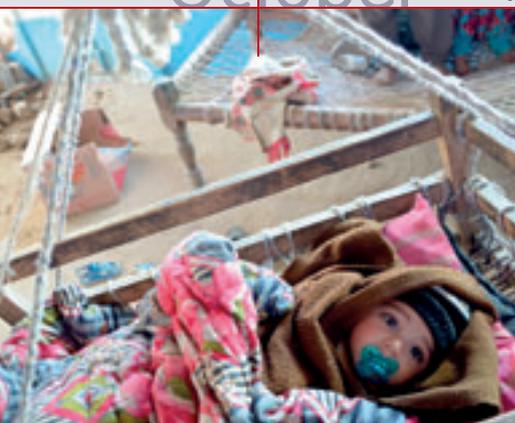
December

November

Shining signs for a better world:

On November 14th, Caritas associations and parishes in 83 cities participate in the solidarity event »One Million Stars«. Funds raised go, inter alia, to social projects in El Alto, Bolivia.

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Escape from the endless war

The civil war in Syria, which has been going on for five years, forces more and more people to flee. Many of them stay close to their home: As internally displaced persons they live in other parts of Syria or look for refuge in Jordan, Lebanon or Turkey. Last year, however, more refugees than before made their way to Europe. Caritas is supporting them in the war stricken zones and on their escape routes.

Aleppo, the former mega city, has become a synonym for war in Syria, a point of culmination of violence, destruction and lacking prospects. Hundreds of thousands have fled from the hails of bombs, terror and hunger. According to estimations by the UN there are about 300.000 people still persevering in the embattled city.

Before the war, once there were 2.5 million. The university city, only a few kilometres away from the

Mediterranean Sea and the Turkish border, was once viewed as a bridge between the Arabian and the Christian world. Nearly twenty percent of their inhabitants belonged to different Christian churches. Here, the Arabian and the Kurdish population were living side by side for centuries.

After more than five years of war, Aleppo and other Syrian cities like Homs or Deir ez-Zor resemble a landscape of ruins; life is hardly possible in the com-



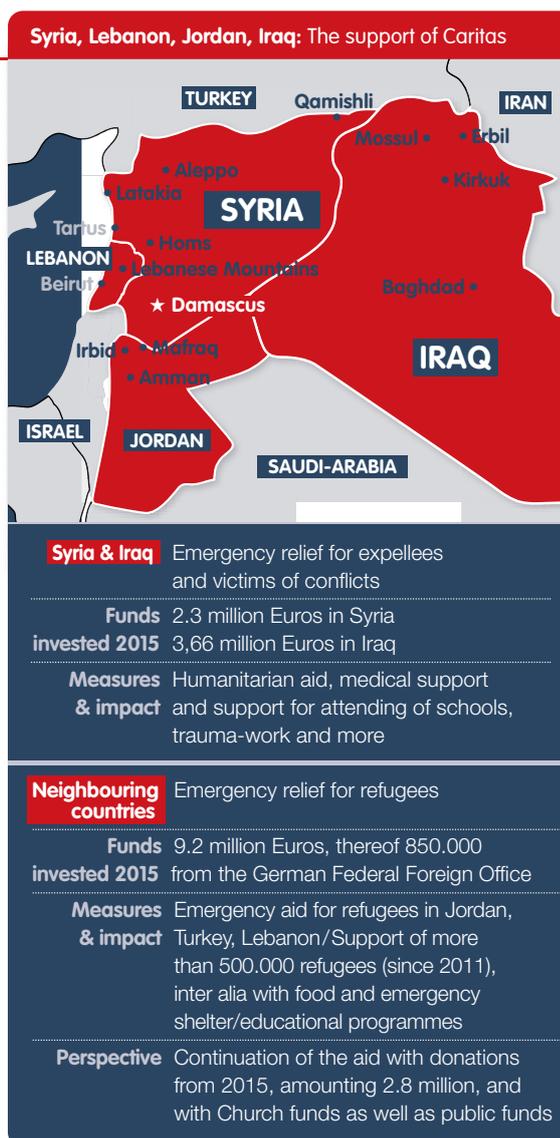
Escaped from war:
Caritas aid workers receive refugees at the Greek coast

pletely destroyed infrastructure. Aleppo, being the centre of the democratically orientated opposition for a long time, first was attacked by government troops. Again and again troops of the “Islamic State” (IS), and other islamistic groups penetrated the area. The presence of many warring parties made the province of Aleppo more and more a target of air raids of the international anti-IS-alliance fighting versus the IS and of the Syrian, Russian and Turkish air force as well.

Whoever is able to, tries to escape from this war on multiple fronts. 31-year-old Shiar S., who had studied English literature at the university of Aleppo and made his degree in 2010, was to be drafted into the army at the beginning of the war. Being Kurdish, he didn't want to fight for the Syrian government. And when the “Islamic State” became stronger in his area, he stood between the fronts. The only thing left to him was to flee – first to Turkey. He worked as an English teacher in Istanbul and supported the local Caritas. When his home-town more and more came under rocket-fire, life in Aleppo became unbearable for his family. His parents and siblings followed him to Turkey. As foreigners they had no prospects to stay or get a working-permit. “When we saw what was going on in Syria, we realized that it would be impossible to return soon”, tells Shiar S. “On TV we saw how our homeland was being destroyed. It was shocking. And so we decided to go to a place where there would be better rights.” So they ventured on the dangerous way to Europe. For this purpose they had themselves registered at the United Nations' Refugee Agency UNHCR as refugees and paid more than 1.000 Euro each to people smugglers who took them to Greece.

Many people preferred to stay in their home-country just like Shiar S.'s parents and sister – hoping war might end soon. Caritas Germany is doing its best to support the people even within Syria. For instance in refugee camps at the Turkish border: In collaboration with the World Food Programme, Caritas is distributing food packages for about 10.000 families. Another 4.000 families receive vouchers for baby food, nappies and clothes. Sanitary facilities and shelter are being improved for about 2.000 families. Caritas Germany is working

»On TV we saw how our homeland was being destroyed.«



especially in the capital of Damascus and in the area at the Turkish border and Northern Iraq with its cities Hassaké and Qamishli as well as in Aleppo and in the area Al-Jazeera in North-Eastern Syria. The local partners – most of all Caritas Syria – are doing relief work also there: with food, support for school children and medical care. The humanitarian need in Syria is tremendous, but due to the extremely hard conditions and the considerable risks for local staff only a limited number of people can be reached. Those who

had to flee from Syria, at first found refuge in the neighbouring countries – one million of them in Lebanon. That country, although having only four million inhabitants itself, managed to provide the basic needs to the people seeking for help over all the years. Since the beginning of the Syria-crisis and the arrival of the first refugees, Caritas Germany has been supporting the people with subsistence allowances, winter relief, support in their search for pre-



Mobile aid: Caritas distribution of food packages to Syrian refugees in Northern Iraq.

© Michael Stürzenhecker

ferably decentralised shelter, rent subsidies as well as with educational and medical programmes.

Caritas Jordan also focuses on urgent assistance for refugees and on long-term support alike, for instance by education and vocational trainings. For example, due to the support of Caritas, 200 Syrian female refugees were able to receive further training – and could thus improve their chances to generate an income of their own. For the people affected, this brings about the consequence that they can develop new perspectives in exile. For there is hardly any chance for them to find work in the host countries, if they don't have some education. The jobs for unskilled workers in agriculture or in small-scale businesses are extremely rare and totally underpaid considering the big competition on the labour-market.

There is still another reason for the dramatic worsening of the situation of Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon in the past year: In default of payments by donor countries the aid programme of the UN-World Food Programme WFP had to cut the grants for each Syrian refugee in Lebanon from 30 down to 19 dollars a month already in January, from the middle of the year on to only 13,50 dollars. And this in view of the already precarious living conditions in the refugee camps.

For many refugees the difficulties in the host countries, but especially the never-ending war in Syria, gave rise to the decision to take the long and dangerous way to Europe. Many people hardly see any perspective for themselves and their children in their home area. A new start abroad became the only option for thousands of them.



On the way to Europe
Shiar S. with his parents after arriving in Lesbos.

© Patrick Nicholson

Longing for Aleppo

According to information by the United Nations, 4.8 million refugees have left Syria, another 6,6 million are internally displaced persons. Many of them will never return to their homes but try to set up a new existence in the neighbouring countries or in Europe. But for many others the hope remains that war will end someday and a new start and reconstruction will be possible. Then, Shiar S. dreams, there will be a peaceful, open, diverse and multicultural Aleppo and entire Syria: "We lived in a charming village close to Aleppo. If the situation will improve, I would like to return there. I would like to study neurolinguistics in order to help the next generation to learn languages easier and faster." ■



Dangerous ways to safety

Hundreds of thousands of people fled towards Middle Europe in 2015. Caritas supported them on their arduous route and at their start in Germany.

On the little Greek island of Lesbos alone 500.000 refugees arrived, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), in 2015. In total, more than one million refugees reached the European Union, thereof almost 850.000 via the “Balkan route” and more than 150.000 via the Mediterranean Sea to Italy.

Behind these figures there are just as much destinies. People have left war and violence behind, but also friends, family members, house, job and school. And they are on a flight which still holds many dangers: the way through the civil war stricken areas, the trip from Turkey to Greece in mostly much too small boats, the cold in wintertime.

In Serbia Caritas Germany implemented, in collaboration with the local Caritas and with support by the German Federal Foreign Office, a 200.000 Euro aid-programme. Hygiene articles – tooth brushes, toothpaste and shower gel – as well as blankets and sleeping-bags were distributed to the people on the exodus route. Moreover, in the cold months of winter Caritas helped with warm meals, hot drinks, winter clothes for grown-ups and children. There was a big need of medicines, doctors and nurses, a need for advice and psychosocial care.



© Caritas International

In mobile kitchens
refugees receive warm meals.

After the arrival of the refugees in Germany thousands of Caritas’ volunteers and staff members helped them with words and deeds. Throughout Germany more than 140 refugee services helped (and still help) them when starting out in Germany, offered individual help and carried out integration activities. Counselling centres supported them in their preparation and accompanied them during the asylum procedures. And institutions such as the Cologne-based Caritas Therapy Centre for Victims of Torture offer therapeutic and social care by social workers to traumatized persons who seek protection.

A plan for life

In Colombia six million people were displaced during 50 years of civil war. In spite of advanced peace negotiations there is no end of violence in sight. Caritas Germany supports displaced persons in their rights to return and receive compensation.



Cramped but safe: Expelled people in an emergency shelter in Pasto.

© Jürgen Escher

There is no road to Guapi, the little district town in South-West Colombia. He who wants to come here, has to take an air-plane or a boat. A net of river courses runs through the vast area covering hundreds of square kilometres. The Rio Guapi, connecting the outback with the Pacific, is called "the channel" here.

"The channel is both a blessing and a curse", says Father Tobias, who regularly visits, together with aid-workers from Caritas, the communities living along the river. Its rich fish stock is an important source of livelihood for the population. On the other hand the Rio Guapi is the central transport route for all armed parties which use the rain forest around the Guapi as their retreat – guerilla groups, paramilitaries and drug gangs. Coca is being transported via the channel

from the rain forest to the Pacific Ocean, weapons from the Pacific to the jungle. Again and again people flee from the villages to the Guapi – because of the fights or because drug gangs take away their fields to plant coca there. Caritas is with the affected people – "Plan de vida" (plan for life) is the name of their community based approach. It includes issues of survival like food security or the supply of drinking water and develops strategies of how the communities can defend better against attacks.

Also in Pasto, between the Pacific Ocean and the highlands, Caritas is rendering emergency relief for expellees, distributing food and providing shelter. And it fights for protection of the victims, for land restitution, for compensation and other ways of support. ■

Colombia Protection for internally displaced people

Funds invested 2015 1.5 million Euros, inter alia from the German Federal Foreign Office and from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO)

Measures & impact Emergency relief, psychosocial care and legal support reached about 10.000 affected people

Perspective Extension of peace building work in the country. The campaign and exhibition "Basta ya", on the history of victims in 50 years of war begins in Germany

WORKING FOCUS ESCAPE AND EXPULSION

Giving a voice to the victims of conflicts

More than 65 million people were on the run in 2015. They flee, in most cases, from wars and armed conflicts. For the most part (around two thirds) they stay within their own country – and thus do not have the right to protection under the UN-refugee-convention. Many of the areas on which Caritas Germany has focused its work for years are situated in countries where severe and long-lasting armed conflicts are raging – in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Afghanistan, in Colombia. Quite a few long-standing violent conflicts like this one have fallen into oblivion over the years; the media as well

as politics suffer from a habituation effect. However, a lack of attention often leads to a lack of funds for humanitarian aid, because donations remain low.

On one hand Caritas Germany, with its new working focus "Quiet disasters with a focus on escape and expulsion", aims at a transnational exchange of expertise and, on the other hand, at awareness raising in public. Thus, long-term help for victims of humanitarian disasters shall be extended. ■

Hunger came along with the war

The civil war in South Sudan has expelled Millions of people from their homes. Caritas Germany renders aid in the country as well as in the neighbouring states. In spite of the peace treaty there is still the risk of famine.

Hunger did not come as a surprise. Even back in March 2015 the civil war in South Sudan forced many thousands of people, who otherwise would have tilled their fields, to flee. The stocks of food ran low as a result of poor harvests and, also, robbery, destruction and illicit trading. Trading roads were impassable due to the escalation of the conflict.

Thus, six Million people in the youngest state of the world depended on humanitarian aid by the end of the year, according to figures by the United Nations; four million suffered from hunger. The conflict between the army and rebels, still going on in many regions in spite of the peace treaty, does not allow the refugees and expelled persons to return; the fields remain lying idle. Many affected people saved themselves in refugee camps where, at least, they have the roof of a tent over their heads, get food and a minimum of supply. They hope that finally peace will be realized.

Since 2014 Caritas Germany supports, in a common



© Paul Jeffrey

Uncertain future: Just like this boy with his little sister in Agok, South Sudan, tens of thousands internally displaced persons persevere in refugee camps and hope for an end of the civil war.

emergency aid programme with the international Caritas network, the needy ones in South Sudan and the neighbouring countries into which hundreds of thousands have fled. It succeeded in reaching the most severely affected ones – elderly and disabled people, children and widows – thanks to its local partners. Furthermore, Caritas Germany is active in the diocese of Tomubra-Yambio in the Southeast and in Juba. The aid programme includes medical care as well as hygiene measures. The improvement of water supply by e.g. the construction of wells and latrines could significantly improve the situation. ■

South Sudan Relief for internally displaced persons

Funds invested 2015 More than one million Euros from donations

Measures & impact Relief, psychosocial care and legal support of particularly affected people

Perspective Continuation of the aid in 2016



Andrea Hitzemann, representing the international work of the German Caritas Association in Berlin, is in charge of **the new working focus "Escape and Expulsion"**. Her work in the Berlin office produces new relations to public funders, political decision-makers and other organizations involved in humanitarian aid and international development cooperation. Humanitarian aid has to be integrated into politics, for crises cannot be solved by aid but must also be negotiated on a political level. In order to emphasize the issue "escape and expulsion", Caritas Germany produces specially prepared information material and organizes public events.

»Reconstruction is an enormous endeavour«



Over rough and smooth. Damaged roads require climbing skills even on the way to school.

The most severe earthquake since nearly 100 years has caused untold suffering for Nepal. Caritas Germany renders aid even in remote areas of the country which are hard to access.

Ninethousand people killed, tens of thousands of injured and millions of homeless people – two major earthquakes in April and May brought enormous pain to the people in Nepal. Caritas was there to assist from the very start. And it will be with the victims for many years.

It took only one minute to shatter Ramjandra's family life. The minute was 11:56 local time in Nepal, on Saturday, April 25th 2015. The minute Ramjandra will never forget. It was the minute when the biggest earthquake for nearly 100 years hit Nepal and shocked the whole country. And it will take years till Ramjandra will be able to get over it. The disaster killed his wife and only child, took away his house and all his possessions. The family members were in their house in Taple, a mountain village numbering some 4.000 souls, in the district of Ghorka, just about 20 miles away from the earthquake's epicentre. It was lunchtime and the couple Ramjandra and Surasathi was just about to have some food with their three-year-old daughter Reshma. Suddenly, Ramjandra felt the floor move under his feet, saw the bulb on the ceiling swinging to and fro and the windows tremble. "Run," he shouted, "get out of the house as quick as you can." But his wife and daughter were killed by falling debris.

Just like Ramjandra thousands of people in Nepal, one of the poorest countries in the world, were af-



Help and grief work: Many people in Nepal lost their relatives.

© Stefan Teplan

affected: The two major quakes of April 25th and May 12th claimed about 9.000 lives and more than 21.000 injured. About three million people became homeless from one day to the other. Caritas was there from the first hour on, in order to alleviate the suffering of the affected ones. Right after the quake and for many months it provided food, drinking water, tents and blankets to the needy. It provided medical care and repaired damaged water pipelines in many places. It was a special challenge to give the people a roof over their heads before the monsoon, the continuous rain lasting for months, was to set in. "More than bread and water we need tents and blankets. Otherwise we will sit in the mud soon" was a call for help which Caritas aid-workers heard again and again. Another challenge was the fact that some remote mountain villages were only accessible on foot or by helicopter. By working around the clock quite often, under enormous time pressure, Caritas Germany succeeded in protecting all victims in the areas assigned to it (the Nepalese government allocated different operation areas to different NGOs) from the rain – in addition to all the other services needed. One focus was and still is on psychosocial care. In virtually every village Caritas met people completely traumatized, people who were deprived of their relatives and their possessions and of any hope – people like Ramjandra. Thousands of them could find relief and new courage to face life, in long and sensitive individual or group sessions with the psychosocial workers. As for the material losses at least Caritas gave them new perspectives, for it will reconstruct many destroyed houses.

However fast and effective the first relief phase was handled by Caritas, the difficult was the beginning of the reconstruction phase. On site, Oliver Müller, head of the International Department of Caritas Germany, got a picture of the situation and declared: "The building of houses was and still is quite difficult because on the one hand the Indian-Nepalese border was blocked for a long time and on the other hand the Nepalese government took a long time to develop the legal and financial framework for

Nepal: Relief after the earthquake



Nepal Emergency relief and transitional aid

Funds invested 2015 About two million Euros, especially from donations

Measures & impact More than 200.000 people could be reached and supplied with, inter alia, blankets, food and medicines

Perspective Continuation of the aid is possible with donations of well over nine million Euros (2015) and from Church funds as well as public funds

the reconstruction phase. Now it finally gives us hope that the government has a concept for the reconstruction phase. However, it is worrying that there are tight constraints for the NGOs."

The quake lasted only a few moments. Reconstruction will last many years. "It is an enormous endeavour to build hundreds of thousands of houses," Oliver Müller said after the disaster. "Caritas Germany's earthquake response is termed for five years. We will spend the financial means still available in the next years e.g. for building houses and schools, for disaster prevention, for the organization of self-help in the communities and for the education of disadvantaged children." ■



© Isabel Corthier



Escape from the water
Many people in South-Asia were barely able to save their lives.

© Caritas International

Floods and Landslides in Asia

Heavy monsoon rains every year lead to floods in Pakistan, India, Myanmar and other countries in South-Asia. Last year they were so severe that millions of people were affected. Caritas Germany rendered aid.

Pakistan, India, Myanmar – heavy rainfall lasting for months caused severe floods. In total, several million people were affected, hundreds of thousands of houses were destroyed.

Every summer the monsoon in South-Asia brings the rain urgently needed, but more and more frequently it also brings about floods. Last year the raining season lasted exceptionally long and the rainfalls were particularly strong. In August they caused floods so severe that hundreds of people in Myanmar, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Vietnam got killed by flash floods and landslides. Houses and fields

were destroyed, millions of inhabitants had to flee. In Myanmar, where vast areas were cut off from the outside world, the situation was especially dramatic.

In August, Caritas Germany immediately funded relief operations for the victims of the extensive floods in South-Asia. Local partners in Myanmar, Pakistan and India provided the people, who were trapped in the waters around them, in emergency shelters with food, clean drinking water and clothes.

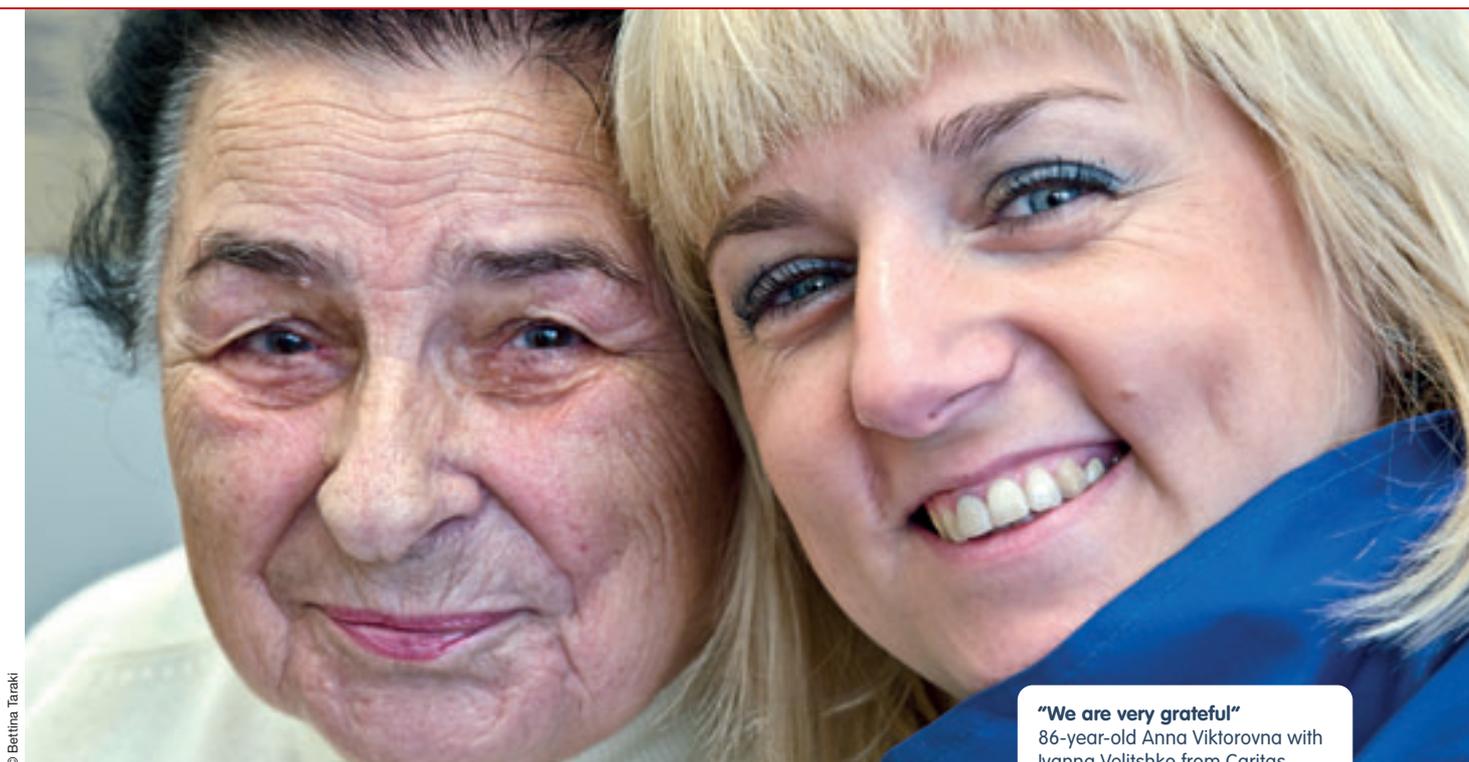
By the end of the year there were new floods, requiring further support especially in South India. “Many roads are under water. Countless people are left with nothing”, reports Peter Seidel, Caritas Germany’s desk-officer for India. “We provide fast and unbureaucratic help at exactly those places.” Caritas Germany funded another 100.000 Euro for food, tarpaulins, water purification tablets, soap, clothes and blankets and started the reconstruction. ■

South-Asia Emergency relief after floods

Funds invested 2015 199.000 Euro for tarpaulins and tents, food and medical care

Measures & impact The emergency relief reached a total of 18.700 flood-affected families in India, Pakistan and Myanmar

Perspective Donations and public funds enable reconstruction and disaster prevention measures



© Bettina Taraki

“We are very grateful”
86-year-old Anna Viktorovna with
Ivanna Veliitshko from Caritas

»Our house is in ruins«

People still are fleeing from Eastern Ukraine. According to Ukrainian authorities there are 1.7 million displaced persons registered at the moment. Caritas Germany supports Caritas Ukraine in providing relief.

Fifteen square metres of privacy are all that Anna Victorovna, 86 years old, and her daughter Tamara, 67, have left to dwell in. Space for two beds, two metal lockers, a small bath. There is but one shared kitchen with an eating area for all residents of the container. The container-settlement was built by GIZ, the German “Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit” (“German Society for International Cooperation”) in spring; it was, including the basic equipment, funded by Caritas Germany in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation.

The two retired ladies escaped in a mad rush with just one bag from the war in the “People’s Republic of Lugansk”, as separatists self-appointed it. Anna speaks while social worker Ivanna Veliitshko, who is in charge of Caritas’ outreach programme for refugees, holds her hand. “I lived for 40 years in Dnjepetrovsk. When I was 80 years old, I needed support for everyday life. I sold my flat and bought a house in Lugansk for me and Tamara. We were both widows. Then the war came. Our house is in ruins now. Everything is gone.” The two ladies wouldn’t get by without the support of

Caritas. Anna receives a pension of 1.300 hrivna a month. However, the asthma drugs alone cost 1.000 already. In the aid packages which Ivanna brought there are noodles, flour, rice and other basic foods, furthermore washing powder, dish detergents and hygiene articles. “I wish that all this would come to an end, that no longer people die and step on land mines,” says Anna and cannot hold back her tears any longer. Ivanna takes her into her arms. Then Anna pulls herself together and smiles. “We are very grateful for the support we get, that Ukrainian people are not left alone in this war. And we are especially grateful to Caritas and Ivanna.” ■

Ukraine	Relief for internally displaced persons
Funds invested 2015	About five million Euros from donations and Church funds as well as public funds
Measures & impact	Inter alia food, hygiene articles, medical aid and winter aid for 50.000 people in the Ukraine and in Russia
Perspective	Donations and public funds of at least 3.1 million Euros guarantee the continuation of the support in 2016



Drinking, cooking, washing –
Water secures survival.

© Paul Jeffrey

Water – a human right

Millions of people lack clean **drinking water**. In a new working focus Caritas Germany bundles experiences and develops new strategies.

Water has become a scarce resource not only in drought prone areas. The pollution of water and its constantly increasing consumption in households, agriculture and industry led to a lack of drinking water in many regions of the world. Therefore Caritas Germany made the issue of water a new strategic focal point. Vera Schneider, in charge of this issue, explains in an interview the approach and orientation of her work.

Which meaning has the issue of water for Caritas Germany?

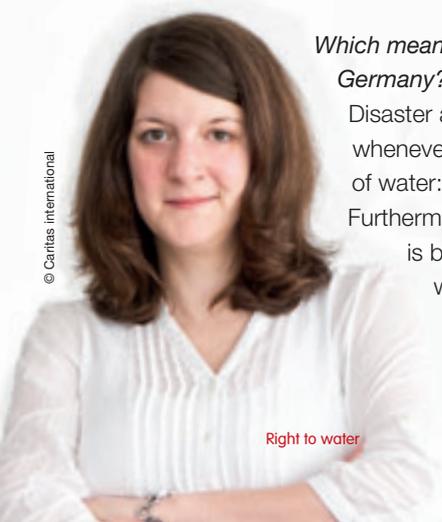
Disaster aid quite often needs to be rendered whenever there is either too much or too less of water: in the event of floods or droughts. Furthermore, the lack of clean drinking water is becoming an increasing problem worldwide. In the year 2015 alone Caritas Germany carried out 37 projects in 22 countries dealing

with water measures. In total, these projects were supported with a budget of 7.56 million Euros. Content-related, these projects focus on fields of work like drinking water, hygiene and basic sanitation as well as food security by, for instance, agricultural irrigation.

Lacking supply of drinking water is life-threatening. How can Caritas Germany help in this regard?

First of all we focus, together with our partners, on the improvement of infrastructure by means of building or repairing wells, pumping stations, water retention systems and dams. Wherever the quality of water is the problem, we can install water treatment plants. Last but not least it is crucial to found water-committees for the long-range maintenance and to educate and train the staff involved.

In many countries and regions times of drought alternate with times of heavy rainfall. How can Caritas help concerning this matter?



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It is all about developing water management systems. Water retention basins can protect localities and agricultural land from floods, store the water and thus make them available in times of dry periods. The special characteristics always depend on local circumstances and traditions.

All these measures have been carried out already in different projects. What special importance does your particular field of work have in this context?

We gather a lot of experience in our projects worldwide and have staff and partners with a lot of know-how. The exchange of expertise – between staff members of Caritas Germany, but also between the various partners – becomes increasingly important. When, for instance, in the course of climate change droughts occur in regions that were never drought prone, it is useful for the people there to get to know experiences from other countries and regions and apply concrete protective measures.

The lack of clean water is not only a result of the absence of rainfall. How does Caritas Germany help to improve water quality and hygiene?

Worldwide there are 663 million people who don't have access to clean drinking water. As for basic sanitation, the situation is even worse: Every third person – 2.4 billion people – don't have adequate access to latrines or toilets. Therefore, in more than half of Caritas Germany's water projects, hygiene, disinfection, the building of latrines or water treatment plays a crucial role.

What are the aims of this working focus?

In addition to the exchange of expertise already mentioned and to common learning it will become more and more important to counter the consequences of climate change, growing population and the related increasing demand and consumption of water. This especially implies also to fight, together with the partners, on-site for the right to clean water. After all, access to clean water and sanitary provision is a human right recognised as such since 2010 by the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council. To enforce this right is quite a big challenge. ■



© Miguel Samperi

Ebola

Clean water protects

The Ebola epidemic in West Africa which claimed, according to the World Health Organization, more than 11.000 lives in 2014 and 2015, could be stopped only by strictly observing hygiene measures. In Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone Caritas supported the fight against Ebola with awareness raising campaigns, trainings in hygiene and the providing of hygiene kits. In the beginning of the year 2016 the end of the epidemic was declared. Caritas Germany and its partners continue projects for the improvement of the health system.

Caritas Germany spent 1.486.564 Euros fighting against Ebola in 2015.



© Hannes Stegemann

Food security

Water secures survival

The alteration of long times of drought and times of extremely heavy rainfalls poses problems for people in Mali again and again. By "cash for work" programmes Caritas Germany – in cooperation with its local partners ENDA and supported by the German Federal Foreign Office – supports the building and maintenance of dams, irrigation ditches and water retention basins. This is a protection against floods and saves the harvests in dry periods.

These programmes in Mali were funded by the German Federal Foreign Office with an amount of more than 1.111.110 Euros.

The needy ones first

In total, Caritas Germany carried out 650 projects in 73 countries in the year 2015. Just like it does in disaster aid and -prevention and in its aid in cases of conflicts and crises (pages 8 till 17), Caritas Germany's social project work also focuses on the particularly needy ones: on people with disabilities (pages 24 and 25), children (pages 22 and 23) and elderly people (page 21). And this principle also applies to environmental protection projects or income generation programmes.



Peru

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For environmental protection and right to a say

In Peru, copper, gold, zinc, silver and non-ferrous metals have been mined to a large scale for decades. Especially in Peru's rural areas this wealth has turned into a curse due to uninhibited overexploitation: Nearly half of the population lives in poverty; social grievances and health problems increase. The network "Red Muqui", representing 29 member organizations and supported by Caritas Germany, demands an effective right to a say, transparent procedures, better social and environmental impact assessments, stricter controls and the remediation of health-threatening environmental damage from the mining companies.

The network "Red Muqui" was funded with an amount of **20.000 Euros** in 2015.

Congo

Women find work in supportive communities

Although the country is well supplied with raw materials, poverty reigns in South Kivu in East Congo. Women feed their families from casual works in and around the gold mines – and thus risk their own health as well as the health of their children. Caritas Germany is providing an alternative way of generating income to the "femmes twangaises", the "pounding women": They grind cereals, bake bread, produce soap and market their products as a supportive community. Many of the women who became self-employed thanks to this project, are financially independent today, able to pay school fees for their children and gained more respect in society.

The project was supported with an amount of **75.000 Euros** in 2015.



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Russia

Help for self-help – for nursing relatives

Caritas Russia places emphasis on home-care, because many elderly people are not able to pay a nursing home and also because they prefer to live at home. Caritas staff members have been training nurses for years to impart basic medical knowledge to relatives of people in need of care and also to volunteers. Thus, a network helping many destitute retired men and women emerges.

Home care in Russia is being supported by Caritas Germany with a total of **215.000 Euros** for the period 2015 till 2017.



© Susanne Staets



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South Africa

Comfort, happiness and health for elderly people

Home, Health and Happiness is the motto of NOAH (“Neighbourhood Old Age Homes”), an NGO for needy old people in South Africa. The broad spectrum it offers for elderly people includes karaoke, acting, discussion groups up to tours in and around Cape Town. In the urban district of Woodstock, NOAH runs a geriatric outpatient clinic specialized in the health needs of elderly people.

The work of NOAH is being supported for two years with a total amount of **80.000 Euros**.

Brazil

Self-organized pension for garbage collectors

Since the 1980s already, garbage collectors in Brazil organized themselves in cooperatives. Meanwhile, many of them are too old for the hard work on the dumps. Therefore, the cooperative of garbage collectors in São Paulo kick-started the project “Reciclázaro”. Elderly people without residence are taken care of psychologically and medically in six residential establishments with room for 600 persons and several ambulatory centres. There they receive regular meals and can find shelter for a limited period of time.

In 2015, Caritas Germany supported the project “Reciclázaro” with a total amount of **26.250 Euros** from donations.



© Martina Gertzen

Shelters for children

Children are affected by poverty, conflicts and natural disasters in a special way. Therefore, Caritas Germany considers children's rights in all its projects. It is particularly committed to work with street children, in education projects and in the rehabilitation of former child soldiers. Together with its partners it developed methods adapted to the special needs of children and adolescents.



Bangladesh

© Philipp Spatek

Educational offer for street children

Approximately 500.000 street children in Bangladesh try to make a living of unskilled labour, work in the red light district or by petty crimes. Most of them don't go to school. Child poverty is widely spread here and goes hand in hand with lacking education and a consequent lack of perspectives. Therefore, Caritas Germany opened a centre for street children in the city of Rajshahi, in the Western part of the country, in 2013. Social workers with commitment and teachers support the education, counselling and promotion of children. The aim is to prepare the children for a reintegration into a regular school and into society. Other services of the centre are awareness raising in health issues, hygiene and nutrition as well as psychosocial care and occupational therapy.

More than **100.000 Euros** of donations were spent for street children work in Bangladesh in 2015.

Russia

Help for Ukrainian refugee children

Fleeing from their homes, living in unfamiliar environment and in temporary shelters are particularly stressful factors for children. Therefore, the Caritas associations Rostov on Don and Volgograd, which are supporting and advising refugee families, have implemented individual "retreat areas" for children in South Russia. In children play rooms in shelters for refugees, teaching and tuition can be carried out as well as playful learning, psychological care for traumatized children and peace education projects. Moreover, Caritas Germany supports particularly needy families with baby food, hygiene articles and medicines. Visits to a circus or a theatre and celebrations are organized in order to help the children to regain joy of life in spite of their war experiences and the hard life in refugee camps.

The support was made possible by church funds with the amount of **50.000 Euros**.



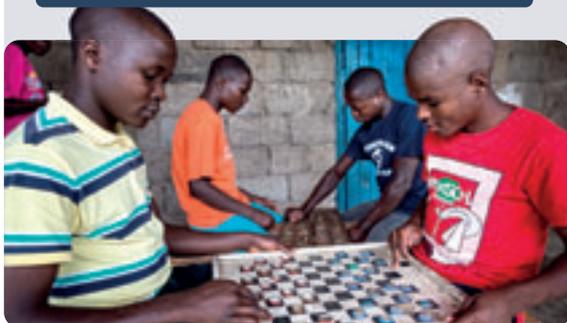
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Congo

Perspectives beyond the prison walls

When children in the Congolese capital city of Kinshasa get in conflict with the law, they are often jailed in the city's main prison. A lack of interest and of legal assistance lead to the fact that children tend to be forgotten, sometimes even for years. If they manage to be released, quite often they don't have any future prospects. Therefore, Caritas, together with local partners, started a pilot project in 2015 to reintegrate these children into society. Social workers and volunteers make sure that the children have the chance to go to school again or complete a vocational training.

In 2015, the project was supported with **64.000 Euros**. From 2016 on the annual support will amount to **195.000 Euros**.



© Jürgen Escher



Ukraine

Help out of the bus for Odessa's street children

The economical and social living conditions in the Ukrainian port city of Odessa are bad. Many children live on the street or spend most of their time there. The project "Way Home", supported by Caritas Germany, has been successfully running a mobile social centre for years. They reach the children all over the town with a bus. The focus of this social work is improvement of physical and psychological health of the children, support of their education as well as their families by legal, psychological and social counselling.

In 2015, "The Way Home" was supported with **115.000 Euros**.

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Brazil

Protection from sexual abuse

In the Brazilian city of Manaus many families make a living of collecting recyclable material from dumps. The children of the families often have to join doing the same work or they spend their days unaccompanied. The risk of becoming a victim of sexual exploitation and violence is particularly high for these children. The staff working in this project leads discussions with the parents and organizes awareness raising events in order to sensitize people for the issue of sexual abuse. Furthermore, the local partner supports the parents in receiving subsidies from the government and in reintegrating their children into the regular school system.

Project funds over **66.000 Euros** secure the work against child abuse in 2015/2016.



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Active participation by inclusion

Projects for people with disabilities are one focus of Caritas Germany's work. This involves the reducing of negative stigma and isolation and the enhancement of participation of people with disabilities in social, cultural and economic life. For this, support and inclusion as well as awareness raising and lobbying are central issues for Caritas Germany and its partners worldwide.



Egypt

© Ayman Tawadros

Successful inclusion by small steps

Many Egyptians have to fight for survival daily. In an environment like this the job opportunities for people with disabilities are extremely hard on the labour market. It is all the more admirable that Caritas Germany's long-standing partner SETI (Support, Education, Training for Inclusion), with which it is carrying out quite a number of other projects, consistently pursues a rights-based and inclusive approach. Time and again SETI has successfully trained young people with disabilities and helped them to find a job. Thus, for instance, a job for one disabled person was generated in a mosque. Another example is the organization of an art exhibition in a youth centre by a group of parents, thus raising awareness for the issue of "children with disabilities". Meanwhile, SETI's activities are supported by business people, actors and soccer-players.

268.000 Euro of funds are available for this programme from 2015 till 2016.

El Salvador

Enabling an independent life

The things Maria Antonia wishes for her daughter are quite simple: "She shall make good progress in her life. She shall go to school and learn a profession." But the simple things are not so simple for her daughter. For Jaileah is a special child. The parents' organization "Los Angelitos" ("The Little Angels"), supported by Caritas Germany, is dedicated to children and adolescents with disabilities. Active lobbying resulted in, as a first success, the adaptation of the national law to integrate disabled people into the labour-market. Now it has to be put into practice. The focus of the work of "Los Angelitos" is the improvement of political influence of disabled people on government structures, the development of innovative rehabilitation models and the strengthening of self-organization among people with disabilities.

The multi-annual project is supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with **155.000 Euro**.



© Augusto Sanchez

Indonesia

Creating perspectives by education

There is hardly any adequate support for people with disabilities in West Manggarai on the Indonesian island of Flores. In order to improve the living conditions of the affected and their families, four different Caritas-partners are dedicated to education and training of disabled people. They learn, for instance, to modify bikes to the needs of disabled users. An improved range of opportunities for rehabilitation and therapy, as well as access to the public health system, are in the focus of the project work in the seven communities. Better inclusive education opportunities and special education help people with disabilities to make better use of their potential and capacities. This gives them more independence and job perspectives.

In 2015, the project could dispose of a bit more than **33.000 Euro** from, inter alia, grants by foundations.



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Sierra Leone

Out of isolation and into society

Many children and adolescents in Sierra Leone lost their hearing by traumatic experiences during the long-lasting civil war. There are no governmental centres or organizations which could care for the affected children or give them perspectives in life. Supported by Caritas Germany, the "Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny" run a school for the deaf in the central part of the country. The children and adolescents receive school education suitable for their special needs and can seize the opportunity to get vocational trainings in agriculture, tailoring or dye works. The children can go to a day school or to a boarding school and also participate in numerous extracurricular activities. The sisters pass on their experience in a special course for educational work at the local university, in order to give other committed people the chance to learn from their successes.

The school for the deaf in Sierra Leone was supported with **45.000 Euros** until 2015 and will, till 2017, receive **74.880 Euros** of funds.



© RTL

Share music and create perspectives

Michael Patrick Kelly, a committed godfather of the RTL charity marathon run and Caritas-ambassador, travelled to Ethiopia.

Michael Patrick Kelly sits with his guitar in the shadow of an Ethiopian tree, in the middle of a bunch of children. There is a feeling of natural closeness, although no great words are spoken. The children feel that the guest is not just here to distribute gifts, but that he is really interested. And that he came to share the most precious thing he has: his music. Kelly visits a Caritas-centre for children and adolescents which is funded by the foundation "RTL – Wir helfen Kindern e.V.". As ambassador of Caritas Germany, the artist and musician supports different projects in Ethiopia: with his concerts and exhibitions or, like in November 2015, as godfather of the RTL charity marathon run. There is one special Caritas project which Michael Patrick Kelly funded completely with the proceeds of a benefit tour. Around 600 people, most of them former nomads who lost their livelihood, could be freed from hunger sustainably. In the arid region, a refined irrigation system makes sure that water from river courses can be utilized to irrigate agricultural land. People there now eat better and well-balanced food and can generate an income by selling their products on local markets. By this irrigation, about 21 hectares of land have turned into "green oases" in the middle of dry landscape. ■

Mixed feelings, hopeful perspective

Prelate Peter Neher, President of the German Caritas Association, looks back on **five years of aid in Haiti** after the severe earthquake.

Haiti experienced a turning-point in a tragic way when, on January 12th 2010, a huge earthquake devastated the Caribbean state. Caritas-President Prelate Peter Neher held a speech before the Papal Council for Latin America on the fifth memorial day, from which we quote some excerpts: "It was a disaster on an unprecedented scale, having no ready-made concept to respond to and triggering a wave of helpfulness. Caritas Germany alone received donations totalling 20 million Euro. Colle-



© Francis Djomeda

gues from all over the world stood by the side of the Sisters and Brothers of the Church of Haiti and its Caritas. In total, the worldwide Caritas family rendered emergency aid for about 1.5 million people. Five years after the devastating earthquake we look ahead with mixed feelings but with a hopeful perspective. The setting up of viable structures and the developing of well working common good requires stamina. The worldwide Caritas family has this kind of stamina and will not let Haiti down. For we are called, in the sense of the Good Samaritan, to help wherever there is need (cf. Luke 10,29-37) – so that all may have life and have it in abundance (cf. John, 10, 10). ■



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A diocese sets a sign for solidarity

Bishop Fuerst and Caritas-President Neher visit refugees and aid projects in Jordan.

In September 2015, Jordan was the destination of a delegation which visited projects for suffering refugee families from Syria and Iraq. Caritas Jordan supplied the refugees with clothes and food and relieved women and families in mother and child programmes. Refugee children could go to school, and sick and traumatized people received medical care and therapy.

The group – Bishop Gebhard Fuerst, Caritas-President Prelate Peter Neher, Canon Msgr. Heinz Detlef Staeps, director of the Diocesan Main Department World Church, Uwe Renz, episcopal press spokesman and Thomas Broch, representative for refugee issues of the diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart – visited, inter alia, a school project and a mother and child project of Caritas Jordan which is co-funded by the diocese with an amount of 185.000 Euro. “We would like to contribute, as good as possible, to the improvement of living conditions of the people who suffer from violence and expulsion in the civil war stricken zones, and we want to encourage them to a future in their own home-country,” said Bishop Fuerst who described the visit as a “sign of solidarity”. The diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart supported, in 2015 alone, Caritas Germany’s refugee aid and other projects with, in total, more than 1.5 million Euro. ■

Experiencing the worldwide Caritas family

Caritas Germany’s dialogue exposure trip led to **Tanzania** – and provided insight into the aid work for people with disabilities, refugees and education projects.

Refugee aid, education, support for disabled children – Caritas’ fields of work in Germany and Tanzania are similar. Consequently, the encounter between the participants of the dialogue exposure trip – key staff from sub-associations and institutions of the German Caritas Association – and the hosting Caritas staff led to vivid exchanges of expertise. The trip was accompanied by Oliver Müller, director of the International Department of Caritas Germany, desk officers Wolfgang Fritz and Christine Wegner-



© Harald Westbeid

Schneider who has been organizing the dialogue exposure trip already for many years. In Daressalam the group first visited a project run by the Indian DMI-Congregation. The sisters, as project partners of Caritas Germany, identify abused girls, have them stay in their congregation for one year and try to equip them fully for life during these months. A highlight of last year’s trip was the visit to the children’s clinic and rehabilitation centre in Huduma ya Walemavu whose founder Anna Mollell had, after an election in which children all over the world could vote, received the “World Children’s Prize” three years ago. The centre treats children with disabilities and has a school of its own to also teach them. ■



© Wilfredo Limauchi

Caritas-Delegates on a visit to Bolivia

About the problems of **rural exodus** and Caritas-projects improving life in rural areas.

Urban, rural, future – the title of the annual campaign of the German Caritas Association was the focus of Caritas Germany's delegation trip which took the participants to Bolivia in 2015. The travel group of 13 had an in-depth experience of the severe consequences of the widespread phenomenon of rural exodus when they visited different rural communities. Elderly people whom they encountered told them about an incredible hard life, about the consequences of climate change and destruction of the environment for agriculture, and they told them about their children and grandchildren who, by and by, resign and leave their homes. They move either to El Alto – an increasingly growing satellite town of La Paz – or into the big cities in Brazil, Chile, Peru or Spain. Caritas initiated a self-help group for elderly people in Concepción in the diocese of Coroico. It encourages the seniors to organize themselves and to claim their rights against the authorities. Felix Ramón, spokesman of the seniors, reports happily: "Thanks to Caritas our situation has improved significantly." Caritas developed income generating programmes like breeding poultry and rabbits for the elderly people there – just one example how Caritas counters the rural exodus. ■

Visitors from Bolivia in Germany

Social workers from Bolivia get an idea of the situation of **street children and prostitutes** in a rich country.

Alina Rueda and Ariel Ramirez, social workers from Bolivia, paid a counter visit to Germany in November. Both of them are working in rehabilitation projects for street children and prostitutes, supported by Caritas Germany, in El Alto. The hopes of many Bolivians to find a better life when they move from rural areas into the cities become frustrated. They lead a life on the street. Alina Rueda and Ariel Ramirez were amazed to find the phenomenon of street children and prostitution also in a rich country like Germany to a wide ex-



© Marie Schächtele

tent. Last but not least they were interested in the different legal framework conditions in Europe. Whereas the German law recognises prostitution as a legal profession, in Sweden the customers of prostitutes are prosecuted and not those who prostitute themselves. Both of these models, the Bolivian visitors said, give them some new ideas of a way to handle the issue in Bolivia. On the last day of their visit they participated, impressed and grateful, in the solidarity event "One Million Stars" which raised about 22.000 Euro for their Caritas-work in El Alto. ■



© Oliver Müller

»No general deporting of refugees«

Cardinal Woelki, Archbishop of Cologne, and Caritas-President Neher on a project-visit in **Albany and Kosovo**.

Albany and the Kosovo were the destinations of a delegation led by the chairman of the Caritas-Commission of the German Bishop's Conference, Cardinal Rainer Maria Woelki, and by Caritas-President Prelate Peter Neher in August 2015. The travel group, accompanied, inter alia, by auxiliary bishop Ansgar Puff (archdiocese of Cologne) and the director of the International Department of Caritas Germany, Oliver Müller, gathered impressions of the local Caritas work and of the living conditions of the population. The schedule included visits in institutions for refugees and schools as well as discussions with church representatives and politicians. With a view to those refugees who migrate to Germany, Cardinal Woelki said: "The right to asylum is a basic right and an individual right independent of descent, religion or colour of the skin. People from the Western Balkans looking for asylum have to be entitled to a fair, unbiased and individual examination. We are not to deport people, only because they come from Albany or the Kosovo." Caritas-President Peter Neher pointed out that many of his interlocutors would look into the future without any hope: "It is an important part of the work of Caritas to provide practical support to children and adolescents, in addition to their school attendance – and thus provide opportunities in their own country." ■

ZDF-charity-programme for fleeing people

A TV station collects donations for the **refugee aid** of organizations united in the disaster relief alliance "Aktionsbündnis Katastrophenhilfe".

The television programme "Menschen auf der Flucht – Deutschland hilft" ("People flee, Germany helps") with host Johannes B. Kerner, broadcast on September 10th, offered the opportunity for the "Aktionsbündnis Katastrophenhilfe" to thank people in Germany for their great willingness to stand by the refugees. "To us, the commitment of our civil society to brotherhood and humanitarian aid is an important response to the crises at the European borders," declared the NGOs united in the alliance – Caritas Germany, the German Red Cross, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and Unicef.

© ZDF

The aid organizations, with their respective national partners, support refugees in the crisis regions and all along the escape routes in the Balkans. This aid is complemented with services in Germany – from initial reception and counselling up to fundraising events. "Caritas is running, in Germany and, with its international relief department, abroad, countless aid projects of which we can be proud," said Peter Neher, President of the German Caritas Association. "We should, however, not forget that 80 per cent of refugees worldwide live in countries which are among the poorest ones." With the ZDF broadcast, the alliance "Aktionsbündnis Katastrophenhilfe" collected a total of 1.35 million Euros in donations for refugee aid. ■

»Not a one-way-street«

Caritas Germany's donor relations reach from phone- and online-services and information activities up to trips to Caritas-projects with donors. This contributes to improved transparency as well as to critical and constructive content-related exchanging of ideas.

Several telephones are ringing. At the same time emails come in while a colleague returns from the mail room with a pile of letters. This is quite an ordinary mid-morning in Caritas Germany's donor-service. The colleagues reply to every single inquiry, they listen, answer questions, take notes, forward some inquiries or gather information from expert colleagues. The range of the feedback Caritas Germany gets is just as big as its range of work: "How is your aid in Ukraine like?" "Please change my address!" "What really is the effect of wells in Africa?" "I misplaced my donation receipt." "Can I also help in one of your projects on the ground?" "I am going to celebrate a round-numbered birthday soon and would like to wish for donations instead of presents."

Several hundreds of thousands of donors are registered in Caritas Germany's data base. In addition to that there are people who heard about acute emergencies, on TV, in the radio or in the internet, and who want to get involved, or people whose friends drew their attention to Caritas. In order to stand by the side of the weakest and to provide full

support in big humanitarian crises, Caritas Germany needs donations.

"We call for support in cases of crises and disasters, we consistently present information about the progress of our work, draw attention to grievances and emergencies. Fortunately we get a lot of feedback on that and thus a vivid dialogue with our donors is being created," says Michael Brücker, director of the public relations department and, inter alia, in charge of donor relations.

This intensive exchange is necessary and absolutely desired. The feedback we get helps us to understand the demands of our donors much better, to respond to them better and to make offers most closely matching their requirements. Just like in any other field of social life the demands on transparency and especially on service quality have increased. And the number of contacts is rising, due to the fact that the barrier to give feedback or to make inquiries is much lower in times of electronic communication than it was before. "It is notable that people more and more engage in a critical dialogue with us," says

TRIP WITH DONORS



First hand information:
Donors in Georgia

Visiting Caritas

The first exposure trip with donors organized by Caritas Germany led to Georgia where the travel group could get an impression of the various working fields of Caritas. One of the participants reports.

After the flight via Istanbul a tour guide from the local Caritas picked us up in a van in Tbilisi. We wanted to get to know Caritas' mobile youth-work in the city of 1.5 million inhabitants. About 450 street children and -adolescents between six and 18 years of age are their target group; however, families and

Brücker. This applies to controversially discussed questions like the international refugee movements as well as debates on church politics or basic questions of the impact of humanitarian aid. There are many reasons for that. For instance, especially the social media have led to a new form of discussion culture which enables a real dialogue and thus also mutual learning between donors and “their” organization. On the other hand hate speeches and “shitstorms” don’t stop at renowned organizations like Caritas. “It is a comparatively new phenomenon for the colleagues and can be quite stressful in our daily routine,” Brücker says. “But as long as the basic rules of decency and respect are preserved, we are pleased to enter into a critical discussion on urgent humanitarian issues.” Especially the staff in charge of donor relations plays an important part in that. “They have an ear to our donors. They have to answer spontaneously different questions, explain important background and quite often they can dispel doubts. This is of enormous importance for our acceptance as an organization.”

Caritas has, for some years, increasingly taken the initiative and enters into an active dialogue with its donors. Last year, for the first time, particularly loyal donors were offered to have a close look at projects of Caritas Germany as part of an exposure trip (see tra-



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“Weltgeschichten” for donors:

In 2015, Jürgen Lieser, former deputy director of the International Department of Caritas Germany, read from his book “Weltgeschichten” (“World Stories”) in the cities of Münster and Paderborn. Thus, he provided insights into humanitarian aid of the past 30 years.

vel report below). During the last months, events explicitly for donors were held in nearly all areas of Germany. Dealing with humanitarian issues, which is always the main subject, happens in various formats: one time as a first-hand travel report and one time as a panel discussion or a public reading. The donors are also involved in critical reflections on public relations measures.

For instance, so called “focus groups” are invited periodically to critically evaluate the brochures, public appeals or the online presence. In 2016 Caritas Germany will also invite donors to participate in an anonymous survey. Its aim is to get to know the donors’ demands and wishes even better. The underlying conviction is: Real transparency can only emerge from mutual acquaintance and a real dialogue. ■

single mothers of children of whom Caritas is taking care of are supported as well.

On the first day we visited the house for street children, the workshops and rooms for assisted living, everything filled with vibrant life. For me, one highlight was a dance performance of adolescents in traditional folk dance costumes; it was obvious that the young people should not just get a vocational training but also become familiar with the country’s culture in which the Lezgian dance plays an important part. The next day we visited, divided into small groups, families of the children cared for and could experience first hand how poor their housing conditions are. In the afternoon we visited an inclusive assisted living group in a village close to Tbilisi, where it was obvious how lo-

vingly disabled children were taken care of. The other day we saw a home nursing project for former refugees from Ossetia in their flats close to Gori.

In the afternoon we went to the cave- and fortress-town of Uplistsikhe, definitely a nice experience of nature. In the course of a comprehensive city tour through Tbilisi we saw several orthodox chapels and churches, a synagogue and a mosque. Our visit was rounded off by a trip to the Bodbe Monastery, one of Georgia’s national shrines, and to city of Signagi which is fantastically located high on the Greater Caucasus Mountains. Lots of thanks for this wonderful trip which gave me the impression that Caritas is doing valuable and excellent work in that country and fulfils a well recognised task there.

Walter Bitter

Full of ideas for people in need

Singing, cooking, jogging – the activities of numerous clubs, youth groups, communities, companies, pre-schools and individual persons to support Caritas are varied and colourful. The activities introduced here are exemplary for the magnificent commitment of Caritas Germany's supporters who collected money for people in need – sometimes powerful-voiced, sometimes conspicuous and full of

ideas, sometimes reluctant, meditative and without any further ado. But always with persuasion and a lot of compassion. We are much obliged to all donors and all the initiators of charity events, collections or other activities, who showed commitment for Caritas Germany and especially for people in need and would like to say, in the name of those who receive these funds: **Lots of thanks!**



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Charity race for refugees

In spite of rainy weather about 1.000 pupils of the St. Anna Grammar School in the city of Wuppertal participated in a charity race, organized by their school. The preceding weeks they intensively dealt with the situation of Syrian refugees in their lessons – and made up their minds to help. A total of 7.000 sponsors, among them parents, friends and local companies, rewarded every single kilometre run with a special amount of money. The result is impressing: The children and adolescents generated 46.000 Euro by running! About half of the money is for the benefit of refugees in Wuppertal, the other half for an aid project of Caritas Germany.



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Ecumenical cooking

The traditional ecumenical "Feast of the Churches" of the Protestant parish of Allmersbach and the Catholic parish St. Martin, which they have celebrated for 30 years on every Ascension Day, was all about the motto "Help for Nepal". After an ecumenical mass in the morning about 300 guests feasted on the delicious meals which were "ecumenically" prepared by men of both parishes. Several charity events held during the entire day generated the tidy sum of 1.291,28 Euros as funds for the victims of the quake in Nepal.



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A donation with rarity value

Felipe García, a native Colombian and owner of the company Mint Classics which sells rare BMW-vehicles, had an idea last May of how to get committed in helping earthquake victims in Nepal: He donated a BMW-motorcycle and put it up for an auction. Joining in: Sotheby's auction house. It included, free of charge, the BMW in an auction for rare vehicles in Italy. With great success: The motorcycle changed hands for 10.000 Euros.



Whether you would like to have information on concrete projects, the current situation of Caritas aid activities, on formal issues like e.g. donation receipts or announce your charity events – our team in charge of donor relations is there for you and will find answers to your questions. So don't hesitate to call or send an email.

Katrin Zeh, Anna Wilkens, Martina Stephan, Karin Anderer
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Archdiocese of Freiburg helps earthquake victims in Nepal

Archbishop Stephan Burger (right) did more than just gather information on the current situation and activities of Caritas Germany in Nepal's quake-hit areas from Caritas-President Peter Neher, from the director of Caritas Germany's International Department, Oliver Müller, and from Nepal-expert Peter Seidel. He also called for prayer and donations for the victims of the quake. The Archdiocese of Freiburg funded one million Euros which, as Müller said, give Caritas "planning security for the first life-saving relief activities".

Singing at the motorway

The school orchestra of "Hegau Grammar School" in the city of Singen raised funds for Caritas Germany's refugee aid in the course of an advent concert. Conducted by Gabriele Haunz, the musicians showed their talents at a mass in Hegau's motorway chapel. The audience, at the end of the event, expressed its joy by donations. A total of 870 Euros for Caritas Germany's refugee aid was generated. Local pupils also said that they would like to organize German language lessons for refugees once a week. Parish priest Gebhard Reichert is happy about their commitment. "There are so many amazing ways of how especially adolescents are dedicated to the support of refugees."



© privat

The German Caritas Association with its relief organization, **The International Department of Caritas Germany**



Composition and structure of Caritas Germany

The International Department of Caritas Germany is the relief organisation of the German Caritas Association (Deutscher Caritasverband e. V. – DCV) and is integrated into the Association's organisational structure. As a department in the DCV headquarters, at its registered address in Freiburg, it reports to the President's full-time Board. The International Department of Caritas Germany is made up of six departments.

Director of the International Department: Dr Oliver Müller

<p>Department Africa and Middle East Director: Christoph Klitsch-Ott</p>	<p>Department Asia Director: Dr Reinhard Würkner</p>	<p>Department Europe and Latin America Director: Claudio Moser</p>	<p>Department Quality Management & Auditing Director: Volker Gerdemesmeier</p>	<p>Department Disaster Aid Coordination Director: Dr Oliver Müller</p>	<p>Department Public Relations Director: Michael Brücker</p>
<p>The three regionally defined departments and the local partners plan, organise and implement projects in the areas of disaster aid and social work. During 2015, Caritas Germany delivered a total of 650 projects in 73 countries.</p>			<p>Develops fundamental principles of sustainable aid and evaluates them critically.</p>	<p>Organises immediate-response disaster aid and develops methodology.</p>	<p>Creates awareness, motivates aid-giving, publicises the concerns of the poorest.</p>

The Supervisory Bodies of the German Caritas Association

The Caritas Council (29 members): Development of Informed Opinions & 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
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elects the **Secretary General, the Head of Finance and HR,**
7 members of the Finance Commission and 7 members of the Staff Committee

Members of the Caritas Council

Prelate **Dr Peter Neher**, President of the DCV, Chairman; Brother **Peter Berg**, General Director and CEO, Barmherzige Brüder Trier; **Dr Matthias Berger**, Finance Commission Chairman; **Stephan Buttgerit**, Secretary General of SKM – Catholic Association for Social Services in Germany – Federal Association e.V.; **Prof. Dr Georg Cremer**, Secretary General, DCV; **Heinz Dargel**, Managing Director, CV Dekanat Bremen-Nord e.V.; **Egon Engler**, Chairman, CV Freiburg Stadt e.V.; **Hartmut Fritz**, Brechen; **Hanno Heil**, Chairman, VKAD e.V.; **Bruno Heller**, Director, Diocese of Erfurt e.V.; **Dr Frank Johannes Hensel**, Director, DiCV Cologne e.V.; **Renate Jachmann-Willmer**, National Managing Director SKF e.V.; **Heinz-Josef Kessmann**, Vice-President of the DCV; **Dr Wolfgang Kues**, Director, DiCV Passau e.V.; **Dr Birgit Kugel**, Director DiCV Trier e.V.; **Stefan Leister**, Member of Board of Directors, BVKE; **Hans-Georg Liegener**, Managing Director, CV Krefeld e.V.; **Prelate**

Hans Lindenberger, Director, DiCV Munich and Freising e.V.; **Franz Loth**, Director, DiCV Osnabrück e.V.; Sister **Edith-Maria Mager**, Vice President, DCV e.V.; **Dr Hejo Manderscheid**, Director, DiCV Limburg e.V.; **Oliver Merkelbach**, Director, DiCV Rottenburg-Stuttgart; **Matthias Mitscherlich**, Director, DiCV Dresden-Meißen e.V.; **Gerhard Öhlein**, Director, DiCV Bamberg e.V.; **Andreas Roelle**, Managing Director, CV Zwickau e.V.; **Burkard Schroeders**, Director, DiCV Aachen e.V.; **Dr Irme Stetter-Karp**, Vice President, DCV e.V.; **Thomas Vorkamp**, Managing Director, KKVD e.V.; **Karl, Prince of Loewenstein**, Managing Director, Malteser Hilfsdienst e.V.

Consultant Members: **Katrin Gerdsmeyer**, Head of the Berlin Office, DCV e.V.; **Hans Joerg Millies**, Head of Finance and HR, DCV e.V.; Prelate **Bernhard Piendl**, Director of Main Representation of the DCV e.V. in Munich

The Assembly of Delegates (max. 199 members)

The Board (3) and Vice Presidents (3)	Chairpersons and Directors from the 27 DiCV, plus LCV Oldenburg	2 representatives from each specialist organisation	1 representative from each society	6 representatives from the religious orders (through the DOK)	3 representatives each from local level of each DiCV	Up to 7 additional members
<i>Members by virtue of office</i>			<i>Members are sent</i>		<i>Elected in the dioceses</i>	<i>Elected by the DV</i>

elects the **President of the German Caritas Association,**
3 Vice Presidents and the **Caritas Council**

DiCV: Diocesan Caritas Association; **LCV:** Federal State Caritas Association; **DV:** Assembly of Delegates;
DOK: German Conference of Superiors of Religious Orders

Worldwide aid

Caritas Germany's commitment in the year 2015 embraced 650 projects in 73 countries. Universal result: **the aid reached those in need of it.**

AFRIKA

Africa (general) / 4 projects	15.089,61 Euros
Egypt / 11 projects	820.074,05 Euros
Ethiopia / 16 projects	1.904.183,04 Euros
Algeria / 1 project	20.000,00 Euros
Benin / 3 projects	229.498,87 Euros
Burundi / 4 projects	373.438,60 Euros
Guinea-Bissau / 5 projects	307.286,91 Euros
Kenya / 22 projects	1.541.891,66 Euros
Dem. Rep. Congo / 22 projects	2.729.741,60 Euros
Liberia / 2 projects	438.830,96 Euros
Mali / 7 projects	2.480.596,84 Euros
Morocco / 1 project	40.000,00 Euros
Mozambique / 6 projects	434.901,45 Euros
Niger / 7 projects	364.828,16 Euros
Senegal / 4 projects	589.976,91 Euros
Sierra Leone / 11 projects	765.187,43 Euros
Somalia / 1 project	350.000,00 Euros
South Africa / 6 projects	543.857,90 Euros
Southern Sudan / 11 projects	1.027.688,74 Euros
Tanzania / 13 projects	823.288,40 Euros
Togo / 2 projects	55.000,00 Euros
Uganda / 6 projects	397.954,45 Euros

Africa total / 165 projects 16.253.315,58 Euros

ASIA AND OCEANIA

Asia (general) / 8 projects	197.994,56 Euros
Oceania general / 1 project	19.756,90 Euros
Afghanistan / 12 projects	1.805.411,49 Euros
Bangladesh / 10 projects	357.185,15 Euros
China / 7 projects	126.811,71 Euros
India / 24 projects	1.518.356,89 Euros
Indonesia / 19 projects	549.863,76 Euros
Japan / 4 projects	538.879,50 Euros
Cambodia / 7 projects	499.000,00 Euros
Mongolia / 2 projects	50.000,00 Euros
Myanmar / 1 project	40.000,00 Euros
Nepal / 19 projects	2.038.872,95 Euros
North Korea / 7 projects	871.090,70 Euros
Pakistan / 27 projects	1.489.019,29 Euros
Philippines / 18 projects	3.343.875,75 Euros
Sri Lanka / 6 projects	144.437,50 Euros
Tadjikistan / 15 projects	556.241,76 Euros
Thailand / 5 projects	201.710,00 Euros
Vietnam / 10 projects	315.651,84 Euros

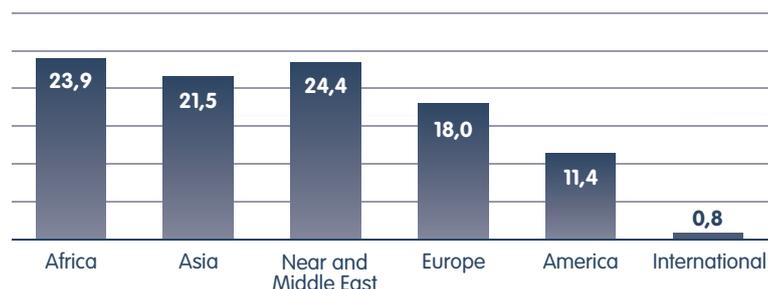
**Asia and Oceania total
202 projects 14.664.159,75 Euros**

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

Iraq / 13 projects	3.814.413,47 Euros
Iran / 1 project	20.000,00 Euros
Israel and Palestine / 17 projects	1.421.276,57 Euros
Jordan / 18 projects	6.596.437,50 Euros
Lebanon / 15 projects	2.470.169,23 Euros
Syria / 11 projects	2.299.525,84 Euros

**Near and Middle East total
75 projects 16.621.822,61 Euros**

RELATIVE AID WEIGHTING IN PERCENT



EUROPE

Europe general / 9 projects	183.067,01 Euros
Albania / 8 projects	403.613,05 Euros
Armenia / 5 projects	284.084,44 Euros
Bosnia-Herzegovina / 3 projects	221.663,24 Euros
Germany / 13 projects	4.996.279,62 Euros
Georgia / 5 projects	285.007,08 Euros
Greece / 2 projects	55.000,00 Euros
Italy / 2 projects	36.105,00 Euros
Kosovo / 1 project	26.913,76 Euros
Croatia / 1 project	89.807,55 Euros
Poland / 1 project	28.000,00 Euros
Russia / 13 projects	528.039,44 Euros
Serbia / 3 projects	408.486,91 Euros
Slovenia / 1 project	127.676,24 Euros
Czech. Republic / 1 project	73.973,14 Euros
Turkey / 2 projects	76.800,00 Euros
Ukraine / 13 projects	4.437.350,06 Euros

Europe total / 83 projects **12.261.866,54**
Euros

LATIN AMERICA

Amerika general / 10 projects	80.859,33 Euros
Argentina / 2 projects	65.000,00 Euros
Bolivia / 10 projects	1.021.897,44 Euros
Brazil / 15 projects	733.900,15 Euros
Chile / 9 projects	422.249,65 Euros
Ecuador / 3 projects	215.500,00 Euros
El Salvador / 6 projects	420.752,79 Euros
Guatemala / 5 projects	245.449,24 Euros
Haiti / 22 projects	808.173,14 Euros
Honduras / 1 projects	30.000,00 Euros
Colombia / 20 projects	3.107.830,26 Euros
Cuba / 1 project	60.030,70 Euros
Nicaragua / 1 project	15.000,00 Euros
Peru / 10 projects	541.192,44 Euros

America total / 115 projects **7.767.835,14 Euros**

INTERNATIONAL

International / 10 projects **563.342,75 Euros**

Note

1. The figures in this overview do not tally completely with the donation receipts and grants total for the year 2015. For there are many projects with a time-frame over several years which are being financed gradually. Reconstruction following disasters, such as the one after the typhoon 2013 on the Philippines or after the earthquake in Nepal 2015, 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.

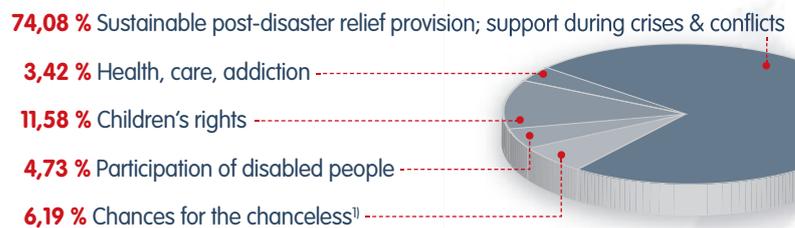
2. The projects listed in the category "International" comprise especially projects of the international Caritas network (Caritas Internationalis) as well as member fees for this worldwide Caritas-network and for Caritas Europe. Cross-border projects within one continent are being summarized in the respective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

Project expenditure

Total expenditure: **68.132.342 Euros**

BY TARGET GROUPS

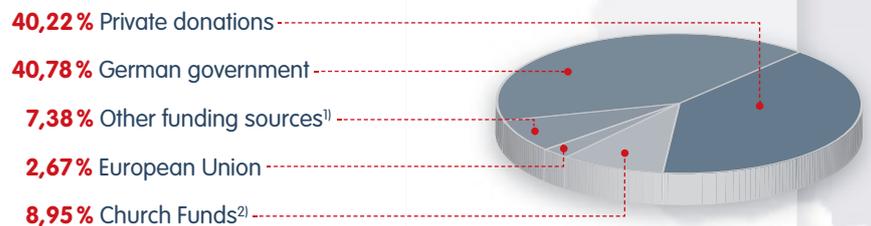
The categorisation in this overview is intended for general guidance only. Many social projects are designed with more than one target group in mind, for instance where aid is intended for disabled children or for victims of an earthquake.



1) Migration, establishment of Caritas organisations worldwide, etc.

BY FUNDING SOURCE

The diagram shows the funds allocated to projects in 2015. 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	27.784.910 Euros
thereof: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	15.775.000 Euros
thereof: Federal Foreign Office	12.009.910 Euros

Church Funds total	6.093.697 Euros
thereof: Association of German Dioceses	3.735.768 Euros
of which: Dioceses of Freiburg, Cologne, Rottenburg-Stuttgart	2.357.929 Euros

European Union total*	1.916.552 Euros
Emergency aid Afghanistan	8.554 Euros
Emergency aid Colombia	314.009 Euros
Emergency aid Ethiopia	715.754 Euros

Social projects Afghanistan	758.173 Euros
Social projects Tajikistan	120.062 Euros

* The EU grants come from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid fund (ECHO) and from resources of the European Development Cooperation.

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 2015, the share of administrative and advertising costs for Caritas Germany was 7,9 percent.

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS CALCULATION PURSUANT TO DZI GUIDELINES

Project promotion ¹⁾	69.681.077,38 Euros	86,9 %
(thereof personnel costs)	(410.491,22 Euros)	
Project assistance	3.608.501,98 Euros	4,5 %
(of which personnel costs)	(3.116.953,48 Euros)	
Statute-compliant campaigns, educational and awareness-raising work	597.059,51 Euros	0,7 %
(of which personnel costs)	(261.888,83 Euros)	
Total project expenditure	73.886.638,87 Euros	92,1 %
Administration	2.305.633,74 Euros	2,9 %
(thereof personnel costs)	(1.060.328,81 Euros)	
Advertising and PR work	4.036.584,49 Euros	5,0 %
(of which personnel costs)	(773.890,31 Euros)	
Total administrative and advertising	6.342.218,23 Euros	7,9 %
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	80.228.857,10 Euros	100 %

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 Caritas Germany is the relief organization of the German Caritas Association (DCV). The division statement of results for the donation-relevant international division (Caritas Germany, International Department) is derived from Caritas Germany's Annual Report 2015 audited by Ebner & Stolz auditing company.²⁾ As an extension of the annual audit, we requested our auditors to examine the divisional results relevant to donations. The results of the international division were audited as derived from the bookkeeping upon which the annual financial statement is based. Moreover, the annual auditor was asked to check adherence to the Voluntary Guidelines and Implementation Rules for Non-profit, National and Donation-Collecting Organisations set up by the DZI (DZI Guidelines) in the version dated 17 September 2010. 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 statement³⁾ The annual auditor reported to the board that their findings led to no objections.

2) The 2015 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	2014	2015
Public and Church grants		
German government	21.149.712,81 Euros	29.611.808,88 Euros
Church funds	6.152.527,50 Euros	8.162.368,27 Euros
European Union	2.941.085,08 Euros	1.631.956,47 Euros
Other public and Church grants	4.383.822,50 Euros	4.818.807,29 Euros
Total	34.627.147,89 Euros	44.224.940,91 Euros
Donations and other charitable contributions		
Project donations	26.889.626,63 Euros	35.147.692,86 Euros
Trust fund monies and corporate cooperations	3.579.538,71 Euros	3.303.745,94 Euros
Total	30.469.165,34 Euros	38.451.438,80 Euros
Legacies and other income		
Proceeds from assets and interest income	3.437.058,77 Euros	2.092.766,60 Euros
Inheritances, legacies	295.956,33 Euros	280.949,84 Euros
Other	45.591,39 Euros	192.649,74 Euros
Total	4.136.475,85 Euros	2.566.366,18 Euros
TOTAL INCOME	68.874.919,72 Euros	85.242.745,89 Euros

Notes

Church funds: Funds from the Association of German Dioceses as well as from the dioceses of Freiburg, Cologne und 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 organisations 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 (121.565,15 Euros), and "Bild hilft – Ein Herz für Kinder" (97.033 Euros) and the Unicef-Foundation (739.837,70 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	2014	2015
Project expenditure		
Sustainable disaster aid; aid in crises and conflicts; health, care, aid for addicts; children's rights; participation for people with disabilities; chances for those without a chance		
Project expenditure total	54.243.547,20 Euros	68.132.342,37 Euros
Personnel, materials and amortisation		
1. Personnel expenses:		
wages and salaries, social benefits, retirement funds (thereof directly allocable to projects)	5.400.306,52 Euros (3.646.451,40 Euros)	5.623.552,64 Euros (3.789.333,53 Euros)
2. Cost of materials:		
project work, educational and PR work, fundraising (thereof directly allocable to projects)	4.784.421,57 Euros (1.726.246,28 Euros)	5.494.005,72 Euros (1.964.962,97 Euros)
3. Levies:		
service charges (e.g. data processing)	838.506,13 Euros	840.023,20 Euros
4. Depreciation/Amortisation	65.903,46 Euros	138.933,16 Euros
TOTAL COSTS	65.332.684,88 Euros	80.228.857,09 Euros
RESULT FOR THE DIVISION	3.542.234,84 Euros	5.013.888,80 Euros

Notes

Project expenditure: Expenditure comprises contributions to 650 ongoing aid projects.

Personnel, materials and amortisation: This item includes all expenses incurred for proper and efficient project implementation. It includes the costs of processing applications for aid, controlling fund allocation and accounting, as well as providing accountability towards donors.

Result for the division: The result shown is withdrawn from the trust funds or paid into them as the case may be. As of December 31st 2015, the funds amounted to 122.105.326,90 Euros, against 117.091.438,10 Euros in the previous year (see above note on interest income).

Goals and Strategies

Caritas Germany has formulated a new strategy for the period from 2016 till 2020 in order to be able to react appropriately to the increasing of humanitarian crises.

The number and intensity of crises and armed conflicts has increased worldwide. Moreover, there is an increase in natural disasters, partly as a result of climate change, and to a creeping deterioration of living conditions. The number of refugees, expelled people and migrants has been rising for years, with the effect that national and international tasks of Caritas have to interlock and complement each other more than before. Last but not least due to these growing challenges in the sector of humanitarian work, Caritas Germany formulated new goals and fields of work in its strategy for the years 2016 till 2020.

Main focus

The quality of Caritas Germany's project work shall be improved in a continuous process. As for this, Caritas specified new goals in its strategy paper. Among other things the present concept for sustainable disaster aid shall be given a "concrete form in each separate continent, with respective focuses, and shall be acknowledged as guiding principles for project work in practice." The evaluation of aid after disasters shall be carried out even more effectively as practiced up to now. In the working focus of escape and expulsion Caritas Germany will "have an active influence on social and political discussions" and, for this purpose, publish concepts, issue publications and organize events covering this topic (cf. the article on pages 12 and 13). In view of increasing phenomena of extreme weather, Caritas Germany supports particularly vulnerable population groups regarding their access to and their use of water. The project experience gained up to now in the fields of adapting to climate change and the protection of natural resources have been evaluated. Special publications and articles for public discussion were produced also in this area (as for that read pages 18/19). After all, Caritas Germany will further develop its position regarding the aspect of neutrality versus political stance/advocacy.

Partners and projects

The principle of partnership, according to which there is collaboration with local partners in disaster aid and in social projects, is a crucial approach in the work of Caritas Germany. Thus, Caritas Germany can draw on their experience and competence. This cooperation requires organizational structures on the part of the partners which, due to their size and financial resources, cannot be taken as granted. Therefore, a more intensive accompaniment of proven partners in their organizational development, the strengthening of partners in particularly severe humanitarian crises as well as an extension of project documentation and -evaluation were formulated as strategic goals.

Staff and structural issues

The unpredictability of natural disasters and long-lasting crises and conflicts imply, again and again, particularly big challenges for Caritas Germany – just like for all other humanitarian organizations – regarding human resources. In order to be able to react quickly and appropriately to the many humanitarian emergencies, well structured workflows and standards are required on the one hand, and, on the other hand, a great deal of flexibility.

Therefore, Caritas Germany is about to build additional and essential, also structural and financial resources. During this process we keep on striving for a solid balance between public funds and donations in order to avoid uni-lateral dependence. In parallel with the strengthening of partners and its own structures Caritas Germany wants to further enhance good cooperation – with church institutions and other organizations at home and abroad – and regular "presence in the ecclesiastical, political and public arena." ■



Detailed information about the principles and guidelines of Caritas Germany, the principles of humanitarian aid, the principle of partnership as well as composition and structure of the aid organization can be found at: www.caritas-international.de/ueberuns

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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 160 national Caritas organisations around the world.

www.caritas-international.de