



International Geneva
Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

Caritas Internationalis

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

Caritas Internationalis is a global confederation of 167 national Catholic organisations focusing on humanitarian assistance, development and social services provision, and working in more than 200 countries and territories in the world. The confederation has 7 regional secretariats, one each for Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America/Caribbean, Middle East/North Africa, North America, and Oceania. Caritas Internationalis provides emergency response and development assistance at the grassroots level, and serves those in need regardless of race or religion. Their work is based on the Catholic principles of dignity, justice and solidarity.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Conflict and disaster response and assistance
- Food security, nutrition, climate change and hunger alleviation
- Development of individual capacities and local infrastructure
- Health promotion, access to medicines, and HIV and AIDS treatment
- Legal protection of migrants, in particular protection of women and child migrants
- Promotion of decent work

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

The key areas of Caritas Internationalis' health-related work include the diagnosis and treatment of HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis, Pandemic Influenza and other health emergencies, as well as non-communicable diseases and anti-microbial resistance. Each focus area is targeted through a suitable strategic plan and realised through the extensive network of other Catholic and partner organisations at the local level. Raising awareness of healthy lifestyles to prevent NCDs, and diagnosis and treatment of HIV and Tuberculosis, including their co-infection, are central tools of the work. One of the largest health projects of Caritas Internationalis is the HAART for Children Campaign, which promotes early diagnosis and effective treatment of HIV through the provision of highly active anti-retroviral treatment to women and their babies.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

Every four years, representatives from the member organisations worldwide meet in the Vatican City to review work carried out and approve a strategic framework and a budget. This General Assembly elects the Caritas Internationalis president, vice presidents, secretary general and treasurer. The current president is Cardinal Luis Antonio Gokim Tagle. The president and two vice presidents are ex-officio members of the Executive Board, which is

composed of seven members, three of which are appointed by the Holy See and one is elected by the Representative Council. The organisation is headquartered in Vatican City, and has delegations in Geneva and New York.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

Caritas Internationalis is funded by contributions from member organisations and through private donations. The 2018 budget of Caritas Internationalis was EUR 24.9 million.

PUBLICATIONS

See: <https://www.caritas.org/who-we-are/publications-and-resources/>

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