

Caritas &Du



**Annual Report
2019**



Photo: wildbild

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Photo: D. Gollner

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Photo: T. Trenchard

The Caritas Annual Report

The following pages show you selected projects from the diverse range of tasks of Caritas in Austria and throughout the world. These projects, programs and initiatives represent all of effective aid measures implemented by the Caritas diocese organizations. For a comprehensive list of the entire program visit our website at www.caritas.at



Printed on paper produced from sustainable agricultural sources

Caritas President
Michael Landau
visiting projects in
the Democratic
Republic of Congo.



We > I
Courage > Fear
Love > Hate

You probably know this particular feeling of relief and hope at the end of hard times. Imagine how relieved you feel again when the horizon clears, problems disappear and new prospects arise before your inner eye. That special feeling when you can take a deep breath again is confidence.

At Caritas, we see this hope, this trust, and this confidence in the faces of the people in our institutions, our projects and services every day. Take, for example, a homeless person who after years on the streets finally moves back into an apartment of his or her own, or a mother who has fled domestic violence and now is offered a safe place to sleep for herself and her baby. Or when a child in Romania finds a bowl of hot soup after school or when a family in Africa can harvest something to eat again thanks to the donated fruit trees.

Hope and confidence grow when people can overcome serious challenges leaving behind hardship, anxiety about livelihood or even fear of life. In many cases, we are able to help ourselves by our own efforts. However, some situations exist that do not allow people to find a way out – be it because of poverty, homelessness, or because of their origin, age, health or financial situation. Caritas supports women, men and children in need, in Austria and worldwide.

Yet, we do not just want to give hope, we want to bring about change and improve the world. Thanks to our donors, we have already achieved amazing results over the past decades. We have contributed to reducing global hunger – despite all setbacks. In addition, fewer and fewer people in Austria have to live

in poverty situations, and we were able to enhance food security and improve the quality of life in many countries. More and more children are able to attend school successfully, find access to education, and that is perhaps of particular importance.

This annual report refers to 2019, the year preceding the Corona crisis. In that year, too, we faced many challenges: whether in care and nursing, the disparity between rich and poor, increasing loneliness, or in how refugees can stand on their own feet and have a secure future.

These challenges are expected to be exacerbated by the corona crisis in the coming months and years, and in particular when it comes to unemployment and poverty.

As Caritas, we take the side of humanity; we are an integral part of the basic social structure throughout Austria. That will stand the test of time, even in crisis. We are on the job every day. With 50,000 volunteers and more than 16,346 full-time employees in 16,000 places, Caritas is there for people in need – affectionate and professional care in close reach, helping people to help themselves, while striving for justice at the same time.

Thank you very much for supporting us in our efforts.

Michael Landau
Caritas President

Caritas

Value Compass

We are here.

When we see need, we act.

We act for everyone.

Every human being is valuable – regardless of age, gender, religion, political convictions and origin.

We believe in the good in our fellow human beings,

We believe in charity, human dignity and compassion, and in everyone who works toward this goal.

in the future,

We take responsibility for our fellow human beings, for a world in which future is more important than origin.

in justice

All people are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

and in cohesion.

For only together are we strong.

We>I

What We Do and Why

Vision. Urgent assistance and long-term support for an independent life full of confidence – what matters is to create a common world without poverty.

From the very beginning, Caritas has been guided by the idea to see hardship and suffering among people and, above all, to act against it. Earthquakes, military conflicts, poverty, hopelessness – regardless of how the crisis looks, whether it affects a single person or a whole country – Caritas acts promptly providing help to people in need. Thereby, the dignity of every human being is at the heart of its assistance. This implies that Caritas' support does not stop at national borders, and does not discriminate anybody based on age, gender, disability level, religion or sexual orientation. Each and every person should be able to lead a self-determined life, to shape it independently. And if that is no longer an option, for example, in old age or due to illness or disability, each person should nevertheless decide for oneself, as far as possible, on the type of help he or she wants.

See Need and Help

Caritas helps each and everyone who needs help. When we see need, we act. And this need exists everywhere in the world.

In Austria, too, one in seven people lives in conditions of poverty. Therefore, Caritas provides local emergency aid for homeless people, single women and their children as well as young people in difficult situations.

The Latin word “caritas” translates to charity. This is also the guiding principle of Caritas' work in developing countries. Thanks to its powerful global network of partners, Caritas responds rapidly to natural disasters by providing drinking water, food, medical care or emergency shelters on the spot and thus enabling people to survive.



Cohesion and charity are values that remain at the heart of Caritas' work now and in the future.

Caritas fights against hunger in many countries in Africa, Asia and South America. Every day, malnourished babies and their mothers receive something to eat, and families are supported with food, agricultural training and seeds.

Vision of a Common World

Not only help in acute emergencies is required, but also long-term projects that empower people in developing countries to become self-sufficient. Another important issue is sustainable disaster relief that enables a country to recover from a disaster. It is about shaping a

common world – a world in which no one goes hungry, in which there is no poverty. A world in which people with disabilities have the same voice as people in need of care and their relatives, the same voice as refugees and children. A world in which children have hope and prospects and in which we pull together and support each other.

This vision of a common world is based on cohesion. 16,346 employees, 50,000 volunteers and all donors support Caritas in making this world one step better. So there is every reason to believe in it: in solidarity, in charity, in the future.



People with Disabilities



Accessibility

Shape Your Life Without Barriers

One of the principles guiding the work of Caritas is to ensure equal rights for all people. Disability is one of the many characteristics of a person, just like gender, origin or age. Caritas supports people with disabilities across Austria to make use of their abilities in leading a self-determined life.

Inclusion means that every person is recognized in his or her otherness and is treated entirely equally according to his or her nature. Inclusion implies that people differ in their abilities and hence enrich society – be it at school, at work or in the family. Furthermore, it means that nobody is restricted in any way, regardless of one's origin, age, gender, or disability level.

Caritas is committed to an inclusive society with human dignity at its core. Equal rights for people with disabilities are self-evident to all of Caritas' activities. Caritas also sees itself as a mouthpiece for people with disabilities vis-à-vis politics. In its advocacy efforts, Caritas calls attention to the government's duty to make buildings and structures accessible to all. This includes, for example, ramps for people in wheelchairs, easy language for people with learning difficulties, translations into sign language for deaf people – and that disabled people have equal opportunities in the labour market.

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Right from the Start: No Barriers

Caritas employees accompany and support people with disabilities. Mentally ill men and women are also looked after in the various facilities and counseling centres. Even the youngest children benefit from care and support provided by Caritas: counseling for parents, kindergarten and school assistance, accompaniment in therapy, and leisure activities.

The same applies to education; parents and children with disabilities should be able to choose from as many educational offers as possible. Caritas is working to achieve an inclusive society by promoting an adequate school system, too. In this respect, Caritas also runs inclusive schools in which children with and without disabilities go to class together. Learning together creates tolerance and solidarity within children's groups and classes. This makes all children realize that disability is only one part of human diversity.

Building on Strengths

This self-perception among the upcoming generation is in turn the prerequisite for an inclusive working world. People with disabilities should be able to use their strengths at work. Therefore, Caritas offers job coaching, vocational training, helps with career planning and organizes occupation projects, for example for deaf people or people with hearing impairments or learning difficulties. Caritas also wants to support people to live as far as possible in a self-determined way – with various offers ranging from housing counseling to assisted living and accompanied living in residential facilities.

**16,244 Daycare Places
for People with Disabilities**

**9,495 People
with Disabilities Received
Psychosocial Support**

**1,699 People
with Disabilities in
Assisted Living**

**2,419 Workshop Places
for People with Disabilities**

**593 People
with Disabilities Using
Mobile Services**

Caritas projects help people with disabilities to develop their skills.



Photo: wildbild



Photo: Caritas

When Rudi from Friesach is not busy as self-representative of all his colleagues, he pursues his favorite pastime: rug making.

Rudi – the Speaker for All Residents

Self-determination. Caritas supports people with disabilities in leading their lives as self-determined as possible. Rudolf “Rudi” Kauder has been successful in that respect. He unfolds his creativity in the sheltered workshop in Friesach/Carinthia and now also represents the concerns of the other residents in the sheltered accommodation where he lives.

Rudolf, who is called Rudi by his friends, is well known. While walking through Friesach, you can hear from all corners: “Hi, Rudi! How are you?” No wonder, the 48-year-old is very sociable and often on the move – with the Strasbourg youth group to the camp, with the Althofen pensioners to nice excursions. “I like talking to people,” says Rudi and laughs.

The outgoing man, who joined the Martin workshop in February 1992 and has been living in a sheltered community housing managed by the non-profit organization “Caritas. Team Lebensgestaltung” for six months, enjoys communication. In his new role as the so-called main self-representative of all colleagues in the four workshops, the four residential buildings

and the mentioned sheltered community housing, he has plenty of opportunities to exchange ideas and opinions with people and to stand up for others. “If you have any wishes, concerns or complaints, please get in touch with me”, is Rudi’s invitation to a friendly and cordial collaboration. From now on, he participates as the representative of his fellow residents in public meetings, such as that of the “AmmA” (working group to assist people with special needs). He also attends training courses, e.g., a computer course, organizes events like excursions, takes part in job interviews for new caretakers and tries to get his colleagues’ wishes approved by the management. Rudi is looking forward to his new assignment, complete with a black briefcase, which he has bought just for this purpose.

Well Anchored in the Community

Frequently and with pleasure, Rudi makes rugs using his skilled hands in the Martin workshop. “This is my favorite activity. I enjoy it,” says the native Friesacher. He is currently making another beautiful piece to order. Workshop manager Daniela Wutte and her team only support him when he needs help, for example, when the thread breaks. Several of “his” rugs already adorn the living rooms of many – even prominent – customers. He learned the craft years ago. “I like it. No one will take me away from it!” “I also spend a lot of time in the big garden watering the flowers, and I do the dishes in the kitchen. I am very flexible and help wherever I can”, says the active man, who very much appreciates the company of his colleagues.



People in Need



Help>Poverty

Countering Poverty in Austria

Helping people at risk of poverty in Austria is at the heart of Caritas' work. Despite the fact that Austria is one of the richest countries in the world, extreme poverty exists here as well. Caritas supports people threatened by severe poverty, including minimum pensioners, single parents, people with a migrant background or people facing eviction.

According to Statistics Austria, almost every 1.2 Austrian was at risk of poverty in 2019. That is a total of 1.2 million Austrians who fear losing their livelihood every day, who do not know how to pay their heating bills or where to sleep at night. Often it does not take much – a divorce, violence in the relationship, a job loss, a personal crisis. In those life situations, many people find support in their social environment, which helps them through the difficult times. But for many people, this is not the case, and they slide into poverty.

Poverty Isolates

Regardless of what the actual need may be – whether as mother at risk of poverty or as homeless person – the burden is tremendous. People affected by poverty lose their friends and slowly withdraw from social life. In the long run, it is hard to admit that you cannot afford to pay for a visit to a coffee house, an excursion or a movie ticket. Extra expenses for broken household appliances, money for school, kindergarten and winter clothes as well as the daily struggle to survive cause immense stress. This also concerns people who live on the street: every evening, they have to look for a corner where nobody can find them, a place where they are protected from wind and weather. At some point, they feel completely desperate, unbearably cold, and excluded from the world, which consumes their body and mind.

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Caritas as Last Refuge

Caritas tends to be the last refuge for people experiencing poverty once they need help. In 53 social counseling centers all over Austria, Caritas staff provide people with competent advice and support, without bureaucracy and without reproach. Moreover, when it is cold outside, Caritas facilities offer homeless people a place to sleep and a hot meal. Caritas also assists in finding accommodation and provides starter flats for a new beginning. Single mothers receive a helping hand if they find themselves on the street with their child/ren. Refugees are assisted as well to exercise their right to asylum or subsidiary protection or to regain a foothold after returning to their home country.

Caritas offers support through mobile family services, social-pedagogic centers, daycare and speech therapy. All of this is only possible thanks to the support of donors and our staff in the facilities, who ensure day-to-day operations.

www.caritas.at/armut



Photo: D. Gollner

Caritas social counsellors seek regular contact with people living on the streets.



Photo: S. van Halbeek

A hot meal a day is of great importance to homeless people.

Around 5,200 People
with Addictive Diseases Receive Advice and Support in
14 Addiction Counseling Centers

54 Family Counseling Centers
throughout Austria

103 Occupational Projects
Offer
1,711 Working Places
for Long-term Unemployed People

42 Institutions for the Homeless
With
2,144 Beds and Accommodations

12 Mother and Child Shelters
With Accommodations for
206 Mothers and 235 Children
Offer a Roof Over Their Heads

In 16 Facilities
People Receive Mobile Assistance
10 Facilities for Outpatient Consultations

53 Social Counseling Centers*
(open all week, on a daily basis or by telephone)

3,249 People
Received Return Counseling

*Calculation method was changed compared to last year.

New Start in Mother and Child Shelters

Homelessness. The Luise House in Vienna caters for homeless mothers and their children, giving them not only a roof over their heads, but also the chance of a new independent life.

Everywhere is something colourful – dark green ivy, red, orange and yellow building blocks, a bright green toy tractor with a blue horn. The wooden fence is decorated with colourful cardboard animals – a red butterfly and a yellow cow. It is a mild autumn morning and the courtyard of the Luise House is still quiet.

Mrs. S. is standing in the yard watering the flowers. “When the children are at school, I take care of my other darlings,” she jokes while the worries in her face disappear for a moment.

Mrs. S. and her three children, a five-year-old daughter and two teenagers, live together here in the Luise House, a mother and child shelter of Caritas in the 15th district of Vienna. Without the housing provided by the Luise House, the family would be homeless. In this home, 20 homeless mothers have found a roof over their heads. Single mothers like Mrs. S. are particularly affected by poverty in Austria. They lose their homes because they can no longer pay the rent and are evicted, or because their partners or parents kick them out. They also experience violence, just have to leave their home and suddenly find themselves on the street. When they have no more answers, Caritas is there for them to help.

Support in Times of Greatest Need

Mrs S. laughs a lot and then her eyes start shining. She smiles whenever she talks about her children or when she mentions the Easter trip she has organized.

She also recalls the past, and her eyes suddenly become glassy. At that time, when her two older children were taken away from her because she had been struggling with a mental illness until a few years ago. Later on, her condition got worse due to a difficult relationship. She was afraid of losing her children and therefore sought help voluntarily.

Initial Help for an Independent Life

Her greatest wish today is that her children get an education and find a good job. They should never end up in a situation of being dependent on their partner as she was. The support in the Luise House has stabilized her life and that of her three children. If things continue this way, she will move with her children into her own apartment outside the Luise House

Mrs. S. and her three children have found shelter in the Luise house.



and live independently. Her 28-square-meter home will then be free for another family. In the meantime, Mrs. S. is actively involved in the Luise House, as representative of the residents. As such, she has, above all, one piece of advice for mothers in need. “Everyone must be aware that accepting help is not a weakness. After all, everyone needs support at some point.”

Mother and Child Shelters

The shelters depend on donations. In these refuges, mothers in need and their children find a roof over their heads, either for one night or in an apartment for up to two years.

Now, these two children can once again play happily and romp around the yard.





Care and Nursing



Care and Nursing

Ageing with Self-Determination

We all strive to live up to our own wishes, to take care of ourselves and our families. Most people manage to accomplish this over many years. However, there comes a time – normally at old age – when help is needed. This is the time when daily care needs to be provided with the help of other people simply because it can no longer be handled alone. Caritas supports people in this phase of life.

Caritas offers qualified experts for professional and individual care and support. We visit, counsel and provide care for old and ill people. And if people are inflicted with an incurable disease, our employees in the mobile hospice take the last step in their lives' journey with them, supporting those concerned and their relatives through assistance and grief counseling in order to help them through the difficult time.

Whether at home or in a nursing home, regardless of age, origin, income or religion, the focus of Caritas' work is always on the dignity of the human being, on one's right to self-determination and quality of life.

Focus on Self-Determination

We need one thing to maintain this quality of life: those who need care should decide for themselves, if possible, which kind of support suits them best. When providing care in a nursing home, we place particular emphasis on enabling people to pursue their personal routines and to lead a certain kind of everyday life that is not dominated by nursing measures but rather gives pleasure and yet provides structure and support.

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It happens gradually or even suddenly that a person requires care or nursing. No matter how fast a situation changes, this period is certainly very emotional for the person concerned. Being unable to cope with everyday life independently is often accompanied by disappointment, anger, sadness and insecurity. At this point, it is important to assist in developing a new positive self-image. In addition to medical and nursing support, Caritas emphasizes psychological and pastoral care, for one reason: the well-being of the person(s) concerned and their relatives is of highest priority for Caritas.

Be it through the visiting service of volunteers or professional nursing staff, Caritas provides care with attention and warmth in the interest of people in need of daily care. The aim of Caritas is to ensure that residents of nursing homes as well as the people who provide care, counseling and support have a good life.

Family Caregivers as Backbone of Care

Without care-giving relatives, Austria would not be able to cope with the



required amount of care. Therefore, the work of Caritas also includes counseling, relief and support of family caregivers – because they are the backbone of care in Austria. Family carers need to have the opportunities to live their own lives, up to their own wishes and needs despite the care they give. Providing nursing care for a partner, a parent or another close person is an enormous psychological

and physical challenge. In this regard, Caritas offers, for example, support and relief in caregiving for dementia patients in the so-called dementia cafés. It also organizes holidays for family caregivers or discussion groups to share experiences, and informs about alternative care options.

➔ www.caritas.at/pflege

47 Senior Facilities and Nursing Homes
throughout Austria

4,885 People
Live in Senior Facilities and Nursing Homes

2.1 Million Working Hours
in Mobile
Care and Nursing

6,091 Staff Members
in the Area of Care and Nursing

18 Caritas Academic Locations
for Social Professions throughout Austria
with 2,107 Vocational Certificates Issued
in the 2018/19 School Year

Integration Through Training

Nursing Staff. The “Migrants Care” project aims to inspire people with non-German mother tongues to train in the field of nursing and care. A win-win situation: people with a migrant background can get involved in the labor market. At the same time, the project counteracts one of the biggest challenges of our time: the shortage of nursing staff.

At his neighbor's house, Orabi used to watch a male nurse at work, and he noticed how attentive and caring he was to the old woman. Therefore, the 25-year-old decided, “This is what I want, too.”

Orabi comes from Syria, and as part of the “Migrants Care” project, he is training to become a nursing assistant. He has been in Austria for three years. First, he worked as a service assistant in a hotel, marginally employed, then as a full-time employee. His dedication and the ease with which he learned German helped Orabi in his job and in making friends. Yet, he also wanted to contribute something valuable to society. “I like that the nursing profession is a very sensitive work. It's about being responsive to the patient,” explains Orabi.

Caritas Assists With Counseling and Selection Procedures

“Migrants Care” is a project of the National Working Group agencies – Caritas, Diakonie, Hilfswerk, Red Cross, Volkshilfe – in cooperation with the Austrian Integration Fund financed by the Federal Chancellery and the Vienna Public Employment Service. This project is intended to inspire people with a migrant background to enter the nursing profession and to prepare them for the job. Participants receive the best possible preparation with the help of a tailor-made German course including practical nursing components; and they are accompanied on their way to further nursing training. The Caritas Educational Center in Vienna is responsible for the counseling and selection process of future nursing staff. People who are interested in “Migrants care” contact the center every day. Requirements for participation include a completed B1 language level,

a successful completion of grade 9, a valid work permit and a minimum age of 21 years.

Motivation Comes First

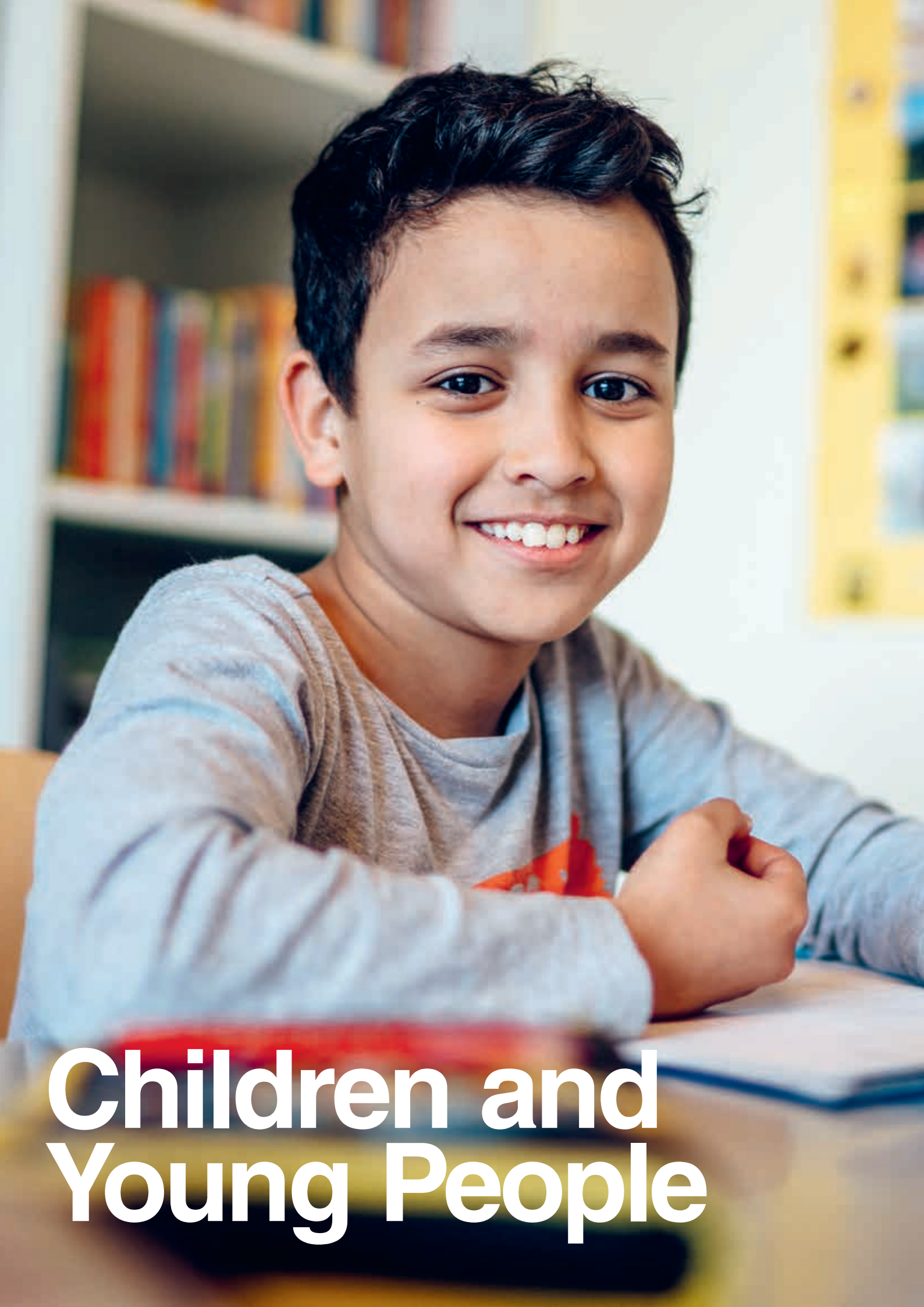
Caritas uses information days to explain the framework conditions of the project, and conducts individual interviews with all interested parties who meet the criteria. The most crucial question in this regard is the motivation behind someone's interest in the nursing profession. In 2019, three training courses were held, each with 16 participants.

Orabi will finish his training in February 2021 and then start working as a nursing assistant. He has already learned what is important in his job: “Being patient, staying calm and listening well.”

“Migrants Care” opens the door to the nursing profession for non-German native speakers.



* “Migrants Care” has won the “Mig Award” in 2020. The award honors individuals, companies and projects that work for the integration of migrants in Austria.



Children and Young People



Chances and Prospects

Better Prospects for Children and Young People

Home is where a hot meal is waiting, where someone helps with learning, where you can rely on adults. Yet, many children and young people around the world live in poverty and experience their childhood under stress, threat and without prospects. Caritas makes sure that these children are not left alone – no matter where in the world they are.

The love and support children and young people receive lay the foundation for a prosperous and joyful future. This is exactly what parents want to offer their children – security, care and a bright future. However, all over the world, children find themselves in situations that do not allow their families to achieve that. It is because their parents cannot even afford to buy food, because they live in crisis or conflict regions, because they have to escape from violence in their country or in their own home, or because they grow up with their grandparents or even on the streets since their parents work abroad. And because they have no place and no support for studying at home, even though they live in Austria. These children have to take on responsibility at an early age and have to become grown-ups – whereas first and foremost they should be one thing: children.

Caritas supports children and young people to grow up in a safe and caring environment in Austria, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and South America, with a place to play and study, hot meals, loving care and space to develop their strengths.

➤ www.caritas.at/kinder



Photo: J. Weismann

Caritas takes care that children no longer have to sleep in cold homes.

Supporting a Bright Future

Families in Need. Childhood and youth are among the most formative periods of life. Caritas works with families in Austria who lack the financial or time resources to provide their children with what they need during these important years: love and security, help with studying, emotional support.

Mothers and fathers often struggle to make ends meet; single parents often desperately need to arrange childcare alongside their 40-hour job; parents frequently have to cope with physical or mental illness – perhaps a child or parent also experiences violence within the family. Despite the fact that Austria is among the wealthiest countries in the world, 332,000 children and young people under the age of 19 are at risk of poverty.

In acute emergencies, Caritas family counseling centers throughout Austria provide assistance by offering food and clothing vouchers, rent and heating grants, emergency accommodation and help in finding or not losing a flat.

Many situations, however, also require help in the longer term. Young parents have access to parenting and nutritional

counseling; and in mother and child shelters or housing facilities for homeless parents, parents and children find a safe transitional place to stay. Parents of children with disabilities are given support in terms of care, recreational activities and even accompaniment to therapy. In addition, Caritas facilities offer physiotherapy services to families and children.

Build on Strengths

Many families are not able to finance extra tuition, nor can they help their children to study. Deficits in their German language skills or confined apartments are among the reasons behind this situation. As a result, the children concerned run the risk of not completing the school year successfully. Caritas helps through 54 “Lerncafés” (literally “learning cafés”), where, in 2019, more than 2,100 children and young people

received regular tutorial support with their homework and in preparing for tests and exams.

Among the participating children, 98 percent finished the respective school year with success. Across Austria, another 860 schoolchildren are still waiting for a place in one of the Lerncafés. Around 830 volunteers are actively involved in the project nationwide, including numerous teachers and university students.

Get Involved

Finally, there is a wide range of options for young people who want to get involved in social projects and stand up for others. Whether it is in the youth organisation youngCaritas or in the Austria-wide initiative “72h without compromising” (“72h ohne Kompromiss”), all together the young supporters work wonders, big and small.

Help in Schoolwork

Lerncafé Stories

If parents cannot afford private tutoring or children have no schoolwork area at home, they can come to one of the 54 Lerncafés located all over Austria. Both the children and the voluntary teachers enjoy learning together.



Photo: Caritas

Fatima from the Lerncafé Linz

"I used to have difficulties in writing and in free speech. I got help with my homework in the Lerncafé. We played language games, too. And I was talking and laughing a lot. Now I no longer need that help."

Zahra from the Lerncafé Feldkirch

"I thank you very much, dear Rebecca, that you always helped me with my homework, that you always had time for me. It used to be hard to do homework without you. Thanks for being there."

Hannelore, volunteer at the Lerncafé St. Pölten

"In my retirement, I was looking for an activity where I could get socially involved. I came across the Lerncafé on the Internet and got in touch straight away. I enjoy working with children a lot, and I really get a lot back from them in return."



Photo: Caritas



Photo: D. Gollner

Merce from the Lerncafé Feldkirch

"I want to keep going to the Lerncafé, because I find the Lerncafé more and more fun. I would like to become a medical specialist one day and for that, I need very good grades. And I need a lot of help for that. Plus, I always bring a lot of good cheer to the Lerncafé."

Toni, volunteer at the Lerncafé Linz

"Every time I go home, I think to myself, I couldn't have used this time any better."

814 Activities, Projects and Events
Are Organized by youngCaritas

2,633 Young People
Are Actively Involved in

actionPool,
youngCaritas'
Pool of Volunteers

3,134 Units of Educational Measures and Workshops
Are Organized by youngCaritas

54 Lerncafés
For Over
2,100 Children and Young People

830 Volunteers
Are Actively Involved in
Lerncafés

Support for Children Abroad



387

million children
live in extreme
poverty. That is
one in five children
in the world.

Security and Protection.

All children have the right to a carefree childhood. Yet, day after day, countless children around the world suffer in regions of crisis and war, have no home, insufficient food, feel cold or cannot go to school. Caritas does not leave these children alone.

Ema is seven. She lives in a house in Romania that should not be a home: a crumbling façade, leaky windows, a wooden grille as entrance door and dark rooms behind it. Nevertheless, Ema is a bright girl, full of energy and life – as if she did not suffer from cold every winter and gather wood after school, as if she did not live in 35 square meters with her four siblings and parents. All in just one room where they live, eat and sleep. Ema is one of thousands of children living in poverty to whom Caritas gives the opportunity to simply be a child. In the 70 daycare centers worldwide, children can enjoy a hot meal such as a soup or some meat with mashed potatoes after school – often the only meal of the day. Here, the children find a place to study, get help with homework and can let off steam. They play and warm up before going back to their cold homes.

Safe and Sound in Caritas Children's Centers

Caritas is committed to ensuring that children – wherever they are in the world – have prospects for which it is worthwhile to go to school. After all, every fifth child lives in poverty, and many have no chance of getting out of the poverty trap. There are also children in the European

Union who are homeless or have to grow up without parents, for example, while their parents work abroad. In Romania alone, 250,000 children grow up without one or even both parents. Mothers and fathers leave their children behind with a heavy heart because at home there is no work or the pay is too low to make a living. Then, grandparents, aunts, uncles or older siblings take care of the children. Many of them find support and safety in the Caritas daycare centers – or even feel at home. Children would be massively affected without this support. “Deficiencies in childhood have a lifelong impact,” explains Birgit Ertl, Caritas expert for foreign aid, “regardless of whether it is lack of food, affection or education.”

Education Against Poverty

Children in war and crisis regions are particularly vulnerable: they have gone through traumatizing experiences; many had to leave their home country or family. “In these situations, we as Caritas make sure that children go back to school as soon as possible. This creates a sense of normality and gives new hope for the future,” says Ertl. Moreover, education is the most effective tool for combating poverty. Anyone who graduates from school has a better chance as an adult of finding a job that provides a living. Education is often the key for entire families to break the cycle of poverty.



Photo: T. Ertl

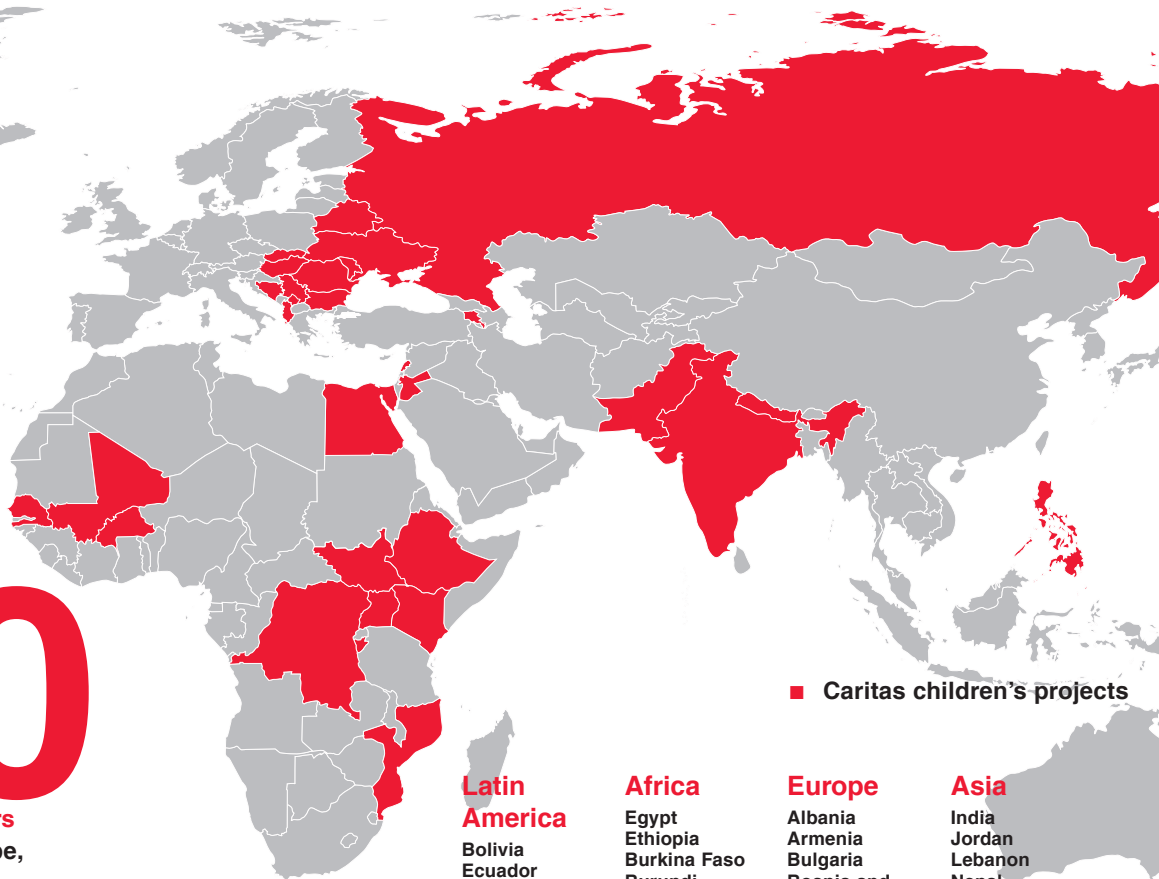
Even in the wealthiest countries in the world, every

7th

child grows up in poverty. And even in the EU every 4th child is at risk of poverty.

70

children's centers in Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa



Latin America

Bolivia
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Colombia
Peru

Africa

Egypt
Ethiopia
Burkina Faso
Burundi
DR Congo
Kenya
Mali
Mozambique
Senegal
South Sudan
Uganda

Europe

Albania
Armenia
Bulgaria
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Kosovo
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russia
Serbia
Slovakia
Ukraine
Hungary
Belarus

Asia

India
Jordan
Lebanon
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines

124 million children worldwide do not attend school

117

projects for about 90,000 children worldwide



Support for Children in Need Around the World

Children's Projects. Today, every second person living in extreme poverty is a child. Children are particularly affected by wars and natural disasters. With your help, Caritas supports 90,000 children around the globe.



Humanitarian Aid and Food Security



Disasters and Crises

Become Self-Sufficient and Food Secure

There are people who were born in a country where food is a luxury: a piece of meat, a liter of milk, a sip of water. There are people who lose everything after natural disasters or in conflicts: their home, their livelihood, their family.

And there are ways to help these people around the world. Humanitarianism knows no national borders. In Africa, Asia and South America, Caritas has therefore been working to fight hunger for many years – as, for example, with training courses on resource-saving cultivation practices and livestock farming, care for malnourished babies and infants, food distribution in schools or the construction of water wells in remote villages.

Thanks to its extensive network of partners, Caritas can help immediately on site even in the wake of disasters and conflicts – as in 2019, after the devastating cyclones in Mozambique or resumed fighting in northern Syria. Providing water, food and emergency shelter constitute the first response, while long-term support measures to restore or enhance livelihoods follow later.

➤ www.caritas.at/auslandshilfe

Ensuring Survival and Giving Hope

Foreign Assignments. Whether hurricane, earthquake or conflict, humanitarian disasters strike unexpectedly leaving behind people without protection. When we see need, we act. This is a guiding principle of Caritas. Thanks to its donors and its international network of partner organizations, Caritas stands ready to help people in need around the globe.

An earthquake registering 6.3 and 6.4 magnitude struck Albania on November 26, 2019. The epicentre was located near the city of Durrës, the second largest city in the southeastern European country, some 40 kilometres from the capital, Tirana. The numerous aftershocks measured up to 5.4 on the Richter scale. The quake claimed 51 lives and injured 2,000 people. These and similar circumstances require prompt action to be taken, as the initial period following a natural disaster or an escalating conflict is a matter of life and death. It is important that the people affected are provided with the most urgent necessities as fast as possible: clean drinking water, food or a roof over their heads. Caritas sees its responsibility to help wherever the need is greatest – whether in Ukraine, Syria, Albania or Yemen.

Swift Action is Vital

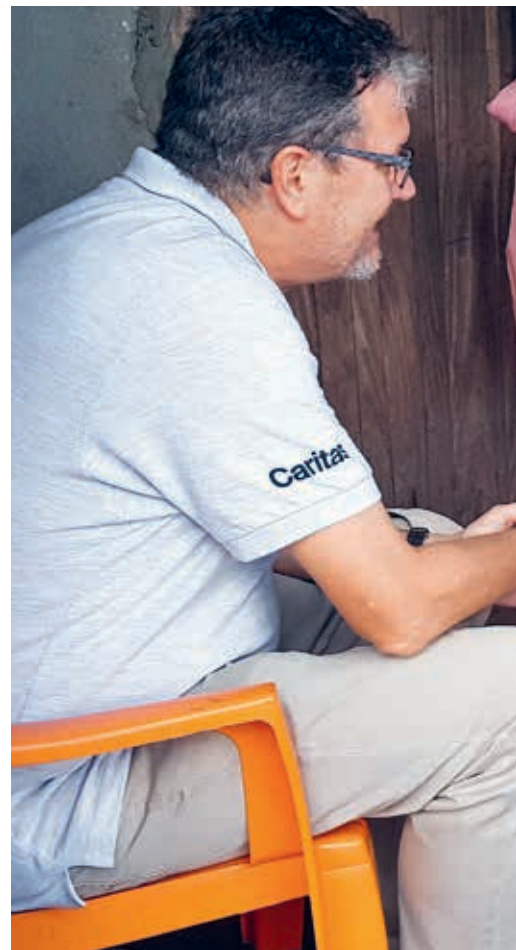
In 2019, the importance of swift action became evident again in northern Syria. Since Turkish troops invaded in October, hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced from their homes, half of them children. They took refuge with relatives within the country or in Al Hassakeh, where old school buildings or empty industrial buildings served as emergency shelters. Access to clean water was a major problem because the water supply was under attack, which resulted in enormous water shortages. Moreover, the available water was not of potable quality. Therefore, the local Caritas distributed up to three litres of drinking water per person per day. At the end of

the year, the situation in the northwestern province of Idlib in particular deteriorated dramatically.

From October to the end of December 2019, 440 families in 10 emergency shelters benefited from the assistance of Caritas. Across Syria, several tens of thousands of people have been supported with food, hygiene articles, blankets, mattresses, clothing, schooling, medicines and prostheses.

Long-Term Support Needed

Providing disaster relief is not just about taking action from one day to the next. Persistence and long-term commitment are required to counteract creeping disasters or continuing humanitarian crises. Based on their experience, Caritas aid workers on site are familiar with the needs of the local population and therefore know exactly what type of support is actually needed. After all, in addition to ensuring survival after disasters, the aim is to open up new perspectives for the future.



Caritas disaster relief worker Andreas Wenzel witnessed the impact of the storms in Mozambique at first hand.

Interview With Disaster Relief Worker Andreas Wenzel

“Without aid, many people would have starved for a year.”

In March 2019, two devastating cyclones swept over Mozambique and destroyed the center of the country. Caritas disaster relief worker Andreas Wenzel experienced the effects first hand and the support provided by Caritas on site.

What were your first thoughts when you heard about the cyclone?

Andreas Wenzel: At that time, I was living some hundred kilometres south of Beira, the very badly destroyed city in the center of Mozambique, and at first, I could not even imagine what was happening there. But when I was there and saw the incredible force of the destruction it became clear to me: this is something that Mozambique hasn't experienced for decades: 240,000 houses were destroyed and about 1.8 million people were affected by the disaster.

What are the first steps to be taken after a disaster of this kind?

Wenzel: We activated our partner network right away: the relief organisation Esmabama and the local Caritas organisations. With the support of donors, we were then able to help very quickly – both with emergency aid such as food and shelter and in the longer term, for example, with seeds and training in crop and livestock farming. The first cyclone hit right in harvest season. The people had a crop failure of 100 percent and therefore – without our support – would have had no food for a year. This is the reason why it is so important to focus on long-term disaster relief, just as Caritas Austria does. Our approach is to give sustainable help to rebuild the country and prepare it for future disasters.

How are the people of Mozambique today?

Wenzel: We managed to escape the greatest famine, and many people now have a safe home again. Of course, there is a psychological level as well. Above all, children have been traumatized by their experiences during the storm. This is where we provide psychosocial support.

What is the most valuable aspect of disaster relief for you?

Wenzel: The fact that you can make a substantial positive impact on the living conditions of people. It is very encouraging to see vegetables growing in the fields again and that people have something to harvest again.





Photo: J. Weismann

Having your own field available for cultivation often provides a livelihood for the whole family.

A Future Without Hunger

Food Security. Large parts of the global population still suffer from hunger and its consequences. Every seventh child is born underweight. The mission of Caritas is clear: a world where hunger has no chance.

It is difficult to imagine what it means when there is not enough food in a family. The desperation, the pressure to get food – and not knowing how to find it. In our Caritas nutrition projects in Africa, Asia and South America, staff members experience the effects and destinies brought about by global hunger every day. And every day, they also see that any support makes an incredible difference. In recent years, great success has been achieved in the fight against hunger: worldwide hunger has been halved since 1990. Food supplies for millions of people have been secured, millions of children have grown up without the consequences of malnutrition. In 2019, however, the UN confirmed that after years of decline, hunger is on the rise again – not to mention the future effects of climate change in countries that are already suffering from ever-worsening droughts.

Seeds, Training and Support in Livestock Farming

The population in the poorest countries of the world lives mainly on agriculture. Changes in climate have an impact on harvests and yields all over the planet. But wherever the rainy season fails, the effects are devastating.

Caritas provides survival aid there and in many other countries of the world that are acutely affected by famine and the consequences of climate change. Malnourished children receive high-quality protein-rich food – this prevents life-long health problems caused by malnutrition. Farmers who have to earn their living on around one hectare of arable land receive seeds, tools and related training as well as support in livestock farming.

One of the major buzzwords to face the climate crisis is agricultural diversity:

different crops, vegetable and fruit varieties and additional livestock farming. As a result, the risk of climate-related crop failures is reduced, and both the soil and the environment are protected. Caritas helps people to adapt to changing environmental conditions – for example, by planting trees, rehabilitating already degraded land, using water-saving irrigation methods or producing better drought-resistant seeds.

The help of Caritas is only possible through the support of Austrian donors.

DR Congo

A Tireless Helper – Feeding the Hungry

Every second child under the age of five is malnourished in Africa's second largest country. The Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco are fighting against hunger in Malweka, one of Kinshasa's poor neighborhoods. Sister Scolastique is one of them.

In the midst of crying children and oppressive heat, Sister Scolastique closes her eyes for a moment while taking a deep breath in and out. Then, she opens her eyes, straightens her back and uses her forearm to wipe beads of sweat off her forehead: "Next, please!"

Today, once again, more than 40 mothers and their small children have returned to Sister Scolastique at the nutrition center located in one of the poor quarters of Kinshasa. The mothers are watching the experienced hands of the nurse threading the thin legs of a child into a sling and then hanging the child in the sling on the scales. Then, she places the sobbing child on the examination table and carefully palpates arms and legs with both hands. She is looking for any traces of water retention – a sign of malnutrition. She speaks in a gentle voice to calm the child, then finally grabs the measuring tape with the color scale and measures the child's upper arm circumference. "We have already made it," says Scolastique and strokes the child's cheek. She knows that the child is improving, and the tape almost shows green again. "Now, we're going to have the good porridge," she says to the mother.

Caring for More Than 2,000 Children

In the DR Congo, two out of three people are malnourished, and the most affected are children, pregnant and breastfeeding women. Given this situation, helpers like Sister Scolastique provide life-saving assistance at four Caritas nutrition centers. Together with volunteers from the neighborhood, Sister Scolastique stirs a thick porridge made with maize, soya and sugar in a large pot a few minutes later. Then, she ladles the steaming meal into the plastic cups of the mothers and children. Under the shade of the trees, many of them spoon up the first meal of the day, while Sister Scolastique explains on

a poster board with colorful pictures how the mothers can feed their children in a balanced way, even with few resources.

After explaining the last poster and getting ready to look after the women with severely malnourished children who have been admitted as in-patients, Sister Scolastique laughingly says goodbye to the other mothers: "See you again in two days. You know: I'll be there."



Sister Scolastique explains to mothers how they can feed their children in a balanced way with few resources.

A thick porridge made with maize, soya and sugar feeds more than 2,000 children in this nutrition center in the Democratic Republic of Congo.





Families like that of Abbas have lost their entire livelihoods in the war.

Help and Hope When All Is Lost

Syria. After nine years of war, the people in Syria are now struggling with economic problems and massive poverty, too. The EU-funded CARMA project supports families particularly affected by this man-made crisis.

March 2020 marked the ninth year since the war broke out in Syria. A total of 11.7 million people in Syria are still dependent on humanitarian aid (for comparison: Austria as a whole has only about 8.8 million inhabitants). At the same time, bloody warfare and displacement have long since ceased to be the only threats to the security and lives of the people in Syria.

Since September 2019, the Syrian Lira (SYP) has lost dramatically in value with serious consequences for the local population. The depreciation of the national currency has made even staple foods almost unaffordable. The exchange rate

decline is another existential threat to those people who currently live in abject poverty due to the effects of a nine-year war. "It is as if all doors are closed to us. I don't know what to do," Abbas* describes his situation.

CARMA Provides Financial Relief for Families


Families like that of Abbas have lost their entire livelihoods in the war. Together with partner organizations, Caritas Austria has launched the CARMA project (Cash Assistance in Re-Emerging Markets in Syria) in order to help them. Since September 2019, more than 1,500 particularly vulnerable households in the rural areas of Damascus and Aleppo have received financial cash assistance through the project financed by ECHO (European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations). By providing this support, nearly 10,000 people are now able to cover their basic needs in a fast and efficient way. And for Abbas and his

family, it means that they no longer have to choose between food or medicine. So far, there was not enough money to afford both. The cash support allows people flexibility, dignity and self-determination, as they are best able to assess and prioritize their own needs. In addition, local markets are automatically supported in a sustainable manner. In this respect CARMA also gives hope for the future – "hope that our situation will improve with time", as Abbas says.

More information is available at:
➔ www.caritas.at/carma

*Name changed

 **Österreichische
Entwicklungszusammenarbeit**

 Subsidized by the
European Union

Mozambique

Emergency Aid With Long-Term Impact

When Cyclone Idai swept through Mozambique in mid-March 2019, it caused a devastation that the country had never seen before. With the support of the Austrian Development Cooperation and partner organizations, Caritas was able to ease the worst of the suffering – and to help build a sustainable future for the people.

Caritas Austria, with the support of the Austrian Development Cooperation, is cooperating with the two partner organizations Caritas Beira and Esmabama, both located in the Archdiocese of Beira in the disaster area. The two organizations have been operating there for decades, and they are most familiar with the situation of the local people, speak their language and share their suffering and concerns.

Caritas follows the so-called LRRD approach (Linking Relief with Rehabilitation and Development) in its support activities. The aim is to link immediate emergency aid with rehabilitation and development measures. During the four months of emergency aid, food was distributed to 1,528 families consisting of four monthly rations each of 50 kg of maize flour, 25 kg of rice, 12.5 kg of beans, 5 liters of oil, 5 kg of sugar and 1 kg of salt. The partially overlapping agricultural rehabilitation assistance included the provision and distribution of seeds (corn, beans and vegetables) and agricultural equipment (hoes, shovels, watering cans and machetes) to the same 1,528 families. In addition, household kits were distributed to them as well.

Long-Term Relief Operations

Supporting measures were taken to assist people with disabilities in particular and to highlight the important role of women in the rehabilitation and development process.

Since Mozambique is a country that is increasingly affected by climate change, the project also constructs solid granaries, which will protect the food supplies of the families. Even before it starts, sustainable

disaster relief has to take the situation following the phasing out of all assistance measures into account. This implies that all measures are reviewed for their sustainability impact and that they bring about lasting changes in society, especially with regard to the role of women.

After the cyclone, Caritas was able to provide 1,528 families with food.



Photo: Caritas

1,961,500 Euros

of support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) went to Albania, Armenia, Ethiopia, Bosnia, Burkina Faso, Dr Congo, Kenya, Austria, Pakistan and Ukraine in 2019.

4,568,000 Euros

of EU support went to projects in India, Armenia, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, DR Congo, Lebanon, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Philippines in 2019. Transnational EU-funded projects have been implemented with partners from Europe and Asia.

Provincial Governments

from Carinthia, Upper Austria, Styria, Tyrol, Vorarlberg und Vienna are supporting Caritas foreign aid.

Expenditures of Caritas Austria 2019

	in Million Euros
Support, care and hospice	306.91
Stationary facilities (elderly living and care houses, hospices, daycare centers), mobile services (home and care services), terminal care, mobile hospice teams, consultation, support and psychological accompaniment, projects (spare time options for seniors, family member support)	
Work with disabled persons	207.10
Stationary support (housing groups, daycare centers, curative educational workshops), mobile assistance (support, work assistance, integration support), consultation, support and psychological accompaniment, projects (spare time options for disabled persons)	
People in need	119.77
Homes and daycare centers (mother-child homes, hostels for the homeless, support centers), starter-flats, special projects, training (schools for social professions), consultation, support and psychological accompaniment	
Asylum, migration and integration	110.52
Homes, starter-flats, mobile emergency accommodation, consultation, regional support, basic care, projects (return assistance among other things)	
Occupation projects and auxiliary enterprises	64.61
Occupational projects for long-term unemployed persons and addicts, consultation, support and psychological accompaniment (carrier help, work training), projects	
Education	47,05
Social-pedagogic centers, kindergartens, daycare, speech therapy, consultation, support and psychological accompaniment, projects (spare time offers for children and young people)	
Foreign aid	36,86
Disaster relief, rehabilitation support (reconstruction), long-term development cooperation	
Foreign aid – provision for projects 2020	6.40
Total of all areas of service	899.22

Caritas in Figures

76 Million Euros

total donations

76 million euros were donated in 2019 to support people in need at home and abroad. Among these donations 960,400 euros came from the "Nachbar in Not/Neighbor in Need" campaign, 520,400 euros came from "Licht ins Dunkel/Light into Darkness" campaign and 256,500 euros from the "Wundertüte/Magic Bags" campaign.

More than 2.1 Million Hours

in mobile care

In 2019 Caritas provided much needed support and care at home totaling more than 2.1 million work hours.

54

Institutions for the Homeless

These include 12 mother-child houses containing 447 accommodations. 2,144 beds are available in the 42 homeless facilities. 450 "starter homes" help people to make a new beginning.

434

Caritas foreign aid projects

The range of the 434 Caritas foreign aid projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the poorest countries of Europe is wide and covers areas such as emergency help for long-term livelihood protection.

16,346

salaried Caritas employees

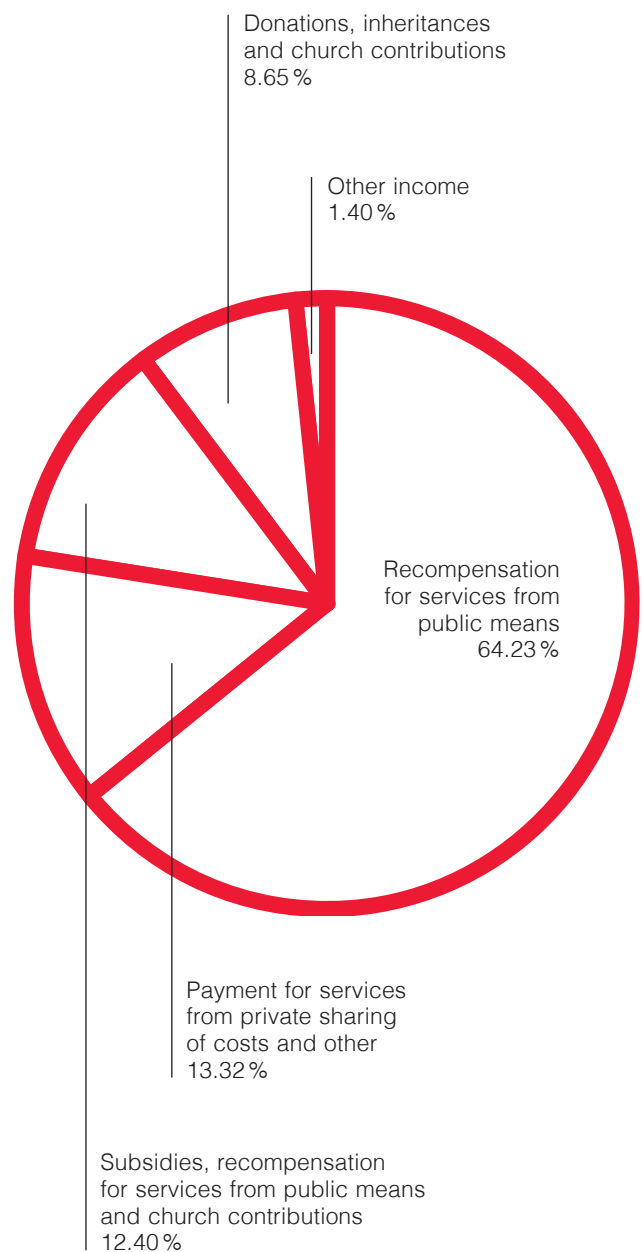
16,346 salaried Caritas employees are ready day by day to help elderly, ill, disabled, disadvantaged and/or suffering people.

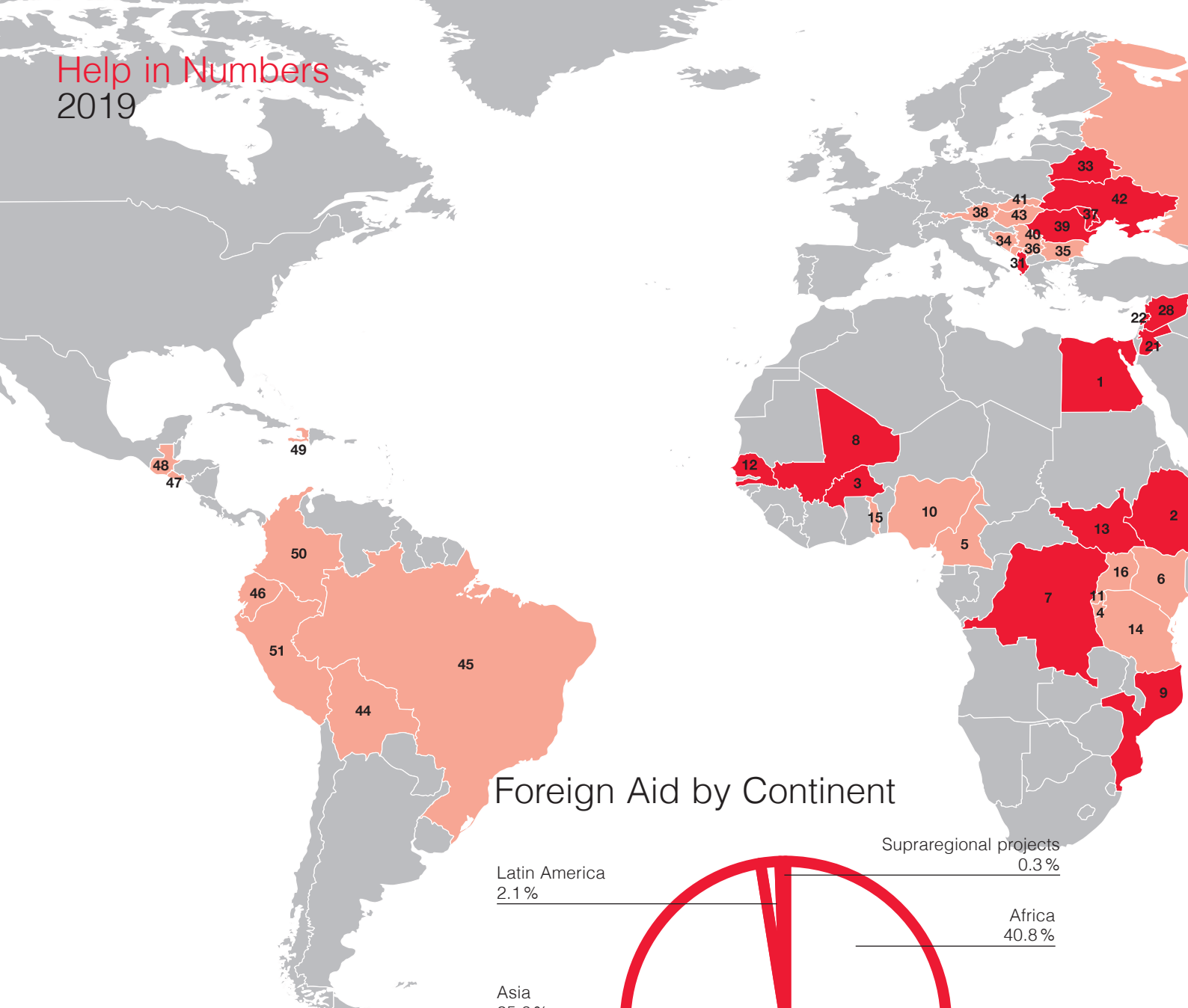
2,633

young people

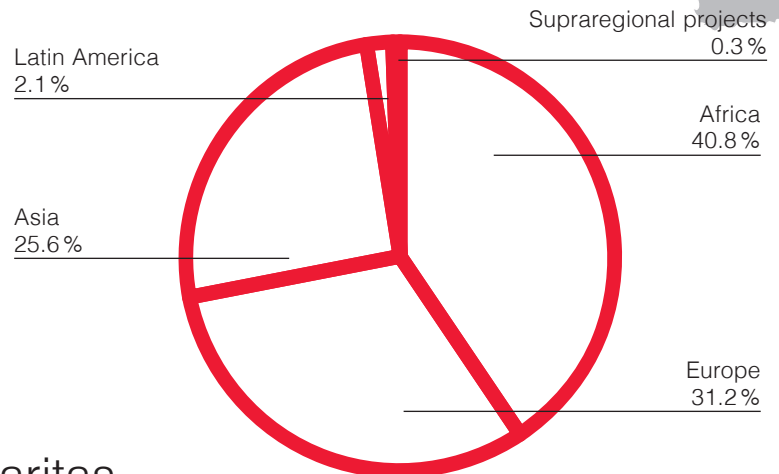
took part in action pool, which is the volunteer pool by youngCaritas.

Overall Financing 2019

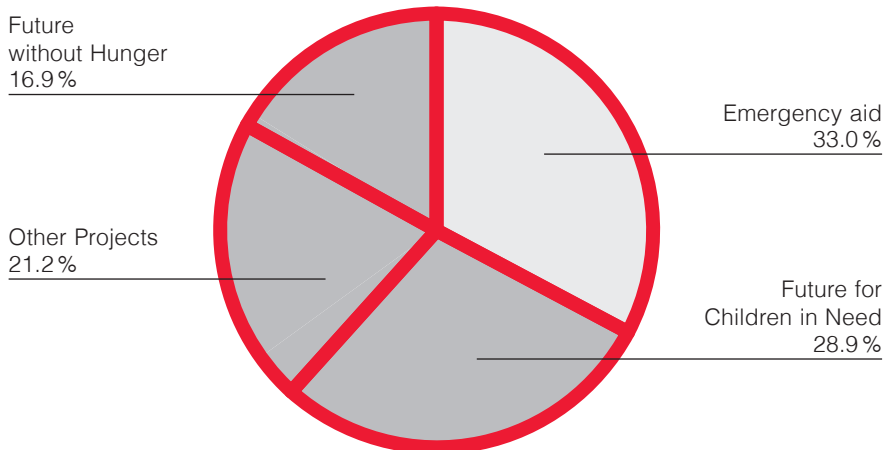




Foreign Aid by Continent

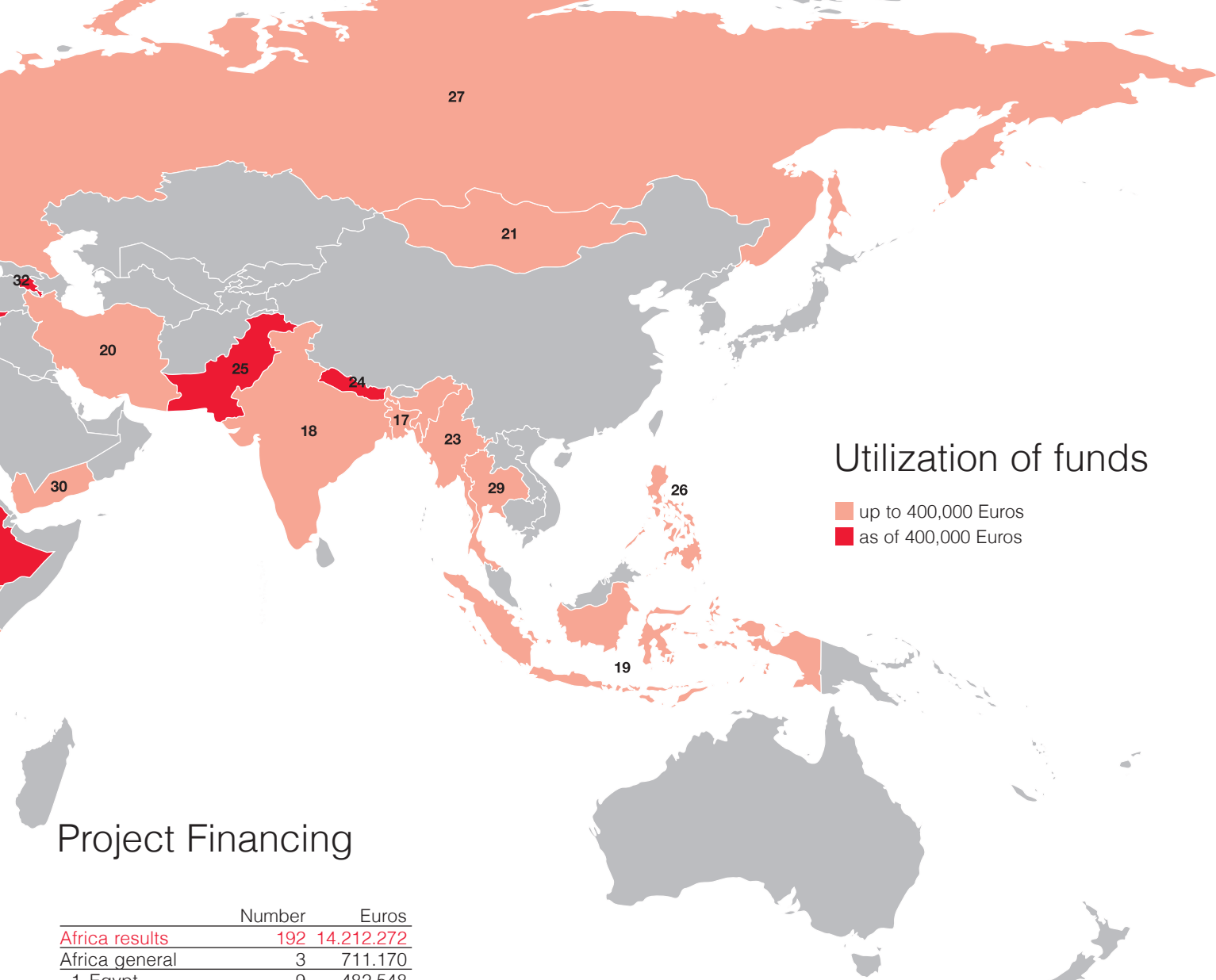


Allocation of Funds from Caritas
Foreign Aid by Program



Foreign Aid by Sector

- Long-term cooperation 67.0%
- Emergency aid 33.0%



Utilization of funds

- up to 400,000 Euros
- as of 400,000 Euros

Project Financing

	Number	Euros
Africa results	192	14.212.272
Africa general	3	711.170
1 Egypt	9	482.548
2 Ethiopia	30	4.807.322
3 Burkina Faso	10	494.887
4 Burundi	11	367.285
5 Cameroon	1	11.188
6 Kenya	10	273.390
7 Dem. Rep. of the Congo	39	1.603.356
8 Mali	8	403.658
9 Mozambique	11	2.162.824
10 Nigeria	1	4.761
11 Ruanda	2	96.817
12 Senegal	16	748.499
13 South Sudan	30	1.803.963
14 Tanzania	2	14.231
15 Togo	1	17.853
16 Uganda	8	208.520
Asia results	64	8.896.709
Asia general	4	959.454
17 Bangladesh	1	23.879
18 India	4	275.999
19 Indonesia	6	333.779
20 Iran	1	23.804
21 Jordan	4	3.223.393
22 Lebanon	10	805.594
23 Myanmar	1	53.076
24 Nepal	4	432.773
25 Pakistan	10	549.811
26 Philippines	6	306.219
27 Russia	2	57.341
28 Syria	8	1.738.498
29 Thailand	2	53.578
30 Yemen	1	59.511

Europe results	153	10.862.990
Europe general	11	4.266.422
31 Albania	9	502.580
32 Armenia	12	1.055.608
33 Belarus	17	614.014
34 Bosnia-Herzegovina	12	341.596
35 Bulgaria	8	146.692
36 Kosovo	2	30.430
37 Moldova	12	808.201
38 Austria	3	164.905
39 Romania	23	480.020
40 Serbia	10	160.154
41 Slovakia	2	29.495
42 Ukraine	30	2.229.547
43 Hungary	2	33.326

Latin America results	15	721.022
44 Bolivia	1	12.616
45 Brazil	1	7.141
46 Ecuador	6	271.576
47 El Salvador	1	8.374
48 Guatemala	2	9.573
49 Haiti	2	377.112
50 Colombia	1	10.754
51 Peru	1	23.876
Supraregional projects and international commitment	3	109.299
TOTAL	427	34.802.292

Source of Funds and their Utilization

Financial Report according to the guidelines of the Spendengütesiegel

in Million Euros

A	Origin and Use of Funds		901.12
I	Donations and church contributions		76.07
	a) Non-dedicated donations		7.18
	b) Dedicated donations and sponsoring		53.17
	Among these are:		
	Dedicated current donation proceeds, church collection, standing orders, sponsorships	43.79	
	Major disasters (over 1 million)	2.81	
	“Licht ins Dunkel/Light into Darkness”	0.52	
	“Nachbar in Not/Neighbor in Need”	0.96	
	Other Income: e.g. sponsoring	5.09	
	c) Inheritances		3.07
	d) Gifts in kind		12.65
II	Reimbursement for services		682.38
	a) from public funds		565.20
	b) from private contributions and other		117.18
III	Subsidies and grants of public institutions and church contributions		109.13
IV	Other income		12.37
	of which earnings from capital assets amount to		1.90
V	Use of donations from previous years		16.60
VI	Dissolution of reserves		4.57
B	Utilization of Funds		901.12
I	Expenditures for objectives as defined in the statutes		819.01
	Of this, donations used for:		
	domestic aid and international programs	57.24	
II	Expenditures for donation procurement and donor service		7.52
III	Expenditures for administration and infrastructure (without donations)		40.45
IV	Other expenditures		13.47
V	Provision formed for domestic and foreign projects		16.35
VI	Reserve allocation		4.32



Photo: Ch. Redtenbacher

We
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I

A1 Telekom | 1a Installateure | Aira | Almdudler
 Baby Walz | Bank Austria | BAWAG P.S.K. | Berndorf
 BILLA | BIPA | Bosch | Bundesbeschaffung
 Bundesimmobiliengesellschaft m.b.H | C&A Foundation
 Coca-Cola Austria | Conrad | Deichmann | dennree Naturkost
 DM | Ergo Versicherung | Erste Bank und Sparkassen
 Erste Group Bank | Fidel Götz Stiftung | Fussl
 Gärtnerei Nussbaumer | Gedeon Richter Austria
 Generali | GEWISTA | good mobile | H. Stepic CEE Charity
 Hartlauer | Hoerbiger | Hofer | Hutchison Drei Austria
 IKEA | impactory | JÖ Bonus Club | Kellner & Kunz
 Kotanyi | KRONEN Zeitung | Lidl | Österreichische Lotterien
 Manner | Mondi | ÖBB Holding | Oberbank | Ögussa
 OMV | Pagro | POSMarketing | Post | Pro Sieben Sat 1 Puls 4
 Procter & Gamble Austria | Raiffeisen | Red Bull | REWE
 Rexel Austria | S IMMO | Schelhammer & Schattera | SPAR
 The Coca-Cola Foundation | TIMBER – EXPORT e.U.
 VERBUND | WKO | Wr. Städtische Versicherung
 Wr. Städtische Versicherungsverein | Western Union Foundation
 XXXLutz | ZGONC

Thank you

To be able to help in emergency situations, to take people by the hand in their most dire circumstances, to build better prospects for the long-term and to be able to give hope – all of this we can do with the help of our numerous, reliable cooperation partners. For this we would like to sincerely thank all of you.

Many heartfelt thanks for this often yearlong and indispensable support. We look forward to continuing to work with you!



Domestic Aid 2019

2.5 Million Euros for People in Need in Austria

A total of 1.24 million people are affected by poverty or are at risk of poverty in Austria – that is one in seven. They cannot afford nutritious food, warm housing or new clothes. As Caritas, we are often the last refuge for homeless people and people hit by poverty, when they can no longer manage on their own. They know that at Caritas they will find support in their daily struggle for a good life – for example in counseling centers, mother and child shelters or emergency shelters. All this assistance is only made possible thanks to the support of our donors, which ensures smooth operation of our facilities, and thanks to the support of our long-standing sponsors, Erste Bank and Sparkassen.



Food Aid 2019

2.6 Million Euros against Hunger

One in ten people go to bed with an empty stomach in a world that has enough food for everyone. Every day, millions of women and men struggle to provide their children with a nutritious meal. Caritas delivers emergency aid in the worst affected countries worldwide through donations from its Survival Aid campaign. Thanks to the support of Austrian donors, relief workers distributed food, drinking water and medicines, and small-holders were supported with seeds and small domestic animals.



Children's Campaign 2019

1.1 Million Euros for Children in Need

The future of every child is built on protection, security, education and love. Nevertheless, every fifth child worldwide lives in a crisis situation. They flee from violence and war, live in extreme poverty or grow up on the streets as orphans. Thanks to numerous donors, Caritas was able to provide hot food, shelter and education to children hit by poverty in 2019. Erste Bank and Sparkassen as well as the main shareholder of the Vienna Insurance Group, Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein, have supported the Caritas children's campaign for years to draw attention to the plight of children.



Umbrella Campaign 2019

United in Action

In times of uncertainty, solidarity and social cohesion become cornerstones of a society. Regardless of gender, religion or origin, Caritas believes in and is committed to charity and human dignity. There are 50,000 volunteers working for Caritas. They help people in need at 1,600 locations throughout Austria, from the provinces of Vorarlberg to Burgenland. Through its umbrella campaign 2019 "United in Action", Caritas intended to raise awareness about the great things we can achieve together. Erste Bank and Sparkassen have supported Caritas in this endeavor.



Care 2019

It Is Still My Life

Every day, 5,954 Caritas employees make an incredibly valuable contribution to the care and nursing of people living in Austria. Currently, more than 4,200 people receive care in Caritas' 47 senior residences and nursing homes. As part of the care campaign, Caritas has dedicated itself to the nursing staff. For many years, it has been supported in this effort by WIENER STÄDTISCHE Versicherung AG.

About Us

Core Mission. Caritas consists of nine independent dioceses from the nine Austrian provinces sharing one common goal: to alleviate need and foster charity.

Our Core Mission

“When we see need, we act.” This is the core mission of Caritas. Inherent in this is to stand up for people who have no voice. Another fundamental aspect is to respect and protect human life from the beginning to the end and to help people in distress, regardless of their origins, their religion or their gender.

Our Structure

In Austria, there are nine Caritas organizations independent of each other, each attached to the nine Austrian dioceses. The appointment of the directors is the responsibility of the respective bishop. Through its federalist structure, Caritas is close to the population and can address regional needs more effectively.

An umbrella organization, the “Austrian Caritas Headquarters” (Österreichische Caritaszentrale/ÖCZ), covers national and international topics that span the dioceses. Its supreme body is the Caritas Directors Conference, in which all the dioceses are represented. Besides setting the contextual focus, their tasks also comprise appointing the secretary generals and a president. The figures presented in the Annual Report are an overall view of the impact of these ten units. As the independent organizations and the umbrella organization are legally and organizationally separated from one another, a true consolidated report is not presented.

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