

## Introduction to Caritas

November 2019

As the second largest global humanitarian network (following International Red Cross), Caritas Internationalis is a Confederation of 167 national Caritas organisations, working in more than 200 countries and territories across the globe, coordinated by Caritas Internationalis and seven regional structures. The autonomy of each national Caritas member is enshrined in the Confederation Statutes and Rules, with CI Internal Rules Chapter 1 stating: *“Member Organizations must meet minimum standards of governance, organizational infrastructure, financial viability and accountability and compliance with ethical codes of conduct. They remain autonomous in their juridical, financial and contractual status.”*

Of the 49 Caritas Europa members, across 46 European countries, 10 are FPA holders with ECHO – Caritas Austria, CAFOD (Caritas England and Wales), Caritas Belgium, Caritas Czech Republic, Caritas Germany, Caritas Luxembourg, Caritas Spain, CORDAID (Caritas Netherlands), Secours Catholique (Caritas France) and Trócaire (Caritas Ireland).

### PROGRAMMING

Caritas ECHO FPA holders have supported humanitarian programming in 84 countries since 2014. In order to ensure programmatic and administrative quality, Caritas has developed internal management standards that members adhere to, alongside international standards, to ensure quality control and allow efficient and effective response, always responding to the principles of partnership, solidarity and subsidiarity on which the Confederation is grounded. Caritas adheres to Sphere standards and promotes humanitarian principles.

Caritas ECHO FPA holders, either through country offices or via local structures, provide ongoing, non-grant specific support to both sister Caritas agencies, as well as to other secular or church local partners across the globe, in order to allow increased levels of financial and operational management, monitoring evaluation and learning, improved safeguarding and accountability to beneficiaries as well as direct trainings on capacity building to respond in the event of a crisis.

While Caritas ECHO FPA holders support implementation across a range of sectors, depending on their own and local partners' strengths, members have strong areas of technical expertise (notably WASH, protection, accountability, shelter, cash) that can be deployed upon request of the impacted independent local partner and under the coordination and accompaniment of the Confederation. Sharing learning and advocacy actions is key to keep cost efficiency and a results-oriented global network. Sectoral working groups engage in coordination, produce best practices and consequently give advice and elaborate in country trainings according to the needs. Ultimately, they have a surge support function to be used in the event of an emergency, to support the national local Caritas in establish high quality and tailored programmes.

This model of programming include several strengths:

- Access to established grassroots NGOs across 165 countries;
- Ability to access real time information in the event of a crisis;
- Ability to conduct pre-crisis prepositioning and training;
- Year round, non-grant specific support to local NGOs;
- Systemic and programmatic support to local NGOs;
- Sustainability of programmes, due to local NGOs continued presence;
- Surge support capacity of sectoral experts;
- Resource and expertise sharing between members, via face to face and an online forum;

- Ability to mobilise funding through internal mechanism of Emergency Appeals.

## FUNDING

Caritas ECHO FPA holders had €651,454,328 income throughout the duration of the current FPA, with 5% of this (€40,984,775) received through ECHO grants. Caritas members also have a strong bilateral relationship with national governments, in some cases their partnership with DG ECHO plays an important role on that. The diversity of Caritas' funding sources, including the high level of private donations received through church network, and the wide geographic reach of Caritas members allow the confederation to provide well-developed risk reduction, emergency response and longer-term recovery programming. Caritas internal Emergency Appeals' mechanism, enables national members to request funding and support in response both to rapid onset and to protracted crises, in a comprehensive and coordinated way.

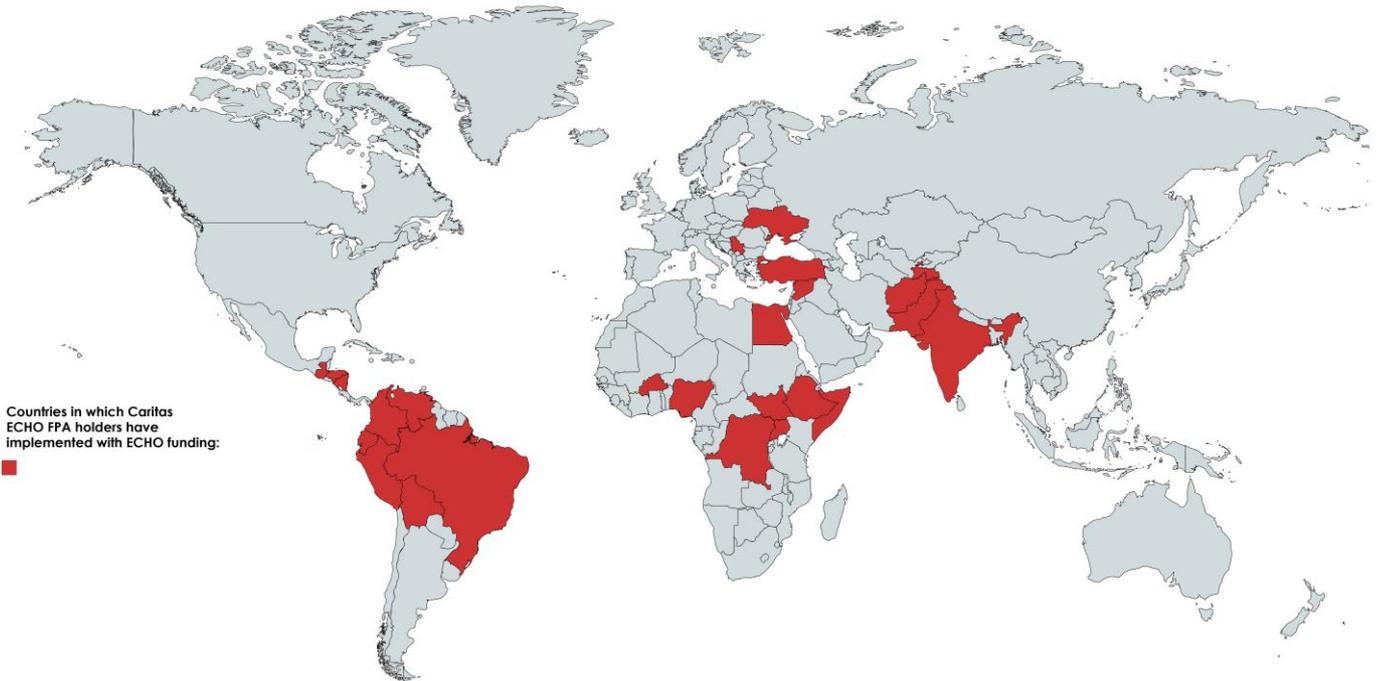
## PARTNERSHIP

The size and structure of the confederation means that CE ECHO FPA holders have a strong and consistent relationship with national organisations across the Global South. Caritas organizations live the principle of partnership, solidarity and subsidiarity in a consistent way, for this reason, as a confederation, we developed a research and a position paper on the Grand Bargain workstream on localization, which we consider among our main priorities. Overall, of the funding received by Caritas FPA holders from 2014 to 2018, 64% (€419,492,403) has been on-granted to local Caritas members and to a mix of both secular and church local partners.

This allows the confederation access to immediate grassroots information in the event of a crisis, and response to emergency through well-established national organisations. Caritas ECHO FPA holders provide comprehensive capacity building on management and technical standards, accompaniment and advocacy alongside funding to implementing organisations. Caritas ECHO FPA holders also provide training and systems for implementing safeguarding measures and child protection.



Countries in which Caritas ECHO FPA holders have implemented with all funding (2014-present)



Countries in which Caritas ECHO FPA holders have implemented with ECHO funding (2014-present)