



Caritas
MONA

ACTIVITY REPORT
2022

WHO ARE WE?

Caritas M.O.N.A is the Regional Secretariat for the “Middle East and North Africa”.

The MONA region is one of the 7 Regions of the Caritas Internationalis (CI) Confederation. It is subdivided into three zones - the Middle East, North-Africa, and the Horn of Africa - and covers more than 9.5 million km², 15 countries, and a population of nearly 390 million inhabitants.

The MONA region is rich in cultural, linguistic, ethnic, and religious diversity which characterize it, at the crossroads of the East and the West. Subject to multiple external and internal power struggles, the Region faces strong geopolitical tensions, which generate persistent economic crises, large refugee movements and major armed conflicts, in addition to the impacts of climate change and water scarcity.

Fifteen Member Organizations (MOs) of the Caritas network are involved, mandated by their respective episcopal conferences, in contexts involving significant challenges with respect to emergencies, social inequalities, minorities, and the sectarian fragmentation of societies, in often vulnerable and unstable nations.

STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS 2020 - 2023

CARITAS is at the heart of the Church

CARITAS promotes Emergency Response, Integral Human Development, Peace and Reconciliation in the communities

CARITAS promotes the involvement of Youth and Women in the life of communities

CARITAS builds global solidarity

CARITAS is a professional network

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THE MENA REGION IN 2022

Since the beginning of the “Arab Spring” in January 2011, followed by regional crises, wars, socio-economic collapses, COVID pandemic, and political unrest, the situation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region remains uncertain and fragile. The opportunity for political reform in the MENA region is possible but still hard to reach and the situation remains complex on many levels:

The political situation. The region is still facing number of challenges and conflicts persist in many countries (i.e. Syria, Libya, Somalia, Yemen, OPT...). Most of the countries in the region suffer from socio-economic turmoil leading to multidimensional poverty (Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Somalia, Tunisia...). Corruption and poor governance are also major problems that hinder the region’s socio-economic development and growth.

The socio-economic situation. It is linked to the political situation. As a result, most of the national economies are struggling, with very high inflation rates and skyrocketing prices of basic goods and commodities as in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, and other countries as well. The role of international and regional powers is affecting relations between the countries of the region and pushing some to engage in proxy wars, not to mention the impact on all the sectors. The global rise in food and fuel prices is increasing fiscal pressures, at a time when countries are facing tightening global financial conditions and extreme instability.

The war in Eastern Europe. The impact of this war on the MENA region has been particularly significant. Many countries depend on imports of wheat and edible oil imported from Ukraine and Russia, in addition to some other products. Consequences are severe, with the poorest households most at risk from rising food prices and a potential decrease of humanitarian aid. On Humanitarian level, number of international

funds are being redirected from the MENA region to Eastern Europe, with very negative consequences on development and humanitarian projects.

CARITAS MONA MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (MOS) AND THE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT (RS)

During the year 2022, the MOs and the Regional Secretariat tried their best to pursue their mission and mandate to serve the poor and promote charity and justice.

Despite all the challenges and the hostile environment in the region and the world, the MOs have continued to serve those in need.

Caritas Iran is surviving despite the complexity of its local context and the impact of the Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM).

Caritas Iraq is growing and expanding its services to assist the increasing number of IDPs, returnees and people mainly affected by the latest war and the consequences of ISIS invasion.

Caritas Syria continues to cope with the critical security situation in the country and the major economic crises by providing emergency response and trying to create innovative solutions to deal with the consequences of sanctions on money transfers and donor fatigue.

Caritas Lebanon, like the entire Lebanese population is severely affected by the economic collapse of the country, the hyperinflation and all the political troubles, yet it maintains its known programs and continues to assist the new poor, knowing that more than 80% of the population lives today under the poverty line.

Caritas Cyprus is mobilizing as usual all its resources to provide essential services for the increasing number of migrants and refugees arriving on the Island.

Caritas Jordan, like all the other sister organizations in the region, is affected by the decrease in funds, mainly due to the war in Eastern Europe, but it is looking for alternative solutions.

Caritas Jerusalem continues to strengthen its capacity and develop new program to meet the growing needs, especially in Gaza where the population is still suffering great injustice.

Caritas Egypt is improving its management and organizational structure and is developing various new partnerships that include the public sector to maintain the essential services.

Caritas Djibouti is still dedicated to saving the lives of many women and children, whether threatened by the poverty or other risks, especially migrants and refugees trying to cross the Red Sea from Africa to Arabian Peninsula.

Caritas Somalia still operates from Djibouti through local partners inside Somalia and does its best to alleviate suffering and misery.

Caritas Libya strives to help some migrants with the limited means and possibilities available.

Caritas Tunisia is devoted to serve all those in need, especially migrants, with a young and dedicated team.

Caritas Algeria unfortunately had to close its doors this year at the request of the local authorities. However, the Catholic Church of Algeria continues its fraternal service of charity by assisting all those who seek it.

Caritas Morocco is in a transitional phase focused on the development of a new strategy to ensure church ownership and the best possible services to those in need.

Caritas Mauritania remains faithful to its mission and is assessing potential new partnerships while enhancing the quality of the existing ones.

The RS is committed to serving the MOs through improved coordination at the regional level, among themselves and with other sister organizations, and with Caritas Internationalis at the Confederation level. In light of the changing global context and tensions, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the MOs, organized two sub-regional meetings to discuss the impact of the war in Eastern Europe on the MENA region and ways to mitigate its effects; follow up is ongoing at this level.

During this year, Fraternal Cooperation was also one of the main priorities; it was addressed at the regional level during many events and a delegation from the region participated in the “partnership and fraternal cooperation” conference organized in Rome.

Advocacy is also a key element. In collaboration with CI, two main issues were addressed by the RS: Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) and Integral ecology.

Capacity strengthening and accompaniment remain the major components of the RS work plan dedicated to supporting MOs in their CI Management Standard (CIMS) assessment and especially in the implementation of their improvement plans.



**AT THE HEART
OF THE
CHURCH**



REGIONAL CAPACITY STRENGTHENING PROJECT ON INTERRELIGIOUS & ECUMENICAL COLLABORATION AND PEACEBUILDING

TRAINING OF FACILITATORS AND CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST PHASE

The first phase of the Regional Capacity Strengthening Project (CSP) on ecumenical and interreligious collaboration, including peacebuilding, was completed in June 2022.

Since its launch in 2020, this project has succeeded in creating a new dynamic within and among the participating 10 Member Organizations, in connection with the main areas addressed, and in creating core groups of people in these national Caritas who are interested, aware and able to start developing the implementation of these topics in their own context.

During the year 2022, from the 28th of March to the 1st of April, Caritas MONA welcomed in Beirut 21 colleagues from all over the Region to participate in a Training of Facilitators (ToF) workshop. Most of the participants had followed the online series of webinars organized by Caritas the year before and were actively involved in developing and implementing the local initiatives requested from each Caritas afterwards.

The ToF had 2 main sections: morning sessions were dedicated to analytical reflection, to deepen understanding of the project's themes in connection with the identity and mission of Caritas and the diversity of its staff and beneficiaries; afternoons were dedicated to strengthening the facilitation and group management capacities of the trainees. Live broadcasting was also provided to those who could not attend in person.

The interaction was interesting and profound, enriched by the experience of each participant and the diversity of religions, cultures, ages, and backgrounds. The discussions allowed everyone to perceive

the beauty and challenges of diversity and to reflect on common values and shared goals that can help each MO to broaden its collaborations while remaining focused on the specific role of Caritas, that of serving, out of love, every person in need, in every dimension of their lives.

This project constituted an opportunity as well for Caritas MONA and for national MOs to consolidate existing relations or build new ones with experts and institutions through their contribution to the online and in person training session, and to the local initiatives.

To celebrate and promote these initiatives, Caritas MONA prepared short videos, one for each country in addition to a short video summarizing the whole project. These can be found on Caritas MONA's Facebook and Twitter pages.

An evaluation of the first phase of the project was also carried out during the year 2022 by an independent expert.

Caritas MONA hopes to be able to continue this project in the coming years; the resumption will probably be in 2024 rather than 2023 for funding reasons.

Meanwhile, two assessment and brainstorming meetings were held, one with the MOs' directors in the region and the other with the core group of facilitators who had been trained in the 1st phase; all confirmed their interest and support for the continuation of the project and provided ideas and recommendations that will be considered in the elaboration of the 2nd phase. New MOs may also join the project.

In 2023, meetings will continue with this already constituted core, in the form of a Community of Practice where ideas can be exchanged, knowledge consolidated, and experiences shared.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SYNODAL PROCESS

Caritas MONA sought to take part in the synodal experience proposed by Pope Francis in preparation for the synod on synodality by participating in the consultation phase. To hear the voices of the whole region, the idea was to organize at least one meeting, even online, and to take the time to listen to each other.

Ten people from 6 countries were able to make time for a meeting that highlighted the unity of our common mission in a diversity of personal and organizational circumstances.

Prior to the meeting, the Regional Secretariat had sent participants a video presentation of the Synod and preparatory questions. The meeting began with an introduction to the Synod, its objectives and process, as well as its importance for the Church and for Caritas. Then, practical indications were given, and, after a moment of introspection, the conversation began and unfolded around 4 main axes: listening, speaking, sharing authority and decision making, and prayer.

At the end, each participant had the opportunity to express their dream for their organization and how they think the Lord is inviting them to grow in this "walking together".

MEETINGS AND DIALOGUES WITH CHURCH LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Regional Coordinator attended as usual the ROACO (Reunion of Aid Agencies for the Oriental Churches) virtual coordination calls and to the in-person meeting that was held in Rome from the 20th to the 23rd of June 2022. This year, the focus was on the situation in the Holy Land, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Syria and Ukraine. Discussions mainly tackled the situation of Christians in those countries, who are facing wars, socio-

economic collapse, and political unrest. It was an opportunity as well to discuss the support and contributions that ROACO agencies can provide to churches in those countries. Besides the formal sessions, it was an opportunity to facilitate some meetings between a delegation from the Church in Algeria and some ROACO agencies to assess possible future collaboration and support to projects in this country.

From March 15 to 17, 2022, Caritas MONA participated also in a three-day conference under the theme "Church, home of charity - Synodality and Coordination" organized at the initiative of the Council of Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops of Syria, in coordination with the Apostolic Nuncio. The conference brought together more than 250 participants to assess the social and humanitarian action of the Church, its partners and affiliated organizations and reflect, as a Church, on how to provide a human and social response adapted to the growing needs of the Syrian population. At the international level, UN agencies were represented, as well as the ROACO, the Pontifical Missionary Societies, Caritas MONA MOs and sister organizations involved in the Region.

Dialogue and coordination with the bishops and local church conferences in the Middle East, North Africa and the Arab Gulf is ongoing as opportunities and needs arise.

Within CI, Caritas MONA is also represented in the Catholic Identity Committee, taking part in its work, and sharing its objectives. A Regional Catholic Identity Committee has started in 2022, and once officially constituted, its aim will be to explore the identity and mission of Caritas in the context of the MONA Region and to propose appropriate training for MOs.

**EMERGENCY
RESPONSE
INTEGRAL HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT
PEACE &
RECONCILIATION**



COORDINATION FOR EMERGENCIES AND DEVELOPMENT

JOINT PARTNERS' MEETINGS FOR THE THREE MONA ZONES

In 2022, with the emergence of new global crises and wars impacting all the countries of the region, and especially those of the same zone, Caritas MONA proposed to its Member Organizations (MOs) that joint partners' meetings be organized this year by zone rather than by country, for greater efficiency and coordination. Thus, the first joint meeting or forum was held in Amman (Jordan), from the 12th to the 14th of July 2022, for the Middle East (ME) MOs and partners from the Caritas Network. The second forum was held in Tunis (Tunisia), on the 6th and 7th December 2022, for the North Africa (NA) and Horn of Africa (HA) Zones.

In both meetings, time was given to reflection and analysis of the geopolitical, economic, and social context, before focusing on Caritas itself. Discussions mainly revolved around the persistent socio-political and economic crises affecting the populations of the Region, and the impact of the war in Eastern Europe on the ME, NA, and HA countries. Particular attention was then brought to humanitarian issues, and to ways of coordinating aid to mitigate as much as possible the damage suffered by the beneficiaries of Caritas aid.

The Caritas in each of these countries are struggling to keep supporting their beneficiaries despite the decreasing amount of funds they receive and their own vulnerability in this socio-economic situation which affects them as much. Yet they continue to do this, restlessly.

Fraternal cooperation, its human and spiritual foundations, and the *modus operandi* that would ensure its implementation throughout the Confederation were other essential axis, in addition to localization.

Among the various recommendations gathered, on which Caritas MONA is ensuring the follow up, one can mainly mention:

- ✿ To follow up on the *modus operandi* and implementation of the *Fraternal Cooperation Guiding Principles*. To have clear partnership agreements between the Local Caritas and every partner desiring to work in each country. Coordination being crucial.
- ✿ To promote a renewed and strengthened dynamic between the national MOs and their partners, in line with the open and fraternal dialogue already initiated.
- ✿ To ensure localization and increase the capacity of national Caritas, but also to listen to those who wish to choose another manner of service, more discreet and compatible with their own mission.
- ✿ To reflect on the possibilities of reallocating funds when needed at the Confederation and individual MO levels.
- ✿ To fine-tune and strengthen advocacy. This also requires a monitoring tool and reliable data on situations, especially humanitarian ones.
- ✿ To organize induction training for the newly recruited staff of partner CI MOs operating in each regional country.
- ✿ To think about means of collaboration with other actors.
- ✿ To build on and promote the ecclesial texts that define the Identity and mission of Caritas and on the Catholic Social Teaching.

Since the very beginning Caritas MONA has been involved in the process of fraternal cooperation leading to the draft *modus operandi* and the CI Partnership and Fraternal Cooperation Conference in November 2022, and is actively participating in the reflection at the Confederation level. The Regional Secretariat also coordinates meetings with and among national Caritas organizations sharing the same concerns or facing the same difficulties in this regard, to foster dialogue and find joint solutions.

SUPPORT TO MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS AND COORDINATION WITH PARTNERS

The Regional Secretariat (RS) coordinates daily with the Member Organizations, especially with those facing crisis in order to ensure support, coaching, training and technical assistance when needed. Coordination meetings are also organized on a regular basis with partners implementing projects in the region.

In 2022, Caritas MONA attended the partner's meetings of Caritas Lebanon, Mauritania, and Syria. The RS organized coordination meetings as well between Caritas Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq.

The accompaniment approach of Caritas MONA is customized based on the context and needs of each Caritas.

In 2022, the RS developed the draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Caritas MONA Triple Nexus Regional Committee, which mandate was geared to improve the humanitarian programs, policies, and procedures of the regional MOs. Once ToRs were finalized, the RS initiated the quest for eligible members of this committee from the MOs but couldn't find the minimum required. After discussions with the Chair of CI's Humanitarian Committee Dr. Rita Rhayem, who is the MONA representative, it was decided to identify MOs' staff members who could benefit from Capacity Strengthening in this area. The RS coordinated with Dr. Rhayem to organize an online Regional Workshop on humanitarian work during March 2022, which was later called off. The RS will stay abreast though of any future opportunity related to these thematic areas.

In June, Caritas Asia and Caritas MONA jointly organized the Regional Webinar on CI Emergency Response (ER) Guidelines and Protocols, whereby participants revisited and discussed these guidelines and protocols, in addition to the new CI strategic framework.

The RS is regularly solicited by its MOs to advise and/or assist them in responding to arising emergencies. As such, Caritas MONA followed up with Caritas Mauritania, Somalia, Jerusalem, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Iran on their respective issues and ways to address them.

The main challenge for Caritas Iran is to maintain its activities in a very complex environment. The RS has discussed with them the possibility of seeking potential secondments from partners to help maintain the service of this particularly fragile MO.

At the beginning of the year 2022, Caritas MONA worked closely with CI's Emergency team and Caritas Iraq regarding submitting an EA on COVID-19. The RS coordinated with CI the online meeting of C. Iraq's partners to inform them of the situation in Iraq, and then worked with C. Iraq on their Emergency Appeal itself, especially to target it better as a first step. The RS then offered to look for an expert who would be seconded to help C. Iraq draft a relevant proposal addressing the impacts of climate change on the already vulnerable populations in that country.

WOMEN & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



PROMOTING THE ROLE OF WOMEN

Caritas MONA is part of the Caritas Internationalis (CI) Women Committee. In 2022, besides the ordinary meetings of this latter, Caritas MONA was pleased to prepare and participate to the conference on Women's leadership, organized by CI and the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to UNESCO on October 27 and 28, 2022, under the patronage of UNESCO and at its premises in Paris.

This conference focused on the many obstacles that women face in society and on concrete ways of action to be found. It stressed the need for synergy between local and international actors to achieve tangible results. Experiences and recommendations from all over the world were shared and from all kinds of actors in the society.

Promoting the role of women is one of the strategic orientations of Caritas MONA. In his speech, the Regional Coordinator Karam Abi Yazbeck illustrated the will of Caritas MONA to empower women. He also insisted on the role of men in the promotion of women's leadership, for a more balanced and fair society.

It goes without saying that there is still a lot of work to be done to change mentalities, especially in our region and even in the places that one would have thought to be the most open to this change. With the collaboration of the MOs, the Regional Secretariat (RS) hopes to be able to bring its contribution to this field, so that the role of women and their equal rights with men becomes a reality at least within Caritas and with their partners.

In 2022, The RS encouraged as well MOs to fill the survey on women's leadership in the Confederation, launched end of January and channeled to CI the feedback of those MOs who can't access the Baobab Platform, due to restrictions.

PROMOTING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Caritas MONA is committed to promoting the engagement of youth at various levels in their respective Caritas organizations and showcasing their commitment within the confederation and beyond.

In March, the regional representatives within CI Youth Committee (CYC) presented to their colleagues coming from the other regions the situation of several Caritas Youth in the MONA region and their contribution to their respective communities.

Additionally, the Youth were consulted and asked for feedback on CI's 2024-2030 Strategic Framework, as part of the consultation of all committees conducted by CI.

This year also, the CYC prepared an initiative to animate the confederation to mark the World Day of the Poor (13 November) and World Youth Day (20 November). The MOs' youth from Jordan, Lebanon and Syria recorded videos that were incorporated in an online World Youth Day Global Rosary Prayer.

FOR A
GLOBAL
SOLIDARITY



CARITAS MONA ADVOCACY

UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES AND INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

In the area of advocacy, the Regional Secretariat still concentrates on unilateral coercive measures (UCM). This year, integral ecology has also begun to take its place, with the progress of the Global Campaign, the creation of the Integral Ecology Task Force in CI, and especially with the increase in humanitarian disasters due to climatic conditions and water scarcity in the region, such as drought in Iraq, Jordan and Somalia, floods in Djibouti and Iran, lack of access to drinking and irrigation water in Gaza and in the other occupied Palestinian territories, etc.

In 2022, some of Caritas MONA advocacy activities were:

- Collaboration in an applied research project of the University of Geneva, implemented in partnership with the World Evangelical Alliance, the World Council of Churches, and Caritas Internationalis, on "Assessing the impact of sanctions on humanitarian work".
- Coordination with the UN special Rapporteur on the UCM: Consultation with NGOs and FBOs as well as specific meetings with the regional coordinator, Member organizations and partners mainly in Syria.
- Coordination with CI Advocacy department and CI representatives at the UN, regarding CI statements on UCM, mainly for the Human Rights Council sessions.
- Joint Statement by Caritas MONA and Caritas Europa on the VI Brussels Conference on Supporting Syria and the Region
- Identification of contact persons for integral ecology in each MO; follow-up and coordination with this group in this field.
- Participation to the COP 27 for the first time, as part of the Caritas Confederation's delegation and coordination with Caritas Egypt

about a possible participation or contribution. The COP 27 was held in Egypt from the 6th to the 18th of November 2022.

- Participation in the ICVA global network (International Council of Voluntary Agencies) – MENA group whose mission is to make humanitarian action more principled and effective by working collectively and independently to influence policy and practice.

CI "TOGETHER WE" GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

In the MONA region, integral ecology is gradually gaining ground. Several national Caritas already have projects or activities related to food security, agriculture, or water supply, such as Caritas Djibouti, Somalia, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Jerusalem, and Jordan, but it is also important to integrate emergency or development projects into a more holistic approach that links the different dimensions of the human person on the one hand, and people, their society, and the whole of Creation on the other.

The "Together We" Global Campaign has helped raise this awareness and motivate MOs to start addressing the subject. Today, we are still in the early stages, but this idea and the awareness of the needs are more present in our regional conversations and plans.

Caritas MONA asked each MO to designate a reference person for integral ecology matters and to do their best to identify or create communities of care. The group thus formed met online and was regularly informed of the Campaign's initiatives and activities. In addition to creating this integral development reference group, Caritas MONA was also involved in supporting MONA representatives on the Campaign Committee and taking over when needed, relaying requests and information back and forth between CI and MOs, promoting the Campaign on social networks, and assisting MOs who were

contributing to CI's online activities (Workshops, Global Awareness Week etc.).

Caritas MONA organized as well with CI a 2-hour online workshop on July 5, 2022, which was attended by the regional reference group and other participants from the MOs (around 22 persons).

After a briefing of the Campaign by Alfonso Apicella (CI), Dr. Carmody Grey (the University of Durham) initiated a reflection integral ecology followed by a discussion and Jean Beil (Caritas North America) explained what the communities of care are and how to implement them. Then, Caritas Lebanon and Caritas Syria presented their experiences, and an interactive session was held in which the participants could reflect on ways to further engage their respective MOs in the Campaign.

CARITAS MONA NEWSLETTERS

Through its biannual newsletter, published in the 3 main languages of the MONA Region (Arabic, French and English) the Regional Secretariat seeks to highlight the work of Member Organizations in the Region and their experiences amongst the communities they are serving. In addition, news from the Regional Secretariat and important Caritas events in the Region are shared.

We believe in the value of such sharing, no matter how simple, to get to know each other better and to support each other in joys and difficulties, thus contributing to create a network of caring and mutual support.

NEWSLETTER



No. 14

November 2021 - April 2022



NEWSLETTER



No. 15

May 2022 - October 2022



PARTICIPATION IN CI WORKING GROUPS, COMMITTEES AND GOVERNANCE BODIES

Participation in Caritas Internationalis (CI) Committees and Working Groups			
MO	Representative's Name	WG / Committee	C-MONA RS Reference Person
Algeria Catholic Church	Monia Zergane	Caritas Youth Committee (CYC)	Sylvia Eid
Caritas Cyprus	Antonis Partellas	Finance Commission (FINCO)	Karam Abi Yazbeck
Caritas Egypt	George Mansour	Women's Leadership, Equality and Participation (LEP) Committee	Sylvia Eid
Caritas Iraq	Ahlam Yokhana	CI Institutional Development and Capacity Strengthening (IDCS) Committee	Sylvia Eid
Caritas Jerusalem	Harout Bedrossian	Advocacy Committee	Saria Khabsa
Caritas Jordan	Riva Nasrawin	Safeguarding Task force Accountability, Protection Mainstreaming and Real-Time Evaluation WG	Olga Haddad Sylvia Eid
Caritas Lebanon	Peter Mahfouz	Caritas Youth Committee	Sylvia Eid
	Rita Rhayem	Safeguarding Task force Chair of CI Humanitarian Committee (CIHC)	Olga Haddad Sylvia Eid
Caritas Syria	Yerado Krikorian	Global Campaign Committee	Saria Khabsa
	George Kahhal	Legal Affairs Commission (LAC)	Karam Abi Yazbeck
	Rita Jarallah	Women's LEP Committee	Sylvia Eid
Caritas Tunisia	Sr. Speciosa Mukagatare	Catholic Identity Committee (CIC)	Saria Khabsa
Caritas MONA	Karam Abi Yazbeck	Women LEP / IDCS Committee	
	Saria Khabsa	Communication Committee / CIC Committee	
	Olga Haddad	Safeguarding Task Force	
Participation of Caritas MONA in CI Governance Bodies			
Executive Board – ExBo		Gabriel Hatti, President of Caritas MONA	
Representative Council – RepCo		Gabriel Hatti, President of C-MONA Msgr. Youhana Abdo Arbache, President of Caritas Syria Karam Abi Yazbeck, Regional Coordinator of Caritas MONA Peter Mahfouz (as Youth Representative), Head of Youth Department in Caritas Lebanon	
CI MS Revision Committee – RevCom		Gabriel Hatti, President of Caritas MONA and of the RevCom	
Think Tank for elaborating the new CI strategy		Karam Abi Yazbeck, Regional Coordinator of Caritas MONA	



**Middle East Caritas Organizations
Joint Partners Meeting
12 – 14 July 2022, Amman – Jordan**

**A
PROFESSIONAL
NETWORK**

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY STRENGTHENING (IDCS) REGIONAL COMMITTEE

The primary function of the MONA IDCS Regional Committee (RegComm) is to accompany the MOs in integrating the CI Management Standards (CI MS) with the aim of strengthening the MOs' organizational development. Initially, the IDCS RegComm was composed of 7 members. After reflection and due to the addition of the cross-cutting MS on Safeguarding, it was decided to expand the Committee to include the Regional Safeguarding Focal Point (FP) as well as other national Safeguarding FPs. Hence the total number of members became 10.

Throughout the year 2022, the MONA IDCS RegComm held 2 meetings:

- **A virtual meeting on February 22nd**

The attendees revisited the Regional Committee's mandate, the CI MS & Safeguarding external assessors and coordinators discussed the respective assessments conducted. Caritas MONA presented the accompaniment and coaching carried out and asked other members to reflect on the way forward. The members identified and evaluated the results achieved in 2021 and the shortcomings, then discussed priorities and related activities for 2022, thus developing accordingly a first draft of the 2022 Action Plan and setting the correspondent timeline.

- **An in-person meeting on July 26-28**

The meeting was held in Amman, Jordan from 26 to 28 July 2022. Seven members were able to attend, joined by a CRS staff member seconded to Caritas MONA and a CI representative. The attendees started by

reviewing the Committee's mandate, followed by an overview of the MO's situation by Caritas MONA. The CI representative presented the Organizational Development Solidarity Fund (ODSF) and what is being done at the Confederation level, followed by the RS presentation on what needs to be done at the MONA level. The CI representative took note of all points and lessons learned from the CI MS external assessments raised by both the external assessors and the coordinators. The role of IDCS RegComm members in supporting the MOs in their CI MS Improvement Plan was discussed and the members' capacity strengthening needs were identified. Noting that CI intends to organize capacity strengthening workshops for assessors soon and was piloting one in LACAR in the last quarter of 2022. Time was also allocated to discuss in detail the committee's action plan for 2022 and 2023, its feasibility, priorities and timeline. The meeting concluded with a team building activity.

CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS MANAGEMENT STANDARDS (CI MS)

In December 2020, the CI Representative Council (RepCo) decided that assessment against CI Management Standards (MS) with the 5th Standard is a requirement for all MOs of the Confederation. Accordingly, the MOs were invited to conduct their self-assessment (full or against the 5th MS) and submit their documentation to CI so they can be externally assessed. This year, besides the validation letter, the CIMS Department decided to send to the MOs at the end of the CIMS process a certificate as well.

The status of our MOs is the following:

- ✿ 4 MOs submitted their full 1st round assessment, were validated and received an assessment certificate. They still need to prepare and submit their Improvement Plan.
- ✿ 1 MO has submitted its full 1st round assessment. CI coordinated with the RS to select a suitable external assessor; the external assessment will be conducted in March 2023.
- ✿ 3 MOs still need to submit their full 1st round assessment, of which 2 haven't yet started the process while the remaining MO is being accompanied.
- ✿ 1 MO has submitted its full 2nd round assessment and its improvement plan. The MO was validated and received an assessment certificate.
- ✿ 1 MO was due to submit its full 2nd round assessment in 2022 but didn't. The RS is following up with them to facilitate the process.
- ✿ 4 MOs are due to conduct and submit their full 2nd round assessment in 2023. In 2022, those 4 MOs were assessed against the 5th MS (safeguarding) solely, and received an assessment certificate after being validated.

Caritas MONA has offered various levels of support and accompaniment to its MOs in the process of implementing the CI MS.

For example, Caritas Djibouti was provided with advice on the supporting document needed for the process, and Caritas Syria received in-depth coaching from the CI MS Regional Focal Point to conduct its self-assessment.

Caritas MONA is also member of 2 Accompaniment Committees formed with the aim of accompanying and strengthening the organizational development of respectively C. Iraq and C. Mauritania.

The Caritas MONA CI MS Focal Point was asked to conduct a full external assessment for Caritas Congo Brazzaville, on behalf of CI. Due to unforeseen impediments, she will be finalizing it in 2023.

In 2023, the Regional Secretariat will continue to support its MOs in preparing self-assessments, submitting their documentations to CI and implementing their respective improvement plans after the validation of their external assessment.

CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SOLIDARITY FUND (ODSF)

The CI Organizational Development Solidarity Fund is aimed at supporting the Caritas MOs in most fragile situations and needing accompaniment and is done in close cooperation between the CI General Secretariat, the Regional Secretariats, and the MOs. There are two types of funding options: the initiation phase funding for those MOs who are starting the self-assessment and the improvement phase funding to support the MOs requiring resources to achieve their improvement plan.

Upon CI's request, Caritas MONA updated the list of our MOs and their degree of fragility based on their assessment tool's set criteria covering 4 areas: context, governance, organizational structure, and organizational sustainability. This was done to identify eligible MOs and prioritize them by those most in need of assistance, knowing that the top 3 were Caritas Iran, Caritas Iraq, and Caritas Syria.

Caritas Iran has been the first recipient of CI's Organizational Development Solidarity Fund (ODSF) – Initiation Fund in 2021. In 2022, the RS supported them in their final reporting for the ODSF and developed with them the draft proposal that was submitted to ODSF

– Improvement Fund, based on their updated improvement plan. At the end of 2022, Caritas Iran was waiting for the CI MS Review Committee decision regarding the proposal and approval of funding so they could start their improvement plan implementation.

Caritas MONA conducted at least 2 online meetings with Caritas Iraq to discuss their priorities and to start developing their proposal for ODSF – Improvement Fund. They also require support in risk management and prioritization before drafting their own improvement plan.

SAFEGUARDING

In 2022, Caritas MONA launched a Mapping of safeguarding policies and procedures in the Region: A survey about their Safeguarding capacities was sent to the regional MOs, and data was compiled based on answers. This mapping was intended to prioritize support and accompaniment to be ensured to MOs.

The Regional Safeguarding FP and the Regional CI MS Focal Point provided one to one support as well at different levels to MOs in the Region: Jerusalem, Iran, Lebanon, Djibouti, Syria and Egypt.

Safeguarding training sessions were delivered online to Caritas Djibouti, the Catholic schools' directors in Djibouti, and Caritas Morocco. Training workshops were conducted in-person in Cairo with Caritas Egypt (in collaboration with CRS), as well in Tunis with Caritas Tunisia and the Tunisia Catholic schools' upper management staff.

Caritas MONA Regional Secretariat has already adhered to the SCHR (Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response) Misconduct Disclosure Scheme (MDS) and MOs were encouraged to register, thus being able to ensure safe recruitment of any new staff. MOs were also

trained on filling CI's SEA (Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) reporting tool and encouraged to provide information twice yearly.

Caritas MONA updated a number of its safeguarding policies and developed its data protection policy to be in line with the minimum requirements. The RS is foreseen to start reviewing its Manual and policies in 2023, as part of the 4-year review cycle.

The RSGFP conducted the external assessment against the 5th MS for one African MO.

REPCO AND REGIONAL COMMISSION

The President and the Regional Coordinator attend twice a year the Representative Council (RepCo) meeting at Caritas Internationalis. Those meetings are an opportunity to discuss the situation of the Confederation and different MOs, especially those in vulnerable situation.

The MONA Regional Commission was held as usual twice a year, in May and in November 2022. In May, the Regional Commission discussed and took decisions on the following topics: the progress made in the Regional Secretariat (from November 2021 to May 2022); the financial audit report for 2021; the 2022 action plan and budget; the Middle East joint partners' meeting and fraternal cooperation conference; the situation in the 3 zones; the next Regional Conference.

In November, the topics were: the progress made in the Regional Secretariat (from May to Nov 2022); the 2023 action plan and budget; the Situation in the 3 zones; the preparations for the Regional Conference and the CI General Assembly; the Partners' meeting of North Africa and Horn of Africa zones.



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