



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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**TOGETHER,
BUILDING A FAIR
AND FRATERNAL
WORLD**

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FOR A FRATERNAL REVOLUTION

Brigitte, Pierre, Khalid, Gaetan, Kenza, Aurélien. It is with these faces and these stories that we have chosen to begin our activity report. People in a vulnerable situation, volunteers, 'Young Caritas' young people, employees, donors, partners in the Caritas network throughout France and the whole world—these are the people who have been at the heart of our achievements and the major events of the year 2016. These include the fraternal marches marking our 70th anniversary and the adoption of our national plan for the next 10 years to come.

The fraternal marches, organised all over France, effectively launched our national plan for 2016–2025. The simplicity of the slogan chosen by a huge and diverse cross section of actors demonstrates our political ambition: *'Step by step, but not without you!'* *'Step by step...'* because there are profound changes to be made, taking the time to adjust to the rhythm of the most vulnerable, changes that will permit us to fight for a just and fraternal society. *'...But not without you'* because this transformation will not happen without the knowledge of those who have experience of vulnerability and exclusion, in France and the rest of the world.

Even whilst stigmatising speech and prejudice spreads, the facts and figures shown in our annual report on poverty in France demonstrate a completely different reality. Despite the various policies followed in the last 10 years poverty touches nine million people in France, including more and more families, women and young children. People in vulnerable situations have only partial access to their rights, and struggle to find jobs. When we allow them to express themselves as we did in our review *L'Apostrophe*, or during our forum *'The voices of poverty in France'*, these people express their fundamental desires: to escape from poverty definitively, to feel respected and useful, and to take up a real place in our society.

Let's stop hiding our collective responsibility in the face of this failure by looking for scapegoats, and let's work together for the necessary changes needed for everyone to have their rightful place in this world. Secours Catholique-Caritas France intends to contribute to four priority issues: recognition and sharing of knowledge of people in vulnerable positions, access to rights for all, regeneration of marginalised areas and fostering cooperation between people and communities of different cultures and religions.

In order to bring about these substantial changes, we will focus on four levers for action. Strengthening the capacity of the most vulnerable to take action is most likely to bring about real change. Together we will try out new forms of solidarity and development. All over France, and in the rest of the world, actors within the Caritas network, as well as civil society, will put into place promising new solutions for the future. Lastly, as part of the Catholic church, whether in its local, national or international dimension, we wish to help with the mobilisation of spiritual resources for everyone: rich or poor, believers or non-believers, in order to transform society.

Following the path of Pope Francis, we spread his call to action for a real fraternal and universal revolution... *'step by step, but not without you!'*

Véronique Fayet
National President

Bernard Thibaud
Secretary General

Dominique Fontaine
Chaplain General

THEY ARE SECOURS CATHOLIQUE

“ KHALID HOSNI

THIS PARTICIPATION HAD MANY REPERCUSSIONS AMONGST MY ACQUAINTANCES



Originally from Morocco, Khalid Hosni was 22 when he came to study at the University of Bordeaux. Some years later, he obtained his residency permit, and did various odd jobs until his divorce, which is when his life fell apart. It was in the Cité of Notre Dame, run by the Secours Catholique Housing Association, that his desire to get involved took root. Together

with the citizen group 'Les Joyeux Z'engagés', he took part in marches, debates and appeals. His articles in the group's newspaper brought him to contribute to a special issue of the journal *Messages*. 'I was surprised, but at the same time, proud to be given responsibility for the editorial. This participation had many repercussions amongst my acquaintances.'

“ AURÉLIEN LE THUAUT

THIS DIVERSITY IS RICH, IT HELPS TO SWEEP AWAY PREJUDICE AND FEAR.

During an internship at the end of his studies Aurélien, 26, discovered Secours Catholique-Caritas France. 'I enjoyed teaching and helping people in vulnerable situations. I have since applied for various posts, and I have joined the Auvergne delegation.' There he is developing the local network of Young Caritas, a group of 10 to 15 young people from all horizons: young students in vulnerable situations, Afghan exiles... 'This diversity is rich. It helps to sweep away prejudice and fear. What is interesting at Secours is there are no borders between a person who comes for a French course and the person who created the place where that course takes place. Each person is encouraged to help, to suggest projects and propose ideas.'

“ PIERRE FAVRE

A PERSONAL PATH OF FAITH



Pierre Favre joined Secours Catholique in the Var after the death of his wife. 'This involvement was a personal path of faith,' he explains. The painful time in which he ac-

companied his wife towards the end of her life was also, he says 'the revelation that I had the capacity to be able to support others.' This is what he has done ever since, as the head of a local team in the Var, within the citizen group Sans-Voix and in high schools, where he promotes solidarity. In his opinion 'it is really by living together that we will perhaps move towards a better world and a more just and fraternal society.'

“ KATHY QUEUE

WE MUST MOBILISE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Kathy, 33, became involved in Secours Catholique when she was very young. Her mother was in charge of the local branch on the island of Lifou in New Caledonia where she grew up. But it

wasn't until she reached 24 years old that she really got involved. She came back from Nouméa, where she had qualified in childcare and health and social care, but like most young graduates returning home, she did not find work. 'Suddenly I was working in the fields with my parents.' Today she is in charge of a local team of 15 volunteers. 'Mostly young people'. They visit people who are sick or elderly and provide pastoral care. In November, Kathy was in Paris, with five other young people from the overseas territories to meet with the teams of the main candidates in the presidential election. 'I wanted to talk to them about the situation of young people in our country.'

“ BRIGITTE

ON STAGE I BECOME THE CHARACTER



Born in Brest in 1955, Brigitte was subjected to the worst kind of violence one can do to a child. It is a scar that she will never recover from, despite the support of her grandmother,

who took her in after the divorce of her parents, and the passion she has for her career as a nurse. She withdrew from the world with her cat, Choupinou, after the death of her only love René, enclosing herself in solitude and silence. That is until she discovered, through Secours Catholique in Créteil, that acting in plays enabled her to exorcise her demons. *'On stage I become the character. I forget who I am. I get free of myself, of my depression. I am no longer Brigitte the anxious, but Cruella, the woman who is fearless.'*

“ NICOLAS CLÉMENT

IF WE REALLY LOOKED AT EACH OTHER, WE WOULD LEAVE NO ONE ON THE STREETS



When he was younger, Nicolas Clément was involved in a politics club, but very soon, he realised his need for a more concrete type of involvement, and he turned to Secours

Catholique where he now goes to meet homeless people. After having trodden the Parisian pavements one night per week, summer and winter, to meet those who have nowhere to sleep, he has published a book that invites reflection and calls on people to overcome their prejudices so that people in the street cease to be *'transparent shadows we are afraid of'*. Because, he says, *'If we really looked at each other, we would leave no one on the streets'*.

“ CLAUDE SAADI

HERE, WE EXPERIENCE TRUE FRATERNITY



Arrested for robbery in the 1980s, Claude Saadi spent 25 years behind bars. When he came out, he was determined to dedicate his time to those who needed it, which is what he does every Tuesday at Secours Catholique in Hénin-Beaumont. And since *'misfortune is not only on Tuesday at a specific hour'*, Claude opens his door all week to give a cup of coffee or a helping hand, and also works on several rehabilitation projects for prisoners. This non-believer believes in the values of Secours Catholique:

'Here, we experience true fraternity, in the real sense of the word.'

“ GAËTAN ZIGA

I HAVE GIVEN MY LIFE SOME MEANING



'I have given my life some meaning by being close to people who are suffering.' After working for nine years as a sociocultural animator with rough sleepers, Gaëtan is an educator for young people with visual impairments and associated disorders. In his private life, he works with migrants alongside young people from Young Caritas Essonne. He has been the group's leader since its creation by Secours

Catholique-Caritas France.

“ KENZA BIBAOUI

I NEVER KNEW THAT PEOPLE LIKE THIS EXISTED IN FRANCE



It was in the 1970s that Kenza Bibaoui arrived from Morocco with her husband to work in French industry then in need of workers. *'I lived in an area of Calais where during the 11 years that I lived there no one even said hello'*, she remembers. Hardly surprising then that today she gives special attention to migrants, listening to their stories, which

she translates under paid contract at the Secours Catholique Calais day centre. The respect and humanity that she has witnessed from the staff and volunteers are a wonderful discovery. *'I never knew that people like this existed in France'*.

2016 RETROSPECTIVE



2-3 APRIL

Around 20 young people from the Young Caritas network gathered in Saint-Malo over a weekend to participate in a workshop on the theme of 'Access to employment and a solidarity-based social economy'. This was an opportunity for Secours Catholique-Caritas France to train its young volunteers as much as to collect their testimonies.



5 MARCH

On the anniversary of the introduction of DALO (law on the right to effective housing), Secours Catholique-Caritas France (Paris), Fondation Abbé Pierre and people from poor housing met in Paris with a view to putting pressure on the public authorities so that this right should be finally put into practice.



28 MAY

For its 70th anniversary, Secours Catholique-Caritas France organised the Caritas Cup at the Martine-Tacconi stadium in Saint-Cloud, a football tournament between 16 teams from delegations from all over France, Caritas Luxembourg, the Secours Catholique Housing Association and the Centre for Asylum and Refugee Support (CEDRE).

AND ALSO...

JANUARY A new benefit, which replaces the employment benefit and the RSA (whose non-claimant rate reached 75%) came into force. A celebrated advance in the fight against unclaimed benefits, in which the Secours Catholique-Caritas France has played a major role, as part of the ALERTE collective. **FEBRUARY** The 'Zero long-term unemployment' initiative, part of an initiative of ATD Quart Monde supported by Secours Catholique-Caritas France, gives rise to a bill passed unanimously. **APRIL** Le Secours Catholique-Caritas France is a partner in the 10th consecutive year of the International Human Rights Film Festival in Paris. **MAY** Secours Catholique-Caritas France welcomes more than 300 representatives of the 49 European Caritas in Lourdes to reflect on the construction of a European project where everyone can have a place. A meeting of unprecedented scale, with the participation of volunteers and people in precarious situations from all over Europe. **JUNE** At the invitation of the delegations of Brittany, all participants in the fight against poverty and for awakening solidarity and human dignity met in Pontivy on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Secours Catholique-Caritas France. Véronique Fayet gave evidence to the Women's Rights Delegation of the Senate on the issue of women in vulnerable situations and on mobility. This intervention followed the Secours Catholique statistical report on mobility, which was included in the Senate information report on behalf of the Delegation for Women's Rights. **JULY** On the occasion of World Day Against Human Trafficking, Secours Catholique-Caritas France published its report *Trafficking in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*. **AUGUST** The 'France is committed' label is awarded to 'Reading to escape', an association supported by Secours Catholique-France Caritas and which



1ST JUNE

On the occasion of the network's 'Access to Food' day, Secours Catholique-Caritas France signed an agreement with the head of the Cocagne Network. The agreement aims to support the '30 000 solidarity baskets' project, baskets of organic fruit and vegetables sold at reasonable prices by the Jardins de Cocagne.



25 -28 AUGUST

For the third consecutive year, the Young Caritas network organised its summer school in Saint-Malo. Nearly 500 young people aged between 18 and 35 from all over France and many other countries discussed the theme 'Migration—what if that were us?'

11-14 OCTOBER

Eight hundred people, actors and partners of Secours Catholique-Caritas France participated in the National Meetings in Lourdes. The opportunity to discover and adopt Secours Catholique's new national plan for the next 10 years..



has the aim of promoting cultural activities in order to reduce suffering. **SEPTEMBER** Secours Catholique-Caritas France is part of the Caritas Internationalis delegation which took part in the first United Nations summit in New York on the issue of mass displacement of refugees and migrants. **OCTOBER** The government goes ahead and dismantles the Calais camp, without taking into account the recommendations of voluntary organisations, including Secours Catholique-Caritas France, to first establish the needs of the population and especially of isolated minors. The Directorate General of Social Cohesion (DGCS) and the New Agency for Active Solidarity (ANSA) invites Secours Catholique-Caritas France to a discuss methods and tools for enabling participation of disadvantaged groups in institutional bodies. **NOVEMBER** Secours Catholique-Caritas France organises a major forum at the Palais Brongniart in Paris on the occasion of the publication of its 2016 statistical report. Entitled 'The Voices of Poverty in France', the meeting brings together politicians, experts and actors from Secours Catholique to reflect on a better world where everyone will have their place. A highlight to bring this anniversary year to a close. **DECEMBER** Associations obtain the right to allow donors to make a donation by SMS. Secours Catholique-Caritas France is one of the very first associations to obtain a number to make this donation.

A NEW NATIONAL PLAN

In October 2016, Secours Catholique-Caritas France's new national plan was presented at Lourdes to more than 800 people who came from all the delegations. The result of a long process of analysis, reflection and consultation in order to define the changes in society to which the association hopes to contribute over the next 10 years.

It all began (or continued) in 1996. That year, Secours Catholique-Caritas France adopted a fundamental project that defined and guided the association's scope: to collaborate with poor people to build a just and fraternal world. In 2006, this project was broken down into several directions. The association then felt the need to identify the subjects of society on which it has developed know-how and for which it could engage more deeply: 10 priority workgroups were created, in which the Secours Catholics actors would work until 2016 to seek out and identify good practice in relation to societal problems. Twenty years later, in 2016, our plan was renewed in the same spirit: to act with poor people and all other actors, in a spirit of justice and fraternity, in France and across the world. The choice was made to name the societal changes to which Secours Catholique wishes to contribute, in order to strengthen the political dimension of its action, link its project locally and globally with the Caritas network, and, lastly, to name and monitor changes necessary to bring this project to fruition.

'This is a turning point for Secours Catholique,' explains Laurent Seux, director of action and advocacy for France-Europe. 'We choose to be more political and to influence social change. Everything is based on what we see: society is changing, it is full of richness, but we do not like the way it works. How do we want to see it evolve and how can we take part in this evolution? Can we name the changes to which we want to contribute?' In charge of steering the development of this new national plan, Laurent Seux, at the end of 2014, set up a working group with the objective of elaborating a strategic proposal for the next 10 years. In keeping with the spirit of Secours Catholique, the working group is conceived in a very broad way, with employees, volunteers, board members and people from the

network. A total of about 10 people met for the first time in January 2015. 'We began by gathering information based on the work of organisations such as France Stratégie and Fonda, as well as on various international studies. The idea was to compare our perception of the changes in society with that of researchers working on these issues. We were also interested in the delegations' plans, their priority subjects and their visions of society. The deciphering of all this material has enabled us to get to where we, Secours Catholique, are today.' This work of analysis made it possible to identify 25 'expected outcomes' from which we had to make choices. An ambitious consultation was then carried out, with the participation of staff, volunteer facilitators on the ground and people in vulnerable situations. 'We wanted to know which of these 25 subjects were a priority to them, and those that they thought they could contribute to,' continues Laurent Seux. 'This phase of consultation lasted from July to December 2015. The process truly led to a common choice.'

**“ WE CHOOSE TO BE MORE POLITICAL
AND TO INFLUENCE SOCIAL CHANGE. ”**

Among the four most popular themes, first was the question of knowledge: recognising the expertise of people living in poverty to create new knowledge and new practices. How can this be achieved? In an interview in the journal Messages, Véronique Fayet explains: 'There already exists within Secours Catholique citizen action groups that produce in depth analyses and who are able to address public authorities and elected representatives... The goal now is to make better use of their work: what do we learn from these action groups? How can we disseminate their analysis and methodology better in the network so that, in each delegation, a group is able to organise a speech, advocacy on questions of transport, work and school, for example?' Other priorities identified by the network include access to rights, particularly education and



work—two fundamental levers to tackle the causes of poverty—but also the need to revitalise marginalised areas in order to reduce inequality. Lastly, there is a need to develop dialogue between people and communities of different cultures and religions so that they can work together.

This plan was presented and passed unanimously at the annual general meeting on 10 June 2016

The last phase of the process: the presentation of the new national plan within the framework of the bi-annual gathering of members of the association at the National Meeting in Lourdes, in the Marian city in October 2016 which brought together nearly 800 people from all the delegations. The goal is to enable everyone to take ownership of the plan and see how they can contribute to the desired changes. 'This is the purpose of this national plan,' explains Laurent Seux. 'We have a mission and a strong vision, and we are looking at how everyone involved can carry them out in the long term in a world that has become very complex. Action is important, but only if it is part of long-term change.' An ambitious plan, based on the strengths and unique aspects of Secours Catholique.

REVISING THE MISSION STATEMENT

In 2016, at the same time as Secours Catholique-Caritas France was rolling out its new national plan, the network requested a reform of the mission statement, with shorter texts, updated and easier to communicate with the general public. The drafting of these two texts has been done in parallel. They complement each other in the final document. The national plan shows us the direction of Secours Catholique for the period 2016-2025, and the mission statement illustrates the fundamental and permanent elements of our organisation: identity; the vision of society; mission, values and principles for action. ■

NATIONAL PLAN 2016- 2025

TARGETED CHANGES

THE KNOW-HOW OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE AND GROUPS IS RECOGNISED AND SHARED IN ORDER TO DEVELOP NEW KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES.

EVERYONE HAS EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO THEIR RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY EDUCATION AND WORK.

MARGINALISED AREAS ARE REVITALISED AND GEOGRAPHICAL INEQUALITIES ARE REDUCED.

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES AND RELIGIONS WORK TOGETHER.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

CAPACITY BUILDING OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE AND GROUPS.

EXPERIMENT WITH NEW FORMS OF SOLIDARITY AND DEVELOPMENT.

MOBILISE CIVIL SOCIETY ABOUT THE CAUSES OF POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND EXCLUSION.

LIVE THE DIACONIA WITH CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES TO TRANSFORM SOCIETY.

A NETWORK SERVING THE NATIONAL PLAN

The new Secours Catholique-Caritas France national plan defines the changes to which we hope to make a contribution, both in society and those which we will introduce within the organisation in order to achieve them. One of these is the will to become a learning organisation, capable of being enriched by experiences throughout the network. We started to introduce this approach in 2016.

CAPITALISING TO BECOME A LEARNING ORGANISATION

In 2011, the association launched 'priority projects', working groups charged with looking into questions (and answers) on subjects including employment, youth engagement, multiculturalism, the family, migrants and international solidarity. The capitalisation of these 10 projects constitutes an important step in the process of us becoming a learning organisation. For five years, our teams have looked into innovative practices, spread all over France, which question the traditional relationship between volunteers and people in vulnerable situations. They also explored 'fraternity places' where people meet for exchange and mutual assistance, in a cross-cultural and interfaith situation. Good practices identified were presented at the Lourdes National Meetings in 2016, meetings which, every two years, allow actors from the association to provide updates on strategies to be implemented. Their roll out will help us to contribute to the planned changes in our new national project.

DEVELOPING AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Since 1 January 2016 the redrawing of administrative regions in France has been the opportunity for Secours Catholique-Caritas France to reconsider the shape of this strategic step towards implementing the new national plan. So, the delegations were invited to assess their needs and put forward the ideal activity model to address these needs. In 2016, a summary of the initial proposals, region by region, was presented to the association's governing body. It highlighted both

common preoccupations—e.g., migrants, organising international solidarity activities, advocacy, territorial activities—and a wide diversity in terms of organisation. It was decided to maintain this freedom to organise in different ways according to the local context, whilst defining a clear common framework which guarantees the unity and transparency of the entire association, and enables the regions to work effectively together. The delegations are continuing their endeavours in this direction, with the objective of defining their organisational model by September 2017.

INVOLVING ALL PLAYERS IN IMPLEMENTING OUR STRATEGY

In 2016, the Lourdes National Meetings, the major traditional gathering of Secours Catholique-Caritas France, took on a new dimension, with some 800 people attending at Saint-Pierre. It was a gathering that was not only bigger than in previous years but also more representative of our organisation, as each delegation sent triple the number of people: committee members, people with experience of vulnerability and activity coordinators. Our local partners (e.g. Coexister France, Solidarités nouvelles face au chômage...), and those from Africa, South America and Asia were also present. For four days, from 11 to 14 October, the participants learned lessons from the priority projects. They also began to familiarise themselves with the new national plan and to consider how to contribute to the envisaged changes. They were days of intense work, punctuated by moments of fraternity, workshops and festive moments.

A NEW CYCLE OF PROJECTS IN THE DELEGATIONS

Secours Catholique-Caritas France wanted each delegation to have a project on which to focus its aims and efforts over five years, starting from situations of poverty experienced in its area, and the necessary and available resources. Some delegations reached the end of their first project, and it was necessary to capitalise on this first cycle in order to devise a development methodology which will benefit other delegations and take into account the new national plan. Several special delegations worked together on this second phase throughout the year 2016. Many positive points emerged from this initial cycle, in particular a significant impetus amongst internal and external stakeholders to share the same dream. However, because they were not conceived with this aim in mind, too few projects have truly been able to be evaluated. Therefore the methodology should include pilots for evaluations before launching the project.

STRENGTHENING COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES ON THE GROUND THROUGH CAPITALISATION

The reorganisation of the Secours Catholique- Caritas France network launched 10 years ago included a component of creating local territories (with respect to each local delegation). It also included the further development of our strategy of developing these terri-

tories through holding several sessions per year in the region, with wider participation of people in vulnerable situations and of volunteer advisors in the territories. At the beginning of 2016, an inter-directorate working group was launched with the aim of capitalising on the experiences of this initial phase and considering the forms of presence of Secours Catholique in the territories, notably through the organisation Animation of Local Social Change. This innovative approach is a tangible manifestation at local level of the ambition for social change featured in our new national plan. In fact it seems that it is through the territories and the people in them that we will be able to repair and reinvent society.

EXPANDING THE YOUNG CARITAS DYNAMIC

In France, every second person in a vulnerable situation is under 30 years old and is educated, at best, to the equivalent of GCSE level. The Young Caritas network is one of Secours Catholique-Caritas France's responses to this vulnerability in young people, since it enables them to be involved, to have a voice and to take part in the transformation in society to which we aspire. The vast diversity in the profiles, origins and faiths of the young volunteers in the Young Caritas network are a good reflection of our desire, in our role as agents for change, to be open to all. We aim to provide the young volunteers with places to meet and opportunities for engagement which are adapted to their individual situations.

The summer school which was held for the third time in August 2016 in Saint-Malo, is one component of this dynamic. Participation has practically doubled, growing from 260 people in 2015 to almost 500 in 2016, with an increase in the number of young people (70) from Europe and other countries. On the theme 'Migration—what if it were us?', together they took part in workshops and enjoyed memorable and festive



E. PERRIOT / SCCF

“ The most valuable things for me, during these four days, were the relationships and the love that we shared. In my view, this is the best way to fight injustice, violence and inequality. When I see people like you and my friends from Calais, Secours Catholique and our community, I feel happier.”

Balaak, Calais



X. SCHWIBEL / SCDF

moments like walking across the bay of Mont-Saint-Michel, where they saw the play 'To Be or Not', which was created and played by migrants from Calais.

SETTING REMUNERATION REFLECTING RESPONSIBILITIES

To achieve the missions that Secours Catholique- Caritas France has set for itself within the framework of its new national plan it needs to continue to develop its working practices and, in general to build the competence of all stakeholders, employees and volunteers in the association.

The new agreement on the classification of jobs and remuneration, which was agreed with social partners in 2016, is part of the substantial changes. Following the establishment of job descriptions, which was completed in 2015, a classification was established which listed each of the roles according to 11 different levels of responsibility.

The salary structure is based on this objective framework, as well as on choices made vis-a-vis our

financial means, prevailing market rates, and according to the following principle: an initial salary level slightly above the market rate—with a minimum salary at 5% above minimum wage for 13 months—and a fair wage

differential between levels 1 and 11, i.e. 3.6 times the minimum salary, where it is normally 10.4 in the private sector and 5.5 in the voluntary sector. In this way, employees can progress in salary as they take on more responsibility, on the understanding that there

continues to be a high level of effort (considering that a reduction in salary is agreed when one chooses to work in the voluntary sector) from level 4 onwards. ■

“ IN FRANCE, EVERY SECOND PERSON IN A VULNERABLE SITUATION IS UNDER 30 YEARS OLD AND IS EDUCATED, AT BEST, TO GCSE-EQUIVALENT LEVEL. ”

ACTION IN FRANCE

CHANGING SOCIETY THROUGH ACTION IN FRANCE

How can we help to change society through taking action in France? As part of its new national plan, Secours Catholique-Caritas France sets out four key drivers. When we support the mobilisation of people awaiting rehousing we aim to empower them to take control of their lives and fully participate in society. It was precisely this viewpoint that leads us to initiate a European advocacy campaign on the rights to freedom of expression of people in detention.

The search for new solutions encourages us to experiment, on the ground, around, for example, the '*zero long term unemployment*' initiative or supporting mobility schemes such as solidarity garages.

But working in a complex environment requires taking action with others. Therefore, we endeavour to mobilise civil society for the defence of fundamental rights, as we did this year, for example in Calais and in ambitious projects such as the family homes. Finally, Secours Catholique has a specific mission to support Christian communities and to take action with them in their commitment to the service of humanity (the Diaconia). Work undertaken this year to promote cooperation amongst Christian groups in housing vulnerable migrants was a fine example.

Laurent Seux, director France-Europe

POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS

In the face of the poor housing situation of 4 million people in France in 2016, Secours Catholique-Caritas France has continued to devise and implement innovative solutions and to pursue its campaign for the application of the law on the right to housing (DALO in its French acronym) which was passed in 2007.

‘FROM THE STREET TO HOUSING’

Ever since its creation, Secours Catholique-Caritas France has supported the most vulnerable, isolated people, living in extremely precarious conditions and has enabled their voices to be heard. Our actions throughout the country, with people living on the streets, people in shelters or inadequately housed, enable us to analyse the causes of poor housing and the dramatic consequences for people, particularly children, who experience it. Based on our activities on the ground and the realities of everyday life for people living in poor housing, in 2016 we have worked on 10 lines of advocacy to combat the causes of poor housing and to build a fair and fraternal society which promotes universal access to housing. This work draws both on people's experiences and also on analysis carried out by institutions and voluntary sector stakeholders who are engaged in the fight against poor housing. This policy position is the object of a consultation process



X. SCHWIBEL / SCCF

involving the delegations and people experiencing poor housing, and will be submitted for approval during 2017.

ONGOING MOBILISATION FOR THE RIGHT TO HOUSING

The mobilisation for application of the law on the right to housing (DALO in its French acronym) has continued with vigour in 2016.

A leaflet was published nationally to bring to the attention of the network the commitment of Secours Catholique-Caritas France to DALO. On 5 March, on the 9th anniversary of the passing of the law, in response to a rallying call from Secours Catholique, the Right to Housing, the Abbé Pierre Foundation and the New Solidarity for Housing network (SNL in its French Acronym), a large gathering of people awaiting rehousing took place at Place des Invalides in Paris. The 300 or so people gathered demanded that the Ministry of Housing implement whatever measures necessary for the law finally to be applied. Following this demonstration, Véronique Fayet and several of our partner organisations were received by the minister. Later in the year, on the occasion of the march for the 70th anniversary of Secours Catholique, a citizens' action group from Val-de-Marne stopped in front of the prefecture to symbolically hand in over 300 signatures, from people awaiting rehousing or by people sympathetic to their cause. Throughout the year, the associations, through the DALO National Monitoring Committee or the Collective of United Associations (CAU in its French acronym), have also contributed to the amendment of the Equality and Citizenship Bill, to improve the effectiveness of DALO.

A SOCIAL HOUSING AGENCY PROJECT

Since the public social housing stock is insufficient to meet the needs of disadvantaged populations and the cost of private rentals is high, Secours Catholique-Caritas France intends to create a Social Housing Agency (AIS in its French acronym), which would work with the



Association des cités du Secours Catholique (Secours Catholique Housing Association, ACSC). A not-for-profit organisation with a social purpose, the AIS sets to work its expertise in estate agency to bring about integration through housing. Such a structure would allow us to mobilise sustainable private sector housing, in line with 'housing first', primarily in districts with a lack of social housing, to encourage diversity and integration of all in the city. This project is one of the priority areas of work for the Île de France regional committee of Secours Catholique. In 2016, this committee launched a feasibility study, which is currently focused on a project in Île de France. A professional structure of this type would respond to the desire of our network of volunteers to remain actively engaged on the issue of habitat and housing, whilst continuing with its role of support and integration of people.

A DOCUMENTARY FILM ON LIVING IN A HOTEL

Following the survey conducted in 2014, by Secours Catholique's Île-de-France delegations on people living in hotels, the same teams wanted to produce a film which gives voice to these people

“THE OBJECTIVE ALSO IS TO PROVIDE INPUT INTO OUR ADVOCACY WORK IN FAVOUR OF DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES TO HOTEL ACCOMMODATION”

and reflects the difficulties that they face, whilst providing some context through an interview with Christine Laconde, director of the Samu Social in Paris. Made in 2016, this documentary entitled *From hotel to housing, it is possible!* is intended, first and

foremost, to be used as supporting material for our network and its partners. So it is often shown in our delegations to encourage reflection on the support to be

given to these families, so that this type of housing becomes a springboard towards integration and that they stop being shunted from one hotel to another. The objective also is to provide input into our advocacy work to be conducted at local and regional level in favour of developing alternatives to hotel accommodation. The Île de France teams are considering opportunities to show the film at festivals or film nights to embark upon a process of external advocacy.

RECEPTION AND THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

In 2016, the year that saw the dismantling of the camp in Calais, Secours Catholique-Caritas France continued to defend the rights of people in exile, and particularly those of the many unaccompanied minors. Significant work on analysis and education had been undertaken to explain our decision to provide an unconditional welcome to exiles and to support the provision of shelter for people in the Church.

CALAIS, WRESTLING WITH THE GOVERNMENT

It was in the autumn of 2016 that the 'jungle' in Calais was completely dismantled. Secours Catholique-Caritas France, who had stood by the migrants since their settlement in the region, opposed the way in which this evacuation was prepared, lamenting that it was not preceded by an accurate assessment of the needs of those present and, in particular, of the many unaccompanied minors. The application brought before the court in Lille with our partners Doctors of the World and Auberge des Migrants having been rejected, the dismantling took place anyway on 24 and 25 October. The vast majority of exiles were split up amongst reception and advice centres (CAOs in their French acronym) throughout the country, and some 2,000 minors were taken to CAOs for unaccompanied minors (CAOMI) with a view to reuniting them with their families who are settled in Britain. Negotiations took place with the British authorities and Home Office agents came to Calais and to the CAOMIs to assess the situation of the minors. In the end, only 800 of them were admitted. As for the others, they now join over 8,000 already in France, minors for whom the county councils are increasingly reluctant to take responsibility. We have, therefore, written to our delegates to ensure that these children are welcomed with dignity in the

CAOMIs. Whilst waiting for a response from the Home Office, many of them have not been registered for child welfare, which means they have no legal status and do not benefit from any protection because of their age.

HOSTING MIGRANTS BY THE CHURCH

Encouraged by the appeal of Pope Francis, asking all Catholic communities in Europe to take in a migrant family, many individuals have volunteered to offer accommodation. In 2016, the exchange of ideas conducted within Secours Catholique-Caritas France between several projects and various different departments (Diaconia, migrants, housing) led us to note that these hosting activities often occurred at the request of the diocese, the parish and Christian

CAO IN FRANCHE-COMTÉ

As many other regions of France, at the end of October 2016 Franche-Comté received migrants from the 'jungle' of Calais. These men, women and children who had lived in appalling conditions should be able to make asylum applications under good conditions. The Franche-Comté delegation of Secours Catholique hoped that this would be the opportunity for French people, who had been touched by their journey and their distress, to be involved with their reception through a kind of 'welcome sponsorship'. It is about creating links with the locals so that the exiles can put a face to their new place of residence. Beyond administrative support, it is helpful to offer a different kind of welcome to exiles, to enable them to enter into personal relationships so that they can chat, go for a walk, visit, share meals. This action is in line with that of Secours Catholique in Calais: preserve the bonds that have been established and provide backup when people arrive in the regions. ■



X SCHWIBEL / SCCF

communities whose methods, benchmarks and limits were not always consistent. This assessment led to the idea of a seminar, which was held in March 2016, on the theme of *'Sheltering migrants in vulnerable situations: what kind of ecclesiastical co-operation is needed?'* Over 90 people from around 20 delegations and several partner organisations took part in these days which facilitated the development of policy guidelines, benchmarks and good practice. This resulted in a document, *'Housing of migrants by the Church'*. This guide to supporting and organising reception in the diocese provides the tools needed to coordinate with other parts of civil society so that the person can receive the best possible overall support.

IN FAVOUR OF AN UNCONDITIONAL WELCOME FOR MIGRANTS

Secours Catholique-Caritas France's statistical report published in 2016 shows that migrants (asylum seekers, poor workers, undocumented migrants...) now make up 36.4% of the people we support. Faced with the impotence of social workers to meet their needs, these people, especially rejected asylum seekers, who have no statutory rights, turn to voluntary organisations. As well as material assistance, we provide support with integration through French lessons but also through all our other activities: an address, accommodation, access to rights and in particular to state medical assistance (AME), legal and administrative support (asylum applications, applications for regularisation or renewal of residence permits), a social link, employment support, culture and holidays, etc. A training module has been devised for use by delegations from the Centre region so that all of the association's stakeholders understand and take ownership of Secours Catholique's national position on the reception of migrants. We welcome the involvement of the Secours Catholique Housing Association (ACSC) in welcoming and supporting migrants. Thus, in 2016, the association opened two

CAOs in Toulouse and Marseille and extended the one in Bourges. These were supplemented by two emergency shelters for migrants, one in Bobigny and the other in the south of Essonne. The opening of these facilities has allowed access to a dignified reception for 285 people from various countries including Syria, the Central African Republic, Iraq and South Sudan. ■

TO BE OR NOT

They are a group of 16 exiles—Afghans, Iranians and Sudanese—who ended up in Calais, where they met Secours Catholique. From the many activities offered by the organisation, they chose the theatre workshop started by Hisham Aly, an activity leader at Secours Catholique, a young Franco-Egyptian who for over a year has devoted himself to easing the lives of migrants. Little by little, the idea of creating a show emerged, a show that three professional actors, Grégory Barco, Laura Clauzel and Bertrand Degrémont intend to stage free of charge. *'Our priority was them, these young migrants'*, says one of them. *'They wanted this play to be performed in public. We helped them to do it.'* Presented for the first time at the Young Caritas network summer school, the play, *To Be or Not*, emerged a few weeks before the dismantling of the 'jungle' in Calais. To avoid the troupe being disbanded, Secours Catholique asked the prefecture to keep the group together, which was accepted. Now accommodated in the reception centre at Croisilles, to the south east of Arras, its members no longer wish to go to Britain. *'We want to stay in France,'* they say, *'to do what we couldn't do in our country: to study and live in freedom.'* ■



G. KERBAOL / SCCF

JUSTICE AND PRISONS

Encouraging reading, advocacy in favour of alternatives to prison, offers of community service work... In 2016 Secours Catholique-Caritas France prison teams continued their work on raising awareness to help detainees rebuild their lives and exercise their citizenship with a view to their future reintegration.

DEVELOPING CLEARLY DEFINED EUROPEAN ADVOCACY WITH DETAINEES

The study conducted in 2015 by Secours Catholique-Caritas France with the Caritas organisations within the European Union and their partners, on the right to freedom of expression of people in custody, reached a new stage in 2016. The driving force of the campaign, namely Secours Catholique and Caritas Germany, devised a questionnaire designed to identify good practices put in place to enable people to take back control of their lives and exercise their citizenship. Aimed at the detainees themselves, but also at judicial institutions and at partners other than Caritas, this questionnaire allows us to identify the needs of people in custody, how they take action so that these needs are met, but also the measures put in place by the institutions to encourage the exercise of citizenship in prisons, and the role that partner networks and civil society can play in this process. Distribution of the questionnaires began in September 2016 in prisons throughout Europe, through participating Caritas groups and their partners. Analysis of the responses will form the basis of the advocacy campaign that will be launched in 2017 in all the countries and towards the European Commission, with a view to strengthening the capacity for self-determination of people in custody and to support their reintegration.

SEMINAR ON CORRESPONDENCE WITH DETAINEES

In the light of a perceptible decline in one of the network's 'classic' activities, namely correspondence with detainees, Secours Catholique organised a seminar in 2016 in Paris with all the correspondents. The objectives of the seminar were to obtain an overview of writing services in the prison environment and to consider a change in the practice of this activity. The seminar, held on 5 and 6 October 2016, was full of exchanges and suggestions and enabled us to see



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the future of this activity and to take certain decisions: the creation of a national communication document on correspondence; the creation of a video tool in the form of an animated film to communicate effectively with the entire prison population on the activities of the network in prison; in conjunction with the prison

IN THE OPEN AIR

Secours Catholique-Caritas France is a partner of the documentary film *In the Open Air*, which came out in May 2016 and was made by Nicolas Ferran and Samuel Gautier (one of our former volunteers). It tells the story of an innovative initiative conducted on Moyembrie farm to help with the reintegration of people leaving prison. Nestling at the base of a valley in Picardy, this unique farm (the only one of its kind in France) receives prisoners who are coming to the end of their sentence under an exterior work placement scheme. This unique integration facility provides them with accommodation, work, social support and a community life, so that they can rebuild their lives and work out a life plan. Convinced of the effectiveness of these sentence adjustment solutions to combat reoffending, Secours Catholique shared in the financing of the film and hosts theme nights to accompany screenings of the film. ■



administration, the development of a correspondence charter and anticipation of technical developments in communication with detainees; recruitment of new volunteers to create an intergenerational dynamic. Working groups should be able to meet these needs.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE 'GATEWAY PROJECT'

For several years, teams from the prison department have been raising awareness within our networks to encourage us to take prisoners who are serving community sentences into our teams. Experience shows that completing a community service sentence in an association like ours is rewarding. With this in mind, in 2016 Secours Catholique-Caritas France signed a partnership agreement with the *Chantier Passerelle* (Gateway Project), a platform of reception facilities, which logs offers of community service work and shares best practice between its members.

By signing the agreement we commit to pursuing the objectives of the association: exchange of practices, adding value to existing facilities and providing advice to new ones, developing training and evaluation tools for community service work by way of genuine professional experience and an effective measure of prevention of reoffending.

READING AS A WAY OUT

Secours Catholique-Caritas France is a partner of the *Lire pour en sortir* (Reading as a Way Out) association, an initiative created by lawyers, with our support, to promote cultural activities which are eligible for sentence reductions, such as those provided for in the law passed on 15 August 2014.

This project is run with the assistance of volunteers from our prison teams and is proving to be very helpful in identifying and supporting those prisoners who are the most excluded and the furthest removed from reading, owing to a difficult time at school. The book becomes a way for them to understand their own abilities.

In August 2016, the association received the '*La France s'engage*' label. As well as access to reading, it organises monthly meetings with an author, helps with the renovation of library resources, is involved with combating illiteracy often by identifying people in difficulty, and participates in reintegration around collecting books. Within the framework of our agreement, we are involved with training volunteers and act as an intermediary with the prisons. ■

EMPLOYMENT AND A SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY-BASED ECONOMY

In 2016, Secours Catholique-Caritas France built on its experience of support towards obtaining employment and the development of a social and solidarity-based economy. Good practices are identified and gradually taken up by the network as a whole.

CAPITALISATION OF MUTUAL SUPPORT TOWARDS OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT

Between 2011 and 2016 an employment programme enabled work on the practice of mutual support towards obtaining employment provided by 70 teams from Secours Catholique-Caritas France. This type of support, which offers people looking for work the opportunity to meet up once or twice a month to discuss their endeavours and talk about their situations, creates a real participatory approach. The 11 different experiences which were identified resulted in two different support materials: a DVD of the stories of the facilitators and participants in these groups and a comprehensive document which includes the fact sheets of these experiences and instructions aimed at those wishing to become involved with this type of support. The two support materials were presented at the Lourdes National Meeting to provide food for thought on the implementation of the new national plan.

COOPERATION CHARTER WITH PÔLE EMPLOI

Whether they are paid or not, people looking for work should be monitored by a *Pôle Emploi* (job centre) advisor. But, since relationships with the agency are



G. KERBAOL / SCCF

often extremely strained, Secours Catholique-Caritas France has sought to become a facilitator. So, the teams from some delegations asked to meet the teams from *Pôle Emploi* to gain a better understanding of what they do and how they operate. Initial experience, between 2015 and 2016, yielded very constructive results. A protocol has been drawn up, aimed at branches that wish to forge links with the *Pôle Emploi* branch in their area.

TEN ZERO LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT AREAS

Part of an ATD Quart Monde initiative, supported by Secours Catholique-Caritas France, Emmaus France, the National Federation of Reception and Social Integration Associations (FNARS in its French acronym) and the Civil Pact, the 'Zero long term unemployment areas' initiative gave rise to a draft law which was adopted unanimously in February 2016. The idea is to offer long-term unemployed people permanent jobs on minimum wage in social enterprises engaged in non-competitive activities and financed by the state, local authorities and by employees' output. In November 2016, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Vocational Training and Social Dialogue announced the list of the 10 areas that are authorised to carry out this experiment over a five-year period. Secours Catholique-Caritas France is vice president of an association created with the initiators of the project with a view to supporting the experiment. We are also involved with supporting these 10 projects, either as members of the local committee or as an interface between the social enterprise and the social environment.

NEW SOLIDARAUTO GARAGES

In 2016, the Solidarauto network, which is supported by Secours Catholique-Caritas France, expanded. Since its beginnings with the first two solidarity garages in Isere

and Maine-et-Loire, the network has been formalised through the signing of a charter and the funding of a project manager to develop the concept. Since then, around 20 contacts have been made with project leaders and five of them are in the process of coming to fruition. This is a tangible response to the problems of mobility, brought to light by Secours Catholique's 2016 statistical report, with solidarity garages providing a mechanism for donations of vehicles which they undertake to refurbish and sell at a fair price (with a warranty on parts and labour) to people who are supported by our teams or directed there by social services. They are independent associations, which have signed a trademark licence agreement with Secours Catholique-Caritas France, the owner of the Solidarauto trademark. They employ experienced professionals and sometimes people in the process of reintegration.

TOWARDS DECENT, RELIABLE FOOD

The *Jardins de Cocagne* are projects promoting occupational integration through organic farming. On 1 June 2016, on the occasion of 'Access to decent food' network day, an agreement was signed between Secours Catholique-Caritas France and the head of the Cocagne network. The agreement intends to support the '30,000

solidarity baskets' project, whereby baskets of organic fruit and vegetables are sold at a fair price by the *Jardins de Cocagne*. About a dozen branches are testing out the sustainability of this type of approach. These baskets, which cost 10 euros, are offered at 2 euros to people in vulnerable situations, with the balance being paid by Secours Catholique, the Community Centre for Social Action, MSA (Agricultural Mutual Assistance Association) or state subsidies. The Cocagne Network project involves 600 families. If the experiment proves successful, it will be rolled out to other areas to provide a decent response to food insecurity, which affects

more and more people in the long term. It is with the same aim that Antony, a former Secours Catholique solidarity grocery, is seeking to transform into a solidarity grocery cooperative, along the lines of a model inspired by the Bordeaux project and the Épisol project in Grenoble. This grocery will be open to all but will offer different prices according to each person's budget, will be staffed by people on inclusion programmes and will work directly with producers to support the local economy. Project Antony is part of our approach of calling for projects within our association; it paves the way for the gradual transformation of all solidarity groceries in our network. ■

“ANTONY, A FORMER SECOURS CATHOLIQUE SOLIDARITY GROCERY, IS TRYING TO TURN INTO A SOLIDARITY COOPERATIVE GROCERY.”

STRENGTHENING FAMILY TIES

The challenge in supporting families for teams from Secours Catholique-Caritas France is to enable both children and their parents to bond and support each other in playing a full part in society. Active involvement by everyone is of prime importance. This is the criterion that prevailed during the capitalisation work carried out within the framework of the family project, which will guide us in the implementation of Secours Catholique's new national plan.

CAPITALISATION OF FAMILY ACTIONS

In 2016, a project on the capitalisation of family actions, allowed the analysis of experiences and actions conducted with families by Secours Catholique-Caritas France and other stakeholders, in order to develop our ways of providing support. The analysis focused on the level of involvement of the families themselves from the start of the action or

the project. Six actions were selected and presented at the national meeting in Lourdes in October 2016. Some are new actions (family solidarity network, advocacy group, exchange of narratives), others are older (Family Holiday Home, educational support), but they share a common aim to develop the family, its members and their relationships with others. A Families meeting organised in Lourdes in 2015, which



G. MERBAOL / SCSF

brought together several hundred people who were supported by the association, played an important role in the capitalisation of the project. Indeed, it enabled us to take part in exchanges and debates with a view to conducting a joint analysis of the families' needs and to devise plans on how Secours Catholique-Caritas France can support them. All this experience is already feeding into the new national plan and more particularly to a change focusing on access to effective education for all.

ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE EDUCATION FOR ALL

Following the assessment of the family project, in 2016, Secours Catholique-Caritas France's department for Family Solidarity, along with the International Action Directorate, set about considering how they could contribute to the change envisaged by the new national plan on effective access to education for all. It is an important step because it is no longer simply a question of what we can do to support families, but also what we can do to change society. This reflection process enabled us to set out the issues at stake. Education is wider than simply school; it involves the living environment, parent and child interactions, as well as educational institutions.

DEVELOPMENT OF MAISONS DES FAMILLES

The *Maisons des Familles* are places of safe haven which are accessible to all, free of charge, where parents can come with or without their children, or with grandparents, parents-in-law or anyone with an educational responsibility. They can come here for a coffee, to take part in a workshop or to share concerns. These houses have a kitchen, a sitting room, a games room and a garden, and they offer a warm environment where people feel 'at home'. Secours Catholique-Caritas France already has five, of which four are managed in partnership with Auteuil Apprentices, and a further four are planned.

In 2016, the collaboration between partners involved in *Maisons des Familles* was strengthened enabling them to work together more effectively on the projects. Following these exchanges, a website has already been created: maisondesfamilles.fr. Substantive documents, such as training documents, are now being devised together.

In the same spirit of meetings and exchanges, a House of Shared Talents is going to open in Dijon in 2017. Everyone there will be able to develop their talents and learn from other people in all manner of areas: sewing, cookery, tales of home... The project

was devised and set up by a group of employees, volunteers and people who are being helped. A location has been found and will soon be ready to open.

RE-THINKING THE FAMILY HOLIDAY HOME

Although the number of children who went away to a Family Holiday Home decreased slightly in 2016, this traditional action of Secours Catholique-Caritas France remains as relevant as ever. These two or three week stays with families contribute a great deal to the social inclusion of children, their families and the host families who take them in. Long-term relationships created at this time benefit all those involved. In 2018, the 70th anniversary of Family Holiday Home will be the opportunity to increase awareness of this on-going important action in a different light.

THE RIGHT TO HOLIDAYS FOR ALL



As a result of the donation of €465,000 from the National Agency for Holiday Cheques (ANCV in its French Acronym), Secours Catholique-Caritas France has been able to support new holiday projects for people in vulnerable situations, whether they are families or single people. Over 3,200 people have been able to go away under the auspices of these holiday projects, including groups of families or people living on the streets, who went for a week of

walking to Compostella. These experiences are essential. People emerge stronger, enriched by the feeling of having achieved something.

GODPARENTING

The more a child has relationships outside the family, the more he is developed and enriched. This is the idea of godparenting, which enables a child to establish a special emotional relationship with an adult during time spent together within the network: on outings, leisure activities, meals, weekends or even holidays. This godparenting is for all children and young people, whether they live with their families or do not have regular contact with them. At Secours Catholique-Caritas France, this action exists as a support network of adults for the well-being of children. They already exist in several branches, and that allows a close relationship between the children, their parents, the godparents and the local teams. Secours Catholique participates in the '*All godparents!*' group, created in 2016 with five other partners setting up godparenting, to enhance the visibility of this action at national level. ■

EMERGENCIES

Through its experience of supporting vulnerable people and its network of local volunteers, Secours Catholique-Caritas France has specialised in lending an ear to victims of disasters and in assisting with their recovery. A post-emergency culture was strengthened in 2016 following an overhaul of volunteer training.

OVERHAUL OF TRAINING

It was in 2001, at the time of the AZF factory disaster that the approach of Secours Catholique-Caritas France to emergencies took a decisive turn, purposely turning towards post-emergency and recovery. The capacity to provide long-term support for victims is the legacy of our network's many years experience in reception and active listening. The increasing professionalism of our emergency team in this area

enabled us to obtain the '*Support for Populations*' certification from the General Directorate of Civil Security and Crisis Management, as well as one for '*Training Volunteers*'. To ensure that these two missions are carried out in the best possible manner, in 2016, we reworked three modules of our emergency training programme. The objective of the first module is to instil in all our teams, a culture of post-emergency, so that when the time comes, they react

appropriately and wait before getting involved with the victims until the actual emergency teams have withdrawn. The objective of the second module, which was also reworked in 2016, is to increase the skills of the volunteers who will be responsible for the budget and for overseeing interventions on the ground. Finally, the third one concerns feedback on experience. This stage takes two days and involves all stakeholders meeting between one and two months after the intervention with a view to learning from their experiences. This increased investment in feedback from experiences is part and parcel of our new national plan.

CROSS BORDER EMERGENCIES IN THE PACIFIC

Owing to its geographical location in the Pacific, the Secours Catholique-Caritas France delegation in New Caledonia has become accustomed to intervening, in consultation with Caritas Oceania, when disasters affect the border populations of overseas territories. At the time of Cyclone Pam, which affected half the population of the Vanuatu archipelago in 2015, we tried a new approach: the France Emergency team assisted the local church in responding to the needs of the local people, whilst our International Emergency department raised funds. In 2016, €150,000 were allocated to the renovation of a school on the island of Tanna. The management and control of this reconstruction is carried out by the Diocesan Directorate of Catholic Education, with the support and assistance of the France Emergency department. ■



G. KERBAOL / SCOF

FLOODS IN THE LOIRE VALLEY AND IN ÎLE-DE-FRANCE

By Philippe Biron, volunteer advisor from the Emergency Department

'I learned what was happening from the television and immediately called the Nièvre branch. Then those from Loir-et-Cher, Loiret, Essonne, Seine-et-Marne and Yvelines showed up. We were dealing with a disaster of unprecedented magnitude which affected delegations who had never experienced the like. We had to reassure and explain that we provide long-term post-emergency intervention, which involves a good assessment of upstream needs and of the stakeholders available. Then we went to the area to identify the towns and villages in greatest need. By 1 July, we were able to implement our action plan, with the establishment of a coordination post in four branches, and in each case, around 20 volunteers to reach out to disaster victims. Anne Greff, a volunteer at Secours Catholique, and I were responsible for the management of the project.

In rural environments, the local town halls can easily help and rehouse people. But not in the towns, and especially those where there is deprivation, such as Seine-et-Marne and Essonne. It often happens that the people who we come to help are already vulnerable, living in dilapidated housing, with few financial resources and with difficulties in negotiating with insurers.

The project lasted 86 days and involved 80 volunteers with 2,600 families visited, volunteer work valued as equivalent to almost €42,000. The efforts eased off around 15 August, after appointing people in the branches to be responsible for keeping ongoing records. We all met a month and a half later, for three convivial days of feedback on experiences where we were able to congratulate ourselves on the excellent co-operation between the branches.'

INTER- NATIONAL ACTION

CHANGING SOCIETY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ACTION

With the ambition of continuously improving the quality of our partnership relations, as well as the technical quality of the projects whose implementation they support, Secours Catholique-Caritas France has developed a new international partnership strategy which was launched at the beginning of 2016. We sought to initiate, with our international partners, an evolution from a type of traditional, bilateral partnership, responding to needs, towards a more innovative, multi-actor partnership focused on change and paying more attention than previously to the structural causes of poverty, inequality and injustice. It was with this in mind that two offices were opened this year: one with a national focus, based in Madagascar, and another, with a sub-regional remit, based in Mexico. This type of close partnership will also facilitate the creation of a local network of agents of social change, with the aim of enhancing the impact of their actions by sharing good practice and through the power of advocacy, which they conduct together at various levels, be that local, national or sub-regional.

Marc Laroche, Director of International Action and Advocacy

EMERGENCIES

The year 2016 remains marked by humanitarian crises linked to the conflict in Iraq and Syria, as well as in the region of Lake Chad, where Boko Haram has a heavy presence. Secours Catholique-Caritas France has primarily provided aid to the people in these areas, as well as those in Venezuela who are experiencing an unprecedented food and health crisis.

SUPPORT FOR IRAQI AND SYRIAN REFUGEES

The humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict in Iraq and Syria continued to be a major concern for Secours Catholique-Caritas France in 2016. We have continued to support refugees in neighbouring countries as well as those en route to Europe. With the help of our local partners, we also intervened to help internally displaced people (particularly students in Aleppo) with a comprehensive emergency aid package focusing primarily on food security, health, psychosocial support and education in emergency situations. Whilst regional branches of Caritas remain our favoured partners, we also work with partners such as JRS (Jesuit Refugee Service) or other organisations that carry out cross border operations from Lebanon. Through all these partners, we are able to provide the best assistance to the Syrian people, whether they are under the control of the regime or the opposition forces. Caritas Europe groups have been very much in demand owing to the continuous arrival of exiles since the start of the conflict and have relied on Secours Catholique for their food and hygiene programmes and for information on rights and psychosocial assistance. Together with Caritas Internationalis, we have also continued and stepped up our advocacy for peace, which we conduct with the support of Pope Francis.



EPERRIOT / SCCF

aimed at both displaced populations and those of host countries, who are themselves very vulnerable and threatened by food insecurity.

AN UNPRECEDENTED CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

For approximately four years, Venezuela has been struck by an unprecedented crisis. Government pressure on prices has caused the bankruptcy of many businesses and interminable queues outside shops. The health system, which had worked well for decades, has struggled against an alternative system, which does not work. This situation has led to a gradual, growing and continuous deterioration in the living conditions of the people.

With funding from the European Community, we support a health project run by Caritas Venezuela (one of the few organisations still active in the country) to help the most vulnerable. This project involves the provision of medicines and medical equipment in health centres, providing medical consultations and distributing hygiene kits and community meals. We also monitor the nutritional status in the country with a view to alerting the public and the government to the repercussions of the crisis at national level.

AID FOR DISPLACED AND HOST POPULATIONS IN THE LAKE CHAD REGION

Violence linked to the so-called Boko Haram crisis has produced hundreds of thousands of displaced people and refugees in the four countries around Lake Chad: Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and Chad. In 2016, Secours Catholique-Caritas France supported local Caritas groups with a comprehensive project on hygiene, food security, access to water and income-generating activities. These projects are

Secours Catholique is also supporting a project in Venezuela on reducing risks associated with disasters. This aims to reduce the impact of socio-natural disasters which are a result of climate change (floods, landslides, epidemics...) through awareness-raising

activities and training the communities and local authorities in the management of natural hazards. ■

AFRICA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN

In this year, 2016, which has seen many presidential elections in Africa and significant migratory movements in the countries of the Sahel region, Secours Catholique-Caritas France and its partners have continued to mobilise for democratic change and started working together with a view to better protection for migrants.

DEMOCRATIC CHANGE AND FISCAL JUSTICE

Some 15 presidential elections took place in 2016 on the African continent, including in Congo, Djibouti, Gabon and Chad. The mobilisation of the 'Turning the Page' group, of which Secours Catholique-Caritas France is coordinator, was very strong. In January, in Ouagadougou we organised a meeting of civil society actors from 14 countries who work on electoral process and citizen control issues. Through a rich exchange of experiences, these five days provided the participants with the tools and good practice to take action more effectively in favour of the establishment of the rule of law in their countries. Also in 2016, the group worked on its second report: *In Africa, as elsewhere, no democracy without fiscal justice!* This document highlights the need for African states to adopt a tax system which serves the public interest—particularly where multinationals are concerned—as a necessary condition for the advent of genuine democratic change.

“PROMOTING THE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF CHILDREN.”

Caritas groups from North Africa, the Sahel Sahara strip and Europe, and one of the working party of Caritas Internationalis for the Sahel in December in Paris, at the headquarters of Secours Catholique-Caritas France. The participants assessed the impact of migratory movements and suggested courses of action with a view to promoting dignity and the right to migrate. In the Paris Declaration published at the end of the meeting, the Caritas groups pledged to strengthen their collaboration for better protection of migrants and their rights and to be involved in an advocacy campaign with European Union members and donors for a fairer migration policy.

MOBILISATION OF THE AFRICAN CARITAS GROUPS FOR MIGRANTS

Against a backdrop of poverty, climate change, conflicts and terrorism, the countries of the Sahel region experience significant migratory movement. Concerned by the human tragedy that these situations produce, Caritas groups in the region have expressed a desire to be involved. Two meetings took place in 2016. One in Dakar, which brought together

FROM REMEMBRANCE TO RESILIENCE

Created in 2000 in South Africa, 'Memory Box' (a physical box in which to place memories of the missing) is an innovative method that uses story-telling techniques to encourage resilience in children orphaned by Aids. In 2013, partners of Secours Catholique-Caritas France in Côte d'Ivoire and Togo adopted this method with a dual objective: to foster the personal development and social integration of children, to help them feel comfortable when looking to their future, and to strengthen the capacity of the teams involved in the psychosocial care of the children. In 2016, after three years of this regional programme, an assessment was carried out by an independent consultancy. This clearly demonstrated the positive effects of this approach on the resilience of children and on their social integration.



X. SCHWIBEL / SCSF

LIAISON AND SUPPORT MISSION IN MADAGASCAR

Following the study carried out in 2015 as part of the development of Secours Catholique-Caritas France's new partnership strategy in Madagascar, and in the light of needs expressed at this time by our Malagasy partners, a liaison and support officer was hired for a three-year trial period. Their mission is to strengthen the capacity of our partners, to support them with networking and to facilitate institutional dialogue.

The challenge is to improve the implementation of projects or programmes by our local partners and for the development of a stronger civil society to face the challenges of extreme poverty in Madagascar. ■

AGRO-ECOLOGY AGAINST DESERTIFICATION

By Brother Claude and Germain Kampani, of the rural development centre of Tambimong Ogaro in Togo

'The diocese of Dapaong (Savanes region) where we are based is affected by a major deforestation problem and, therefore, by soil degradation.

The current project is a follow up to the two 'Green Sands' projects, which we have been running since 2008 with Secours Catholique-Caritas France. It teaches the farmers the best practices of agro-ecology, bringing back life to the land (in particular by planting trees to combat erosion by water and the wind) so that they are able to produce not only what they need for their families to live, but also a surplus to sell at the

market. This work has really empowered populations to escape food insecurity. Of the 18 trainees that we had in 2016, 17 have continued this work. Generally speaking, the yields from their land have doubled and their standard of living is much improved.

Another feature of the project is the training of young rural couples. During follow-up visits, we notice that family life has been transformed: husband and wife are jointly developing their smallholding.' ■

ASIA

In Asia, Secours Catholique-Caritas France's activities are focused on defending rights and mobilising populations who suffer marginalisation or discrimination: migrants in Indonesia, indigenous populations in Vietnam, vulnerable urban communities in Cambodia and India.

STRENGTHENING MIGRANTS' CAPACITY FOR INITIATIVE

Coming from Afghanistan, Burma, Ethiopia, Iraq, Iran, Somalia and Sri Lanka and heading for Australia or New Zealand, every year thousands of migrants end up in Indonesia. The country has not ratified any of the conventions on the protection of refugees and asylum seekers, so they have no rights, no access to education or medical treatment, and must support themselves throughout the process, which can take several years. In 2016, Secours Catholique-Caritas France provided financial support to a project which follows on from those already undertaken since 2014 by the Jesuit Refugee Service organisation (JRS), the only NGO to deal with the problems of asylum seekers and refugees in Indonesia and to have access

to certain detention centres. As well as providing financial assistance and psychological support to refugees, JRS trains language teachers and interpreters within the communities. This use of the capacity for initiative and energy in asylum seekers is one of the original features of the project and one of the most important points for ensuring its continuity.

DEFENDING LAND RIGHTS IN PRIMARY FOREST

In Vietnam, although land law now recognises the rights of indigenous populations to the forest, 75% of this is still managed by state enterprises, which encourage the expansion of large rubber plantations. For several years, Secours Catholique-Caritas France has supported a project that was developed in the centre of the country by its partner CENDI (Community Entrepreneur Development Institute). Initially, the objective was to surrender acres of forest to the H'Re communities, who believe that these lands have a spiritual dimension. In 2016, our partner went further by highlighting the agro-ecological practices of these indigenous communities and ensuring recognition of their customary rights, whose codes and regulations help to ensure good management of these forest areas. It also conducts advocacy on forest law with the aim of obtaining protected status for the spiritual forest, primary forest which is still under threat from forestry and mining operations.



E. PERRIOT / SCCF

MOBILISATION FOR FAIRER URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The extremely fast development of urban centres in Cambodia and India often happen to the detriment of the rights of the poorest people. In 2016, therefore, in these two countries, Secours Catholique-Caritas France decided to support projects to mobilise populations for access to rights. In India, where medium-sized towns are overwhelmed by large scale

migration from the country, the project led by our partner aims to contribute to fairer urban development, by inviting the poorest people to take part in local governance in order to assert their rights. In Cambodia, where poor urban populations are often victims of expropriation, our partner STT organises at-risk communities in an alternative neighbourhood rehabilitation project and advocacy for a favourable urban development plan for the poor. A social

network was also created to share information and identify urban problems: the poor state of infrastructure, expropriations, traffic congestion, etc. ■

EASTERN EUROPE

In 2016, Secours Catholique-Caritas France strengthened the links between its teams in France and its Eastern European partners. This was a way of developing shared know-how especially with regard to detainees and the social economy.

SUPPORTING THE REINTEGRATION OF DETAINEES

The question of reintegration is one of the themes on which the France and International teams of Secours Catholique have come together in 2016. In Albania and Kosovo, Caritas groups take part in the European inquiry, initiated by our Prison and Justice Department and Caritas Germany, with a view to European advocacy aimed at strengthening the capacity for self determination of detainees. This approach is in line with the Caritas Albania and Kosovo projects which we support. In Albania, the project uses animation techniques to ease prison life for the detainees and to help them to work on their personal development so that they are able to play an active role again upon their release. In Kosovo, Caritas makes use of the reform of the prison system, which was initiated by the authorities, to provide vocational training for women and sporting activities for young prisoners. The longer-term objective, based on this experience, is to support the development of restorative justice and to facilitate reintegration.

SOCIAL ECONOMY

There continues to be an extremely adverse economic situation in the countries of Eastern Europe, particularly in the Balkans. Knowing that these countries have no industrial infrastructure, which would enable them to maintain an adequate GDP to prevent their people from having to emigrate, a social economy currently seems one of the only possible sustainable



E. PERRIOT / SCCF

models. In 2015, this is what led Caritas from Italy and eight countries of South Eastern Europe to promote the initiatives of stakeholders in this sector.

In 2016, Secours Catholique-Caritas France supported the launch of the second phase of the project, which will be further developed in 2017 and 2018. The primary objective is to develop the skills of local entrepreneurs and those of the project managers from regional Caritas groups who support these social economy projects. The aim is to encourage the emergence of stakeholders who are capable of innovating and developing forward looking projects from both economic and sustainable development perspectives.

Exchanges of know-how and the sharing of experience with our Social and Solidarity Employment Economy department support these projects. ■

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In 2016, the Latin American and Caribbean division of Secours Catholique-Caritas France, in consultation with various stakeholders, initiated a change to its engagement strategies and partnerships, as well as to the capitalisation of experience, both on the ground and internally. A first step towards the changes envisaged by our national plan.

CAPITALISATION OF EXPERIENCES IN BOLIVIA

Badly hit by climate change and the impact of unsustainable economic models, Bolivia adopted a new constitution in 2009 which proposes a development paradigm that respects the way of life of indigenous peoples and 'Mother Earth'. Whilst its implementation is still limited, this constitution promotes sustainable, comprehensive development projects like the one being developed by CIPCA, the Bolivian Research Centre, a long-standing partner of Secours Catholique-Caritas France. This project promotes resilience in the face of climate change, whilst supporting agro-ecology, and includes training leaders to encourage citizen engagement, respect for the rights of people and their involvement in local governance. Co-financed by the French development agency since 2015, since July 2016 it has also benefited from aid from the French Global Environment Fund. This new funding, which is intended for research work, capitalisation and duplication of good practice experienced by our partner, will represent a quantum leap for the project. It is in line with one of the changes envisaged by our new national plan: developing a culture of learning within the network.

MULTI-DIMENSIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH CARITAS HAITI

As a country where Secours Catholique-Caritas France has a long-standing and priority commitment, Haiti has had a busy year in 2016, with the presidential elections and on another level, with the devastating impact of Hurricane Matthew. Secours Catholique-Caritas France has been very active in the country, alongside its partner, Caritas Haiti. In January, we took part in a working party, managed by Caritas Haiti and Caritas Internationalis, and joined by our Caritas sisters (from, in particular, Belgium, Brazil, Spain, France, Mexico, Switzerland), and in December, were at the general meeting which Caritas Haiti held with the diocesan Caritas groups and other organisations. Our partnership with Caritas is as rich as it is multidimensional: strengthening institutions, supporting development and rehabilitation projects, raising awareness and activities with our network in France. We pay particular attention to collaborative work carried out with other members of the Caritas network and support the increased involvement of national Caritas groups in the Latin America and Caribbean region in helping Caritas Haiti. In this context, the participation of members of Caritas Haiti in the Young Caritas of Saint-Malo summer school in 2016 was a success.



E. PERRIOT / SCGF

NEW STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT IN PERU

The year 2016 was a pivotal year for Secours Catholique-Caritas France's involvement in Peru, since it was devoted to developing a new strategy on the priorities for engagement in the country, in line with changes planned as part of our new national plan. This is a great example of collaborative working and through participatory workshops, involved members of different divisions of our Action and International Advocacy Directorate, as well as



other directorates of the association (France- Europe Directorate, Communication Directorate), and some of our partners. In the face of industrial and energy megaprojects which many economic and political stakeholders seek to impose under pressure, and sometimes by violent means, our new strategy has defined priority themes, which are access to rights, including consultation with indigenous peoples, strengthening the networking capacity of our local partners and support for agro-ecological processes.

“ WE PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO COLLABORATIVE WORK WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CARITAS NETWORK ”

RAISING AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY IN THE CONTEXT OF PEACE AGREEMENTS IN COLOMBIA

Colombia experienced a historic year in 2016 with the signature of peace agreements between the government and FARC guerrillas. Despite this major step towards resolving the conflict, there remain many challenges concerning political involvement, agricultural and land policy, and justice for victims of the conflict. So the country remains a priority

for Secours Catholique-Caritas France which, as well as supporting local partners, is involved with the Colombia Solidarity Network France, of which we are a founder member, and the Working Group on Colombia of Caritas Internationalis. Within the framework of these two networks, we support

actions on the ground and have participated in many advocacy activities and building awareness amongst the public, political stakeholders and media professionals, on the question

of peace building. We have also issued press releases, organised institutional meetings and taken part in devising a widely-distributed educational document on negotiations conducted between the government and the FARC. ■

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

In the year 2016, which continues to be marked by the conflict in Syria, Secours Catholique-Caritas France has continued to support organisations which promote social cohesion and the collective action of people in vulnerable situations, as well as those who defend the rights of migrants.

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL COHESION

Social cohesion between communities of different cultures and religions is one of the four changes intended by the new national plan of Secours Catholique-Caritas France. Our actions in 2016 were moving in this direction. In Lebanon, the Hope organisation supports Syrian communities in the analysis of issues of conflict in their environment, and in devising initiatives to find remedies. It produces the Syrian Voice newsletter to inform influential stakeholders about the analysis. Also in Lebanon, the Adyan foundation develops networks of young people and families. By sharing information and knowledge and supporting people who set up local initiatives, Adyan aims to go beyond community level to develop a common citizen's vision. Finally, in Morocco, Al Mowafaqa, the ecumenical institute of

theological training reinforces knowledge of Islam amongst Christian community leaders, to help them gain a better understanding of the Moroccan social and societal context and to interact with it. This year, its opening up to a Moroccan student audience enhances knowledge and mutual acceptance.

DEVELOPING COLLECTIVE ACTION

Developing collective action by communities in vulnerable situations to improve their living conditions and enable them to have access to their rights: such is the guiding principle of the projects which Secours Catholique-Caritas France supported in Israel and Mauritania in 2016. Caritas Mauritania is contributing to the development of the poor neighbourhood of Dar Naïm, on the outskirts of Nouakchott, by encouraging women's groups, youth clubs and local associations, to conduct initiatives on literacy, training, access to healthcare and to engage in dialogue with local institutions. The Mahapach-Taghir organisation, in Israel, aims to improve the living conditions of people in vulnerable situations by setting up learning communities, in order to consolidate leadership by women and the social conscience and civic engagement of young people.

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

Protecting the rights of migrants has continued to be an important part of Secours Catholique-Caritas France's action in North Africa and the Middle East in 2016. In Israel, where there are currently over 150,000 people living without legal status or rights, we renewed our support for our partners: Physicians for Human Rights and Hotline for Refugees and Migrants.

As well as individual support for migrants in the shape of medical and legal consultations, these projects which we support include an awareness building component and actions aimed at govern-



ment bodies to promote long term policy changes. In Morocco, whose policy allowing the regularisation of certain migrants allows for dialogue with the authorities, Caritas has expanded its action with the help of new partners. It supports new local initiatives,

particularly in the Fes – Meknès region, so that there is better recognition and respect of migrants and their rights. ■

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The international solidarity actions conducted in France by Secours Catholique-Caritas France have demonstrated its capacity to strengthen network stakeholders in the fight against poverty. The capitalisation documents published in 2016 will assist the delegations with the implementation of such measures.

A GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

For some years, several regions and delegations of Secours Catholique-Caritas France have been working on long-term fraternal relationships with our international partners. At the request of the network, important work on the capitalisation of these experiences, which were conducted between 2012 and 2015, has been completed. This resulted in the publication of a handbook to provide solid educational support to the delegations that wish to launch or support such initiatives. Published in March 2016, this document comprises factsheets that set out the common principles, the philosophy and the implementation of these partnerships, as well as seven sheets on the capitalisation of experiences conducted to date. The regions are gradually taking these on board when working on specific projects in collaboration with the International Animation and Campaigns division.

“**IN 2016, FOUR PARTNERS TOOK PART IN MARCHES ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF SECOURS CATHOLIQUE.**”

the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris. From the evidence gathered, recommendations were made on the conditions necessary for such a project to succeed: the proposition should be aimed at people already known to the network, who are already invested in activities and in whom we know or imagine there to be an interest and an appetite for such an approach. The survey was presented in October

2016 at the National Meeting in Lourdes, with a view to encouraging these experiences which transform people, help them to become autonomous and give them a better understanding of the world.

INVOLVING PARTNERS IN THE NETWORK

Increasingly, Secours Catholique-Caritas France's international partners are involved in events organised within the network so that they can offer their vision and expertise, and discuss and question.

SUPPORTING THE INVOLVEMENT OF PEOPLE IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS

The mobilisation of people in vulnerable situations to lead Secours Catholique-Caritas France's international solidarity actions is very rewarding. This was confirmed by the 'Solidarité internationale' internal project by conducting a survey with various stakeholders who had taken part in international missions (mission in Bangladesh, activities in Haiti, exchanges with Central Africa), at the World Social Forum in Tunis and around

In 2016, four partners took part in the marches on the 70th anniversary of Secours Catholique, six were members of our delegation at the World Social Forum in Canada, where we co-hosted workshops and conferences on access to food, migration and citizen mobilisation. Twenty-three people (compared to 15 in 2015) took part in the Young Caritas summer school on the issue of migration. Lastly, 21 partners were chosen to support us in working towards planned changes in line with the national plan at the National Meeting in Lourdes. ■

**HURIA FLED FROM HOMS WITH HER FAMILY.
IN ZARQUA, CARITAS JORDAN GAVE HER
A PLACE TO STAY AND SUPPORT.**





ADVO -CACY

CHANGING SOCIETY THROUGH ADVOCACY ACTIONS IN FRANCE AND THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND THE WORLD

'Today, economic, social and environmental crises deepen inequalities and cause conflicts and identity politics which endanger our societies and exclude the most vulnerable [...] Determined to build a fair and fraternal world, Secours Catholique-Caritas France is ready to mobilise everyone.' Secours Catholique Manifesto, November 2016. As part of its mission statement, Secours Catholique reminds us that its actors *'are fighting against the causes of poverty, inequality and exclusion and propose alternative solutions for the common good'*. That is why Secours Catholique is developing advocacy actions in France and internationally that are based on observations and analyses carried out in the field and which aim to change public policies. Our 2016-2025 plan sets out the societal changes to which we aim to contribute in the next 10 years, such as: access to rights, the recognition of knowledge or the revitalisation of some areas. In order to ensure these changes take place, we are committed to mobilising civil society to tackle the causes of poverty, inequality and exclusion, and to influence decision-makers, both in the public and private sector, and to promote solutions which improve the life of individuals and communities.

**Daniel Verger, Action and Advocacy Director
and Émilie Johann, International Advocacy Director**

ADVOCACY IN FRANCE

Convinced that access to rights, dignity and community participation are vital arms to fight poverty, Secours Catholique-Caritas France continues to advocate against poor take-up of benefits and prejudices. There have been a few notable achievements, such as the entry into force of the new work premium, for which the take-up rate was close to 90% by the end of December 2016.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POOR TAKE-UP OF BENEFITS

Very active within the National Council of Policies Against Poverty and Social Exclusion (CNLE in its French acronym), Secours Catholique-Caritas France was delighted to see the entry into effect on 1 January 2016 of a major breakthrough, achievement of a long fight against the non take-up of entitlements, the new work premium. Aimed at everyone in work, whether employed or self-employed, receiving an income below the French minimum wage, the work premium replaces the employment allowance and the working minimum income, which had a non take-up rate of 75%. The application is made online on the French social benefits website and has been streamlined following the amendments suggested by people living in poverty who sit on the 8th college of the CNLE. We are also lobbying for maintenance of the Houses for Public Services all over France so that people who do not possess a computer or do not know how to use one are not excluded. At the end of 2016, the rate of take-up to the new work premium had nearly reached 90% according to the government.

ENSURING ACCESS TO RIGHTS IN THE REGIONS

Secours Catholique-Caritas France encourages local delegations to make access to rights a tangible reality in their region. There were concrete results in 2016. In a municipality in the Orne for example, following the closure of public transport services, our teams went to see the mayor with an exact number of affected users and their needs. A bus line was re-opened on Tuesdays, market day, and following the results of the assessment carried out after a

few months, there is a plan to re-start a few more. In Nièvre, our teams lobbied the District Council to delete a restrictive clause on eligibility criteria for the Housing Solidarity Fund which penalised the most deprived. In Avignon, after the closure of the public showers which were vital to homeless and elderly

people who had their water services cut, our delegation supported by the Avignon Fighting Against Exclusion Collective, obtained local council support for the shower-truck project of the Mobil'douche association.

“INCOME, EMPLOYMENT, ACCOMMODATION, HEALTH, EDUCATION... IN ALL THESE DOMAINS, ÎLE-DE-FRANCE IS THE MOST UNEQUAL REGION.”

REPORT ON THE TERRITORIAL DIVIDE IN ÎLE-DE-FRANCE

Income, employment, accommodation, health, education, etc. In all these areas, Île-de-France is the most unequal region. This is the observation made by Secours Catholique-Caritas France in its report *The territorial Divide, cross-analysis of inequalities in Île-de-France*. Published on 11 April 2016, this document is evidence to back up our calls for local authorities to establish urgently an urban regeneration plan for this region which brings together both the richest and the poorest people in our country.

ALL TOGETHER AGAINST PREJUDICES

The fight against prejudice is the common thread of our advocacy in 2016 and 2017. A series of actions has been proposed to the whole network in order to discuss this question within the framework of friendship or citizen groups, as well as within teams of volunteers or employees. The objective is to raise awareness and to analyse prejudices that persist against people living in poverty, in order to better combat such pre-

judices. Many delegations are now tackling this issue, whether through a newsletter or a news review or by organising actions in collaborations with other organisations, such as ATD Quart Monde in Haute-Loire. In Toulon, the collective group *The Voice of the voiceless* worked creatively on the theme '*the jail of prejudices and minimum welfare benefits*'. This work on the ground was complemented by monitoring prejudices at the national level. This work allowed us, with other organisations, to denounce a draft law '*which aimed to improve access to rights and to fight tax evasion*' and to obtain the withdrawal of this text which stigmatised benefits recipients and fuelled distrust towards the poorest.

FOR A PERSONAL WORKING ACCOUNT

Secours Catholique-Caritas France is advocating for the long-term unemployed to access training programmes which lead to a qualification. Two important factors have allowed improvements on this point: the creation of a personal working account as part of the labour law and the reform of the Regions, which have strengthened the Regions' skills in relation to training.

Secours Catholique is focusing its advocacy work on access to training for people who have difficulty in accessing it, claiming that their personal training accounts need to be completed with 400 hours

whereas the ceiling was 150 hours. This advocacy work was successful. The ceiling for the personal training accounts was upgraded to 400 hours for employees with poor qualifications and the Region can also provide young people who have left the education system with 400 hours.

Aware that long-term unemployed people face problems accessing training, delegations from the Grand Est have invited these persons to share their experiences and the obstacles they face. A summary was presented to the elected officials in the Region.

BANKING INCLUSION

As one of the associations which make up the Observatory for banking inclusion, Secours

Catholique-Caritas France continues to assess how banks treat vulnerable customers and to advocate for the recommendations on financial advice to be implemented in the national plan against poverty in order to limit the risk of indebtedness among families. On this point, we obtained a major breakthrough in 2016. In light of the success of our advocacy work in Angers, as part of a personal micro-credit action used to stabilise a family's budget, we wrote to the Social Fund for the Guarantee of Micro-credits in order to make this practice accessible to all. In December 2016, the proposition to spread the personal micro-credit to stabilise families' finances was accepted and will therefore be made accessible to others.

FORUM FOR 'THE VOICES OF POVERTY'

In this anniversary year, the publication of Secours Catholique-Caritas France's report (now called '*The State of Poverty in France*') was the occasion for an exceptional event: a one day forum on 17 November in Palais Brongniart, Paris, named '*The voices of poverty in France*'. The objective was to work together in search of solutions against poverty and based on the expertise of everyone, including people living in poverty, experts and witnesses. After a presentation on the statistical report and the organisation's Manifesto by

Véronique Fayet, the morning ended with a round table involving four experts: the historian Axelle Brodier-Dolino, Cécile Renouard, nun and director of a research programme at the ESSEC, Hugues Sibille, president of the Fondation Crédit Coopératif, and Jacques Toubon, human rights advocate.

In the afternoon, participants attended workshops to deepen their knowledge on five themes: prejudices, the future of social protection, access to work, regeneration of territories and spirituality as a source of mobilisation. This work provided a basis for engaging elected officials who had been invited to the previous plenary session. The high attendance at the forum (600 people, of which half were external to the organisation) demonstrates our reputation as a major actor of social action.

“ IN DECEMBER 2016, THE PROPOSITION TO SPREAD THE PERSONAL MICRO-CREDIT TO STABILISE FAMILIES' FINANCES WAS ACCEPTED. ”



ENSURING THE PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC POLICY OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY

Secours Catholique-Caritas France has been working for years with the Directorate General of Social Cohesion (DGCS in its French acronym) on the question of the participation of people living in poverty in the development, implementation and assessment of public policies.

As one of the six principles of the pluri-annual plan against poverty and for social inclusion, this participation is a major contributor to changing public institutions' perspective on individual or collective problems and to enabling them to develop more coherent and efficient solutions. On 27 October 2016, during a one day exchange organised by the DGCS and the New Agency for Active Solidarity (ANSA, in its French acronym), the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health presented a kit for citizen participation aimed at any actor who wants to implement such an approach during the development of their policies. Described via 12 sheets illustrated with examples of tools and good practices, this kit was developed in collaboration with a working group made up of professionals, citizens and managers

of organisations such as Secours Catholique. This day of exchange was opened by the director of the DGCS and Bernadette Doumic, one of the persons accompanied by our teams who sits on the 8th college of the CNLE.

ADVOCATING FOR ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON

The development of alternative penalties other than prison is the ongoing doctrine of Secours Catholique-Caritas France. It is, therefore, natural that, in conjunction with other organisations, we oppose the construction of more prison cells, a measure which has a heavy impact on the government budget, costing between 130,000 and 300,000¹ euros per cell. These funds could be used for preventive action, which would be much more efficient. A press conference on the topic organised by several organisations took place in September 2016. It was followed at the beginning of November by a demonstration organised in front of the National Assembly by Secours Catholique and 16 other organisations to call on MPs not to vote for the 1.1 billion euro plan to, among other things, build 4,355 prison cells, as proposed by the Minister of Justice.

1 Investment cost for one prison cell relative to the capacity for reception of the establishment. 2014 Report by Dominique Raimbourg on individual cells.

Aimed at reducing the overcrowding of prisons, that plan is considered to be expensive and counterproductive. This development would be to the detriment of more efficient measures which prevent re-offending: accompaniment of detainees

in rehabilitation, alternative solutions to prisons and adjustments of penalties. This theme will be followed up in our advocacy action with the candidates for the presidential election in 2017. ■

ADVOCACY IN EUROPE

The European Union Partnership and Advocacy department strengthened in 2016 its collaboration with the thematic departments within Secours Catholique-Caritas France, in order to contribute to their reflections and to exchange good practice at the European level. The objective is to carry out joint advocacy towards European institutions.

REPORT ON POVERTY IN EUROPE

In 2016, at the heart of the old continent, 123 million people had to fight to survive. This was the finding of the report *Ending Poverty in Europe* published by Caritas Europa. Based on data shared by the European Caritas organisations, this publication provides the opportunity to make common recommendations to fight poverty within the 28 countries of the European Union. Secours Catholique-Caritas France contributed to the report with testimonies from users of its reception centres as well as with data from its annual statistics report.

EXCEPTIONAL EUROPEAN MEETING IN LOURDES

In 2016, it was the turn of Secours Catholique-Caritas France, whose General Secretary Bernard Thibaud is also the vice-president of Caritas Europa, to welcome the biannual meeting of the 49 member organisations. In order to ensure this big gathering becomes a real space of debate and construction for all the actors of European society, we invited actors from the field (volunteers or employees) the directors of Caritas, and also people living in poverty from each represented country. It was, therefore, a meeting of an exceptional nature which took place in Lourdes from 23 to 26 May. What kind of poverty do we see in Europe? What type of solidarity action for families, people living in extreme poverty or migrants?



G. KERBAOL / SCCF

How to fight together against the prejudices against migrants? Which common values do the different Caritas share? The answers to these questions formulated over the course of the meeting demonstrated the strength of the Caritas Europa network in its fight against the diverse challenges it is facing throughout all these countries. The recommendations developed from the testimonies of individuals were presented to the regional conference.

ADVOCACY ON THE GROUND IN CALAIS

In 2016, Secours Catholique-Caritas France continued to participate in the decision-making process on the situation of migrants in the Calais camp. In January, a meeting was organised on the ground with British and French MPs in order to raise awareness of

British Parliamentarians on the question of isolated minors wishing to be re-united with their families in Britain and to reflect on a common position.

In July, a delegation of Caritas International Belgium, a country towards which many migrants are now going, also came to Calais in order to better understand the actions that we have been carrying out. We discussed dealing with the European rules and directing the cases of isolated minors to the British authorities.

REFLECTION ON THE QUESTION OF MIGRANTS

A working group from Caritas Europa is currently working on migration and refugee policies. Within this framework, it is lobbying the institutions of the European Union (Commission, Council and Parliament) and is ensuring the sharing of good practices between Caritas member organisations.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL WELFARE MODEL

In 2016, the European Commission launched a consultation on the issue of social protection and minimum welfare in the European Union. A questionnaire for civil society was put online. Secours Catholique-Caritas France participated in Caritas Europa's contribution and brought its own perspective, notably on reform of the social protection model which is one of our main advocacy actions. This contribution allowed us to highlight the value of some good practices such as the experiences with the '*Zero long-term unemployed*' areas or the '*personal working account*' and to prompt discussion on social questions which are often neglected, such as the idea of a minimum income level for all EU countries. Our objective is to avoid that the model proposed by the European Commission, even if it is not restrictive, is below the French norms. ■

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

In an interdependent world where political, economic and social crises have an impact on everyone, Secours Catholique-Caritas France works with its partners to direct public policies towards more food security, better regulation of the financial system and respect of migrants' rights and climate justice.

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY DURING COP22

Secours Catholique-Caritas France in collaboration Caritas Internationalis, Climate Action Network and Climate and Development Network, followed the negotiations of COP22 which took place in Marrakech in 2016.

We submitted our recommendations concerning the respect of human rights in order to ensure that the development of climate policies decided at the COP21 in Paris respect vulnerable populations, their needs and their rights. We also called upon the States to boost the ambition of climate policies, both in relation to the decrease of greenhouse gas emissions and the financial support of

industrialised countries to vulnerable countries in order for them to be able to adapt to the consequences of climate change.

ENSURE THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM WORKS FOR CITIZENS

In 2016, Secours Catholique-Caritas France was elected as a member of the Administrative Council of the NGO Finance Watch whose objective is to get the financial system to once again serve society.

A nomination which strengthens our advocacy for a reform of the current financial system, whose speculative activities are still a heavy systemic risk on the real economy and which exclude citizens and actors of the South from decision-making on global finance.



S. WASSENAAR / SOCF

FIGHTING TAX EVASION

Since 2013, as part of the banking law aiming to improve economic transparency, French banks made public vital information on their activities and the taxes they pay in every country in which they are located. From the 2014 data, Secours Catholique-Caritas France, CCFD-Terre Solidaire and Oxfam France were able to analyse in detail the international activities of the five biggest French banks – BNP Paribas, Groupe Banque Populaire and Caisse d'épargne (BPCE), Société générale, Crédit Agricole and Crédit Mutuel-CIC – and revealed the central role they play in tax havens. In March 2016, the organisations published their report entitled *Following French banks in tax havens*.

Several weeks after the publication of this analysis, the scandal of the Panama papers was unearthed, confirming the need for transparency to end the scandal of tax evasion, notably by demanding the extension of the obligation of public reporting to all big multinationals and by actively supporting the

proposition of public reporting which has currently been adopted by MEPs within the framework of the 'rights of shareholders Directive'.

FIRST UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT ON MIGRATION

On 19 September 2016, the United Nations Member States gathered in New York for the first summit on the question of massive displacements of refugees and migrants. Secours Catholique-Caritas France was part of the

delegation of Caritas Internationalis which attended the summit, at the end of which Member States adopted the 'New York declaration for refugees and migrants'. These are the first steps, albeit too modest, towards an international consensus on the question of migration. This declaration signifies the start of a multilateral process which should produce two world treaties on refugees and on safe, managed and regular migration. We will follow the progress of those treaties till the end of 2018 and beyond, once they are implemented. The international community needs to act with urgency and States need

“FIRST STEPS, ALBEIT TOO MODEST, TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS ON THE QUESTION OF MIGRATION.”

to modify together their policies on the reception of migrants and refugees. We will continue to ensure that human rights of every migrant are respected and that their access to basic social services is also respected.

FIFTEEN PROPOSITIONS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Under the slogan, *'Let's choose the solidarity party'*, the multi-agency platform bringing together Secours Catholique-Caritas France, Action Aid-Peuples Solidaires, CCFD-Terre Solidaire and Oxfam France joined in the presidential campaign. This called upon candidates in the presidential and parliamentary elections in 2017 to demonstrate their political will to respond to the big challenges of international solidarity by committing to share wealth in a fair manner, to promote climate justice and food sovereignty and to respect human rights in France and in the countries of the South. Throughout 2016, members of the platform presented the political parties and candidates with a plan of 15 concrete propositions to ensure more justice and solidarity in the world. solidarite2017.org

FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

France is not spared from the phenomenon of human trafficking, particularly child trafficking, which can take place in diverse forms: domestic slavery, sexual exploitation, forced begging, forced to commit crimes and forced cheating in sports. In order to raise awareness of these questions among the general public, and also among voluntary sector networks, the police, the justice system, social services and doctors, the 'Together against human trafficking' collective, which is coordinated by Secours Catholique-Caritas France, published in 2016 a booklet accompanied by a short film made by the Italian director Guido Freddi and titled #Invisibles. Published in French and English the booklet describes how to spot, identify and refer child victims of trafficking. The film was screened in festivals, schools, universities and cinemas. It is also used by Secours Catholique delegations and other organisations as a training tool on this issue.

Also in France, at the time of the drafting of a national action plan against human trafficking, the collective analysed the implementation, or lack of implementation, of 23 propositions in the 2014-2016 plan and presented its commentaries and propositions for the next plan. It also called upon the Prime Minister to

include the fight against human trafficking as a major national cause in 2017.

REPORT ON AGROECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

Projects in the field and advocacy in support of the rural poor

Around 800 million people currently suffer from hunger. A radical change in our food systems, towards agro-ecology, is badly needed for both social and environmental reasons.

With considerable experience, drawing on its partners' work across several continents Secours Catholique-Caritas France published a report entitled *Agro-ecology and sustainable development* in October 2016. This documents examples of good practice and draws lessons for national and international decision-makers. This report, translated into English and Spanish, is the fruit of joint work carried out by the volunteers and staff of our International Action and Advocacy department, in close collaboration with many of our partners in the South. ■

The research-action project on trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations that we managed with the Caritas from the Balkans, Caucasus, European Union and the Mediterranean, and which we presented during the expert meetings organised by the UN special rapporteur, Maria Grazia Gammarinaro, produced a second document.

From concrete actions carried out in different regions, we made recommendations relating to prevention, identification, protection and support for victims, and also advocacy and public awareness.

This document was published on World Day Against Human Trafficking. In September 2016, we presented its content to the UN during the United Nations Summit on Migration. Our recommendations were adopted in the final report of Maria Grazia Gammarinaro. ■

A FRA- TERNAL REVO- LUTION



THE MARCHES FOR THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Under the slogan *'Step by step, but not without you!'* all the actors of Secours Catholique-Caritas France marched to celebrate the organisation's 70th anniversary. Between spring and summer 2016, the celebrations mobilised thousands of volunteers, donors, people in poverty, partners and citizens from all over the world.

For its 70th anniversary, Secours Catholique-Caritas France wanted to reach out to the general public and demonstrate that together we can change things. As a result, the idea of organise marches all over France emerged and other celebrations were creatively developed by the network. As early as 2015, each delegation formed a pilot group made up of volunteers and people who experienced poverty.

From 2 April to 3 September 2016, the whole network was mobilised, responding to the slogan devised by the delegations: *'Step by step, but not without you!'*

In Seine-Saint-Denis, the celebrations focused on the dialogue between religions. On 24 May, after a 10 kilometre march from Saint-Denis to Blanc-Mesnil, marchers from all walks of life took part in an inter-religious ceremony.

The main event in Gironde took place on 21 May **in Bordeaux**: a *'Cup Song'*, a rhythmic performance performed with cups by 200 young people from the Scout movement.

In Pas-de-Calais, the marchers were pushing 'fraternity carts' to reach out to young people in local organisations, to migrants of the 'jungle' in Calais, to people in detention centres, as well as other actors who fight for solidarity. In total, a thousand people joined in.

In Haute-Loire, the marchers were equipped with joëlettes (all-terrain one-wheeled chairs) to carry persons with reduced mobility on the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostella. They were marching in the opposite direction in order to meet the pilgrims.

Leaving the Snow Peak on 7 May at an altitude of 3,000 metres, the marchers in **La Reunion** walked for 330 km around the island all the way to Saint-Denis.

In the English Channel area, the participants met in Coutances on 21 May and received walking sticks made by a wood workshop in a detention centre with which the delegation works. For this event, detainees were allowed out of the centre to take part in the celebrations.

In Aude and Roussillon, migrants were the focus of two parallel marches organised on 28 May with Caritas Gérone, one on the French side, the other on the Spanish side, all the way to the fortified castle of Bellegarde, which is located at the border.

On 28 May, **Paris** received 8,000 marchers from the Île-de-France region in the park André-Citroën to celebrate 70 years of fraternal revolution. The same day the 'Caritas Cup' took place, a football tournament between 14 teams from all the French delegations, Caritas Luxembourg and the CEDRE migrant reception centre.



SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

Spiritual activities at Secours Catholique-Caritas France are strongly rooted in the testimonies and experiences of those living in poverty. In 2016, our intercultural and inter-religious partnerships were also strengthened in order to promote the spiritual and religious aspects of society.

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY WORKSHOPS IN NEVERS WITH PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY

It is a tradition now: each first weekend in December, people living in poverty, theologians and actors from the Saint-Laurent network and from Secours Catholique-Caritas France get together for the annual practical theology workshop in Nevers. The aim is to develop theological thinking which is based on poor people's experience. In 2016, the 200 participants attending the workshop discussed a text which talked about their experience of work and which was written by people who had experienced poverty. The workshop was attended by Jacques Blaquart, bishop of Orléans and President of the Episcopal Council for Solidarity, who highlighted the value and importance of such an approach.

DEVELOP THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF THE NEW NATIONAL PLAN

How to take into account the spiritual dimension in Secours Catholique-Caritas France's new national plan? This was the question discussed at the seminar of the Administrative Council which took place on 9 September 2016 in Lourdes and was attended by people living in poverty and Gwennola Rimbaut, professor of theology at Université catholique de l'Ouest. Focusing attention on the testimonies provided by vulnerable people who took part in the meetings organised by the Saint-Laurent network, Gwennola Rimbaut mentioned two important principles of action of the national plan for the fight against the dehumanisation of people living in poverty: building long-lasting relationships and paying attention to the spiritual dimension of each individual.

CAPITALISE ON HOPE BY MARCHING TO COMPOSTELLA

Ten delegations of Secours Catholique-Caritas France are organising marches on the pilgrimage route to

Santiago de Compostella with people in particularly vulnerable situations. They are made up of groups of around 20 people who march for eight to 10 days and who complete the whole pilgrimage over several years. During three days in November 2016, we gathered all the participants of these marches in order to collect their testimonies and to capitalise on their experiences. The collected testimonies showed that walking together made the volunteers and those that we are helping feel they were on an equal footing and helped them develop a different type of relationship. Experiencing in this way friendship and fraternity give more meaning to everyday life and provide some faith in the future.

FIRST TRAINING ON SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

In response to regular demands from the local delegations of the organisation, Secours Catholique-Caritas France organised in 2016 its first training on spiritual activities. Forty people coming from 12 delegations took part. The aim was to demonstrate how spirituality is developing and taking shape in concrete ways, via personal testimonies and workshops which allow a better understanding of the tools to use for such activities.

DEVELOP INTERCULTURALITY WITHIN THE NETWORK

The year 2016 was a pivotal year making possible the restoration of the interculturality project and the development of recommendations, a step towards achievement of the fourth objective of the new national plan, which focuses on intercultural and interreligion matters. Secours Catholique-Caritas France is a fertile environment for the development of intercultural relations, and the project also revealed the need to convince our own network of the importance of being open to others and of the richness of such encounters. A manager for the 'intercultural and interreligious' project was, therefore, recruited in November 2016. Their

mission is to develop relationships with partners such as the organisation Coexister, the National Service for Relationships with Muslims, Secours Islamique, the organisation 'Christians and Muslims, together with Mary' and even with training programmes for different religions, such as Elan Interculturel and Convivencia.

These partners will be proposed to our teams all over France so that they can organise actions together. The main challenge is to experience religious matters together, with an approach which is public-spirited, grassroots and spiritual, and, in doing so, ensure that spirituality and religion are positively valued in society. ■

PILGRIMAGE FOR HOPE AT ABRAHAM'S HOUSE

by Sophie Mercier, delegate from Tarn Aveyron

'We went for 10 days in October: 20 people amongst our group were accompanied by our delegation. Some of us were flying on a plane for the first time. We went to Nazareth, Jericho, Hebron, to the shores of the Dead Sea and to the Judean Desert. It was a real adventure for everyone to go to the Holy Land and most of all to visit Jerusalem.

Jean-Claude Sauzet, chaplain at Abraham's House, expanded the perspective of our journey by showing us that the city is 'three times holy' because it contains the holiest locations of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim religions.

We met with individuals of nongovernmental organisations working for the restoration of peace and with Palestinians who live in the occupied territories. These situations had an impact on all of us. This allowed us to drop our barriers and prejudices, especially towards Muslims, and it also made us want to fight injustice.

Some, as a result, mobilised as volunteers upon their return. It's really important to have such encounters outside the everyday humdrum, in the context of a foreign land, where everything is different and challenges us. We learn to better understand who we are and who is the other.' ■

COMMUNICATION

The 70th Anniversary was at the centre of Secours Catholique-Caritas France's communication agenda in 2016. Increasing use of new media allowed us to affirm the image of a modern organisation, as up-to-date with the big challenges of our society as it always has been. What's more, we provided 'voices of poverty' with a bigger platform, via the organisation of a national forum and the creation of a new journal *L'Apostrophe*.

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

On the occasion of Secours Catholique-Caritas France's 70th Anniversary, thousands of people marched together all over France and celebrated togetherness and the fight for a fair and fraternal world. Many communication and outreach tools were provided to the delegations to promote their events and to give this fraternal movement a communal feel.

Nationally, we ran a social media campaign which supported the marches in order to make Secours Catholique better known. Under the hashtag *#OnAPasAttendu70ans* (WeDidn'tWait70years), historical or funny characters aiming to show a modern Secours Catholique as in sync with the big challenges of our society as it always has been, were posted on Facebook and Twitter throughout the year.

On 8 September, the exact date Secours Catholique was founded, we called on all our followers 'to make the voice of solidarity heard' by participating in a Thunderclap on social networks, especially Twitter. Hundreds of organisations and people posted photos for our anniversary on their profiles.

We did not forget the international: many Caritas partners shared with us, on Facebook and Twitter, original videos to wish us a happy anniversary!

LONGFORMS* TO 'SHARE' SECOURS CATHOLIQUE MORE WIDELY

As part of its plan for increasing numbers, Secours Catholique-Caritas France developed during the year 2016 two longforms on its new website in order to reach a wider public, especially via social networks. The longform 'Get rid of your prejudices' allowed more than 10,000 web users to discover in a fun and interactive

manner what is Secours Catholique: an organisation of activists open to all faiths, mobilised in France and internationally, and active in the fight against poverty. In November, we published a second longform '*In the city, in the countryside, the faces of poverty*' in order to make the outcomes of our annual statistical report accessible to the wider public. At the same time, we are also continuing our partnership with Radio France Internationale which aims to develop this type of editorial format.

* Multimedia files which are available on a website

INCREASING COVERAGE ON MEDIA AND SOCIAL NETWORKS

The social network campaign we ran for the 70th anniversary of Secours Catholique-Caritas France had a really strong impact, leading to an increase in followers (from 14,500 to 23,300 in 10 months), the number of individuals reached (tenfold increase, totalling more than 50,000 people in November), and in their engagement, which went up to 500 reactions per post.

On the media front, the organisation saw an increase of its coverage, as much in terms of the occupied media space (written and audiovisual) as in terms of the number of platforms reached and published articles.

THE 'VOICES OF POVERTY' ON SOCIAL NETWORKS

The Forum 'The voices of the poverty' which took place on 17 November in Paris was a key event for Secours Catholique-Caritas France in 2016. In order to amplify its impact, we streamed it live on our website and social networks, via tweets, interviews (now available on Youtube) and posts on Facebook. For example, Véronique Fayet's presentation on our manifesto was shared. E-reporters attended the event in the Palais Brongniart and broadcast the highlights of the day via a web TV, set up in the hall for interviews.



Secours Catholique National Forum interviews Jacques Toubon, human rights advocate.

A NEW JOURNAL TO MAKE PEOPLE'S VOICES HEARD: *L'APOSTROPHE*

Published for the first time in the autumn of 2016, *L'Apostrophe* is a journal whose authors have developed an expertise on poverty through direct experience of it. The journal is born out of the experience of publishing a special issue of *Messages* in October 2015 with the participation of guest journalists who previously took part in Secours Catholique-Caritas France' action groups. Every six months, *L'Apostrophe* will propose a perspective 'on the edge' allowing to observe and understand society 'in a different way' and to question it, at times address it sharply. The journal is aimed at our network volunteers as a tool to support and develop practice of the model 'Write, think and act together'. It is also aimed at those closely linked to our work, especially our partners and citizens who are mobilised against poverty. These pages will contribute, in a modest manner, to the first objective targeted by our new national plan: Recognising the knowledge acquired by persons and groups who experience poverty and sharing it to create new understanding and practices.

A NEW INTRANET FOR OUR NETWORK: THE BIRTH OF ISIDOR

The revamping of the Secours Catholique-Caritas France intranet was based on a six-month survey of volunteers and employees from the delegations and departments in 2013. The new tool, called Isidor, which went live in 2016, responds to the three main demands identified: facilitate collaboration and involvement within the organisation; streamline access to information, and specific functionalities for administrators and contributors. The user interface is adapted to each profile (employee, volunteer, intern or international volunteer) giving direct access to information of direct relevance to each role, location, organisation to which the user belongs and the interests they have expressed. Another new aspect of Isidor is that its design is based on the model of social networks. The user can create groups for discussing specific topics or working themes and where all those invited can contribute. Each user can also publish an ad, search the directory, the media library, make comments, share and/or recommend an article. Some actors of Secours Catholique have wider rights of access to the intranet and can publish news, documents and information on various events. ■

DONATIONS AND FINANCE

In the context of social and political tensions and of growing competition, the financial resources of Secours Catholique-Caritas France decreased in 2016, causing a deficit of €1.6M. The work we started to reach out to our donors and better understand their expectations, and also to develop new funding tools, will have to continue if we want to meet our needs and achieve our national plan.

A FALL IN FUNDS RAISED

The shock in which French people found themselves after the November 2015 terrorist attacks caused a sharp decrease in donations to Secours Catholique-Caritas France during our end of year fundraising. We hoped for a bounce back in generosity in 2016, but this did not take place, and we started the year with a fall of €1.8M in our fundraising. This drop can be explained by a combination of reasons: a tense political climate towards the end of year, which was heightened by the feeling of insecurity caused by terrorist attacks in Brussels (22 March), Nice (14 July) and Berlin (19 December), as well as the arrival of migrants fleeing wars. As always in time of great anxiety, donors tend to set funds aside, waiting to see what will happen. Lastly, the competition for funds has become fiercer, especially for causes which are dear to Christians, such as the support to our brothers in the East, which has taken some of those donations away.

Emergency fundraising has also decreased in 2016. As a result of a busy news agenda, the devastation caused by the hurricane in Haiti and the flooding in Île-de-France were poorly reported in the news. We therefore did not experience massive shows of solidarity, as we had in previous years.

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS

As a result of the communication efforts carried out over several years by Secours Catholique-Caritas France in order to encourage legacies, we have seen these increase from 25 to 29% of our general fundraising. This long-term effort allowed us

to maintain this result in 2016, in a context where more and more organisations solicit legacies. This major form of support, which demonstrates our donors' desire to see their commitment last after their death, is further evidence that they have great trust in our work. In 2016, in order to better know and understand the value of such a gesture, which is so strong and symbolic, we developed a new broadcast and press campaign.

GRANTS AND CO-FUNDING

Although the level of public funding is continuing to decrease in France in 2016, which causes an ongoing decrease in the number of grants for our national action, we saw an increase in funding for our international projects. We obtained several important grants, which improved

our statistics in this field, with funding going from 2.5 to 3.1 €M (+24%). However, the general trend is going downward and affects every non-governmental organisation. We must, therefore, continue to focus our attention on private fundraising (more than 85% of our global fundraising) and develop it, because it is this type of fundraising that allows us to carry on our activities in France and worldwide.

INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE ORGANISATION AMONG DONORS

In the context of fear and uncertainty which has been prevalent throughout 2016, Secours Catholique-Caritas France worked hard to strengthen the link with its donors, in order to be better understood and to better understand their expectations and their

“ THE GENERAL TREND IS GOING DOWNWARD AND AFFECTS EVERY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION. ”



S. LE CLEZIO / SCSF

motivation. We invited them to take part in our key events of the year, such as the fraternal marches organised for the 70th anniversary and the national forum *'The voices of poverty'* on 17 November. Many of them responded to our invitations, and the feedback we had was very positive. Our efforts to connect with them demonstrate how grateful we are for their donations and reassure them that they have made the right choice. Indeed, throughout our activities and our advocacy, in France as well as internationally, we provide concrete answers to issues of concern for French people. We believe that by continuing our efforts in education and raising awareness we will encourage them to carry on supporting our activities.

ONLINE COMMUNICATION WITH DONORS

Towards the end of 2015, Secours Catholique-Caritas France had a new website, entirely redesigned, with the aim, among other things, of giving everyone the opportunity to take action. As a result, each page is an opportunity to act; by becoming a volunteer, by alerting us to certain conditions and, of course, by donating. This reworking of the website accompanies our desire

to be more and more present on social networks. In 2016, social networks actually proved how useful they were to bind together our community of volunteers and donors, especially during the 70th anniversary of Secours Catholique and during the key events organised at the end of the year.

DONATING BY TEXT

On 19 December 2016, one request made by many organisations was granted: the possibility of donating by text. Secours Catholique-Caritas France was one of the first organisations to apply for a number which will be used by donors to make their donation: 92900.

The mechanism is really simple, and although the amounts authorised remain small, this new avenue allows us to reach another audience and to boost collective and spontaneous generosity, such as, for example, when events are organised for a specific cause or when disasters occur. ■

THE CARITAS FRANCE NETWORK

In June 2016, the members of the Caritas France Network, including Secours Catholique-Caritas France, strengthened their commitment by forming a Union of Associations. The Union is currently mapping out the different associations' actions and foundations. This aims to show how complementary the various actions are and to create a real collaborative approach to helping people in poverty. The Charter signed in 2015 provides a flexible framework to be able to work better together and to be able to welcome in new partners, such as the Alsace Federation of Caritas Charities in 2016.

ASSOCIATION DES CITÉS DU SECOURS CATHOLIQUE



Founded in 1989, the *Association des cités du Secours Catholique* (Secours Catholique Housing Association) aims to welcome, provide shelter and support people living in poverty or with disabilities, and to help guide them towards independence. It has 970 employees (of which three quarters are social workers) and 500 volunteers, which are active in 19 cities, providing social support in 14 and medico-social support in 5 over 17 different districts in mainland France. In 2016, more than 13,000 homeless people were put up in emergency accommodation or rehabilitation centres as part of measures which aimed to sustain access to accommodation and to prevent social exclusion. All the advocacy work carried out by its teams aims to develop autonomy among people in vulnerable situation.

The teams working on disabilities support 350 people with learning difficulties or autism. Supporting by providing work is the main mode of educative action in the Cités. The organisation is developing its own network of nurseries called 'Growing in nurseries' which currently have 100 places.

The Association des Cités' actions are based on a philosophy which involves professionals and volunteers and which ensures the involvement of those who are supported. The organisation experienced some key events, such as the signature of an agreement between Secours Catholique and the Association des Cités and the emergency deployment of CAO facilities and an emergency accommodation centre for migrants, which can cater for 285 people.

acsc.asso.fr/site

FONDATION CARITAS FRANCE



Founded in 2009 by Secours Catholique-Caritas France, The Fondation Caritas France is the first and only umbrella foundation in France focusing on fighting poverty. Its main mission is to encourage the development of philanthropy and the fight against exclusion through the foundations under its aegis (88 in 2016). It allows individuals, families and groups of friends to create their own foundation and it ensures their running while supporting the founders (choice of projects, involvement of friends and families...). Its second mission is to collect funds to support the projects managed by Secours Catholique-Caritas France or by other partners, in France or internationally. Since its creation, the Fondation Caritas France has supported 670 projects in this way, equivalent to €27M. In 2016, the funds raised were redistributed to two thirds of the Caritas World and France Network. Lastly, the foundation supports research and experimentation. It awards each year a young social sciences researcher during the colloquium which is organised by the Institut de France. Its ambition for 2017 is to host more than a hundred foundations and to spearhead the expansion of the Caritas Network.

www.fondationcaritasfrance.org

FONDATION JEAN RODHAIN



The Fondation Jean Rodhain was created in 1981 to promote the Christian reflection on charity in the broadest sense (justice, solidarity, social doctrine), to promote the study of the theology of charity in academic research, and to develop a dialogue with field actors based on poor people's experiences and

testimonies. Every two years, it organises a colloquium bringing together 50 academics and professionals. It created and financially supported chairs of studies in diverse theological universities and continue to support the website Diaconia 2013 'At the service of fraternity' which aims to develop social and political ethics and the conditions of a fraternity which is accessible to all. In 2016, the foundation employed a small team of employees.

www.fondationjeanrodhain.org

www.servonslafraaternité.org

TISSONS LA SOLIDARITE



Tissons la Solidarité (Weaving solidarity) mobilises actors of the economic sector, some in the world of fashion, for a return to long-term employment for women. Employees work in a variety of jobs in the textile industry, from mechanics to maintenance and prêt-à-porter sales. They benefit from training programmes approved by professionals of the textile industry: sales training designed with Chanel, and couture training sponsored by Christian Lacroix. The organisation is also developing pre-training for remote facilities with Secours Catholique-Caritas France as part of a professional training and monitoring programme inside a women's prison. With the Fondation Caritas France, it funds the concept of boutique-school and the establishment of several facilities.

www.tissonsalsolidarite.fr

CARITAS HABITAT



Founded in 2015 by Secours Catholique-Caritas France, the Association des cités du Secours Catholique, the Fondation Caritas France and the civil society property organisation ESIS, Caritas Habitat is a property company that offers social housing, supported accommodations, relay houses and charity shops, via the action of public property investment which fights for solidarity. Its aim is to provide property solutions to social projects run by our delegations or by the cities of the Association des cités du Secours Catholique,

to effectively manage the assets provided by our foundations, congregations and delegations, or to seek properties from local authorities or developers. Caritas Housing aims to become a recognised social investor, certified as ESUS (Enterprises of social utility) and as a contracting authority, and to mobilise both public and private investors. From now till 2019, the property company should acquire 500 properties. It hopes in the long term to create new forms of urban property development and to propose new forms of accommodation and support for people living in poverty.

www.caritashabitat.org

FÉDÉRATION DE CHARITÉ CARITAS ALSACE



Founded in 1903 to better organise charitable catholic works in Alsace, the Fédération de Charité Caritas Alsace (Alsace Federation of Caritas Charities) has been working for more than a century in the Strasbourg diocese. A service of the Alsace diocese of the Church and an association under local law, it addresses the physical, moral or spiritual hardship of our time. Its mission covers three main areas of work: to bring together charitable activities, to promote charitable initiatives, and to develop and communicate proposals for greater social justice. ■

www.federation-de-charite.org

GOVERNANCE AND CONTROLS WITHIN SECOURS CATHOLIQUE-CARITAS FRANCE

ON 31 DECEMBER 2016:

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

is made up of 184 members in two categories: 153 active members – qualified board members, presidents and vice-presidents from delegations and two treasurers per interregional area – and 31 honorary board members. The age limit is 75 years. Active members are made up of 89 men and 64 women and honorary board members of 19 men and 12 women.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

is made up of 21 members, all of whom are volunteers. This includes 12 presidents or vice-presidents from delegations and 9 qualified board members. Their three-year mandate can be renewed twice. The Board meets 11 times a year. The executive committee is made up of a president, two vice-presidents, a treasurer, a secretary and an advisor on international affairs.

The Chaplain General and the General Secretary observe the executive committee sessions and Board meetings, but do not have a right to vote.

BOARD

President: Véronique Fayet

Vice-presidents: Pierre Colmant, Claire Escaffre

Treasurer: Dominique Dubois

Secretary: Françoise Maury

Advisor on International Affairs: Louise Avon

MEMBERS

Alain de Brugière, Thierry Féferberg, Fabienne Ferrerons, Francine Guilbert, Christian Guyomart, Jacqueline Laura, Michèle Le Gall, Jean-Louis Loirat, Geneviève Pastorello, Emmanuel de Rivoire, Jean-Marie Schiffli, Béatrice Victor

Secretary General:

Bernard Thibaud

Chaplain General:

Father Dominique Fontaine

Honorary Presidents:

François Soulage, Joël Thoraval

LINKS WITH THE BISHOP'S CONFERENCE OF FRANCE

Presidents and vice-presidents from delegations are approved by the Board once they have been approved by the bishop of the relevant diocese. Qualified board members are first approved by the Permanent Council of the Bishop's Conference of France, then hired by the Board and finally elected by the Annual General Meeting.

- ▶ The national president is elected by the Board from a pool of candidates which has been previously approved by the Permanent Council of the Bishop's Conference of France.
- ▶ The Chaplain General is appointed by the Permanent Council of the Bishop's Conference of France.
- ▶ The General Secretary is appointed by the Board from a pool of candidates which has been previously approved by the Permanent Council of the Bishop's Conference of France.
- ▶ Sessions between the General Secretary of the Bishop's Conference of France and the National President and the General Secretary and Chaplain General of Secours Catholique-Caritas France are regularly organised.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

They propose advice and recommendations on the day-to-day running of the organisation and the management of its projects.

- ▶ Strategic Committee
- ▶ Audit Committee
- ▶ Donors' Committee
- ▶ Appointments Committee
- ▶ National Consultative Authority
- ▶ Management and Finance Committee.

PROFILE

SECOURS CATHOLIQUE-CARITAS FRANCE

Secours Catholique-Caritas France is a service of the Catholic Church in France, member of the Caritas Internationalis Confederation and an association under local law.

OUR MISSION

Based on the Gospel, the mission of Secours Catholique - Caritas France is a mission of love and awakening of solidarity in France and throughout the world. Secours Catholique calls on everyone to commit to reach out, support one another and experience the joy of fraternity. Its actors work to strengthen everyone's capacity to have access to dignified living conditions. The association fights against the causes of poverty, inequality and exclusion, and proposes alternatives for the common good.

ACTIONS

- ▶ In France, 1,440,000 people were supported in 2,400 reception centres.
- ▶ Internationally, 737 operations were carried out in 2016, in 72 countries or zones, within Caritas Internationalis Network (165 Caritas). In one year, 3,6 million people were supported by the international aid provided by Secours Catholique-Caritas France.

ORGANISATION

- ▶ 75 delegations by 31 December 2016, made up of 3,500 local teams, covering all of France (mainland France and overseas territories).
- ▶ A network of 67,900 volunteers and 936 employees across the country.
- ▶ Three centres: the Cité Saint-Pierre in Lourdes, Abraham's House in Jerusalem and the CEDRE migrant reception centre in Paris.

TRANSPARENCY AND CHECKS

The annual accounts, including the Income and Expenditure Accounts, were certified by an auditor from Deloitte and were approved by the Annual General Meeting held on 9 June 2017. They are available to view on www.secours-catholique.org or they can be obtained by writing to: Secours Catholique-Caritas France, 106 rue du Bac, 75341 Paris Cedex 07.

The auditor, in addition to certifying the accounts, checks on 10 delegations each year. With the checks by the internal audit department, this means that a third of all delegations are monitored in-depth every year.

The Court of Auditors checked in 2012 how donations were used in 2010 and 2011 for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. It stated that *'donations were used in line with the objectives stated during the fundraising appeal'*.



THE CHARTER COMMITTEE ON 'DONATING WITH CONFIDENCE' is

an accreditation and monitoring body for organisations that undertake public fundraising.

It develops codes of ethics, awards the *'Donate with confidence'* label to voluntary organisations and continuously and independently monitors that organisations fulfil their commitments.

This work is based on the principles of respect for the donor, transparency, efficacy, probity and altruism, covering three areas: governance, management and communication.

On 9 April 2015, Secours Catholique-Caritas France had its *'Donate with confidence'* label renewed for three years.

WE THANK ALL OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

Agence du don en nature
Agence française de développement
Agence de l'eau Artois-Picardie
Agence de l'eau Loire-Bretagne
Agence de l'eau Rhône Méditerranée Corse
Agence de l'eau Seine-Normandie
Swiss embassy in Venezuela
Caisse d'épargne
Carigest SA
Communauté de l'agglomération havraise

ECHO (European Commission humanitarian assistance and civil protection service)

Fondation Caritas France
Foundations under the aegis of Fondation Caritas France :
Fondation Alter & Care
Fondation L'Arbre du voyageur
Fondation Avenir Solidaire
Fondation François et Monique Bilger
Fondation Devenir humain et solidaire
Fondation des Épiniers
Fondation Famille et Solidarités
Fondation Le Manteau de saint Martin

Fondation Cetelem pour l'éducation budgétaire
Fondation Crédit Coopératif
Fondation NED (National Endowment for Democracy)
Fondation Sancta Devota
Fondation Somfy - Les petites pierres

Fonds de dotation Antigone
Fonds Suez initiatives
Grand Lyon
Jean Lutz SA
Global Day of Prayer - French committee
Lyonnaise des eaux

French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development
French Ministry of Culture and Communication

Orange
Saint-Christophe Assurances
Swiss Philanthropy Foundation
European Union

As well as many town, district and regional councils.



ENSEMBLE, CONSTRUIRE UN MONDE JUSTE ET FRATERNEL

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June 2017

SECOURS CATHOLIQUE - CARITAS FRANCE IN FIGURES

2016 IN FRANCE



1,440,000
PEOPLE SUPPORTED
IN FRANCE



67,900
VOLUNTEERS



7,000
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
SUPPORTED IN THEIR EDUCATION



2,400
RECEPTION CENTRES



316,500
FAMILIES SUPPORTED



3,400
PEOPLE HELPED INTO WORK



3,700
PEOPLE RECEIVED HELP WITH
THEIR HOLIDAY PLANS



1,600
CHILDREN WENT ON HOLIDAY
HOSTED BY FAMILIES



1,140
ACTIVE MICROCREDIT FILES, OF
WHICH 400 ARE NEW

2016 INTERNATIONAL



3.6 MILLION
PEOPLE SUPPORTED INTERNATIONALLY



737
PROJECTS



42
EMERGENCY PROGRAMMES



€345 M
TOTAL BUDGET, OF WHICH 85% IS
ALLOCATED TO SOCIAL PROGRAMMES