



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2018**

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

CON- TENTS

EDITORIAL	3
THEY ARE SECOURS CATHOLIQUE	4
2018 RETROSPECTIVE	6
A CAMPAIGN TO RENOVATE THE SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEM	8
PROMOTING RECOGNITION OF EVERYONE'S KNOWLEDGE	10
ALLOWING ACCESS TO BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS	18
DEVELOPING THE TERRITORIES	32
598 PROJECTS SUPPORTED WORLDWIDE	42
BUILDING AN INTER-CULTURAL AND INTER-FAITH SOCIETY	44
EMERGENCY RESPONSE	50
AN ORGANISATION AT THE SERVICE OF OUR AMBITION	53
TRANSFORMING OUR ORGANISATION TO BETTER RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGES OF FIGHTING POVERTY	54
COMMUNICATION	57
PUBLICATIONS	58
DONATIONS AND FINANCE	59
THE CARITAS FRANCE NETWORK	61
GOVERNANCE AND CONTROLS IN SECOURS CATHOLIQUE-CARITAS FRANCE	64
PROFILE	65

WE NEED CHANGE AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO IT¹

The social, democratic and environmental crises which primarily affect the poorest in society require us make far-reaching changes to our society, above and beyond material help. This is the ambition of the project launched in 2016 by Secours Catholique-Caritas France. It identifies four far-reaching changes which are necessary for working towards a fair and fraternal world. This desire for change underpins our actions both locally, nationally and globally with the Caritas network. Let's start with the change which aims to incorporate the knowledge and experience of the most vulnerable people to change society. With this aim in mind our National Activity Council, a new national governing body, of which one third is made up of people who have experience of poverty, met for the first time at the beginning of the year. Along the same lines, the end of 2018 was marked by the launch of 150 discussions in our delegations, as part of the national debate, to give voice to the calls, the indignation and the suggestions of people in vulnerable situations.

The second change is that of access to effective rights for all. This is the challenge for the support and advocacy that we carry out every day alongside people who are directly affected, drawing upon our analysis, particularly of the 2018 'Social welfare survey', which reveals flaws in our social protection system and formulates proposals to rebuild it. This advocacy extends to basic human rights for all with the signature, in December, of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. We are proud, as part of the Caritas network, to have contributed to this hard-hitting text, which embodies our refusal to let the world close in on itself.

The third change involves setting up new methods of sustainable development in the territories. In fact the transformation to which we aspire, is at local level, in our rural territories and forgotten parts of the Republic, in Indian slums and lands that have been confiscated from Native American communities by extractive industries. Our network is wholeheartedly committed to this movement. So, sessions were held in 2018 throughout our regions with a view to sharing experiences with residents and partners from the same territory, as well as with our international partners, to bring about sustainable social change.

Meeting in August in Saint-Malo for the 5th Summer School, young members of the global Young Caritas network are already working on the fourth change. This aims to take into account the spiritual dimension of all as a shared pathway of dignity and to generate practical cooperation between different cultures and religions as a way to change the world. They remind us that social and ecological issues are closely linked and set us a goal for years to come: bring about a fraternal revolution with and from the most vulnerable people, key players in social, ecological and spiritual change that we need to protect our common home. ■

Véronique Fayet
National President

Bernard Thibaud
Secretary General

Hervé Perrot
Chaplain General

¹ In response to the call from Pope Francis during the 2nd World Meeting of Popular Movements (Bolivia, 9 July 2015).

THEY ARE SECOURS CATHOLIQUE

“**ANDRÉA**

“HOW CAN YOU CLIMB TO THE TOP OF LIFE’S LADDER WHEN YOU START AT THE VERY BOTTOM?”



It's Tof – who has known life on the streets himself – that writes this about Andréa, whom he met at ‘Shared Bread’ community meals organised by the Secours Catholique. It was literally at the very bottom that Andréa’s life started, on the steps at the

Hospital Saint Vincent de Paul, Paris.

An abandoned child, then in care, a runaway mother, working in a kiosk near Monceau Park... Andréa has had many hassles and experiences – including playing walk-on parts in films. But it was an unfortunate love story that caused her to experience life on the street. Today, she spends her time in a small apartment found by Secours Catholique, when she is not on the bus taking her to see friends at “Shared Bread”.

“**KHADIJA**

“FOOTBALL PUTS US ALL ON THE SAME LEVEL”



Khadija has been training the football team of Secours Catholique Paris for two years. Born in a working-class area of Algeria, she has played football since

she was small. It is a family passion. But football is not an easy lifestyle for a woman in Maghreb. So, in 2014, Khadija tries her luck in Paris where she experiences loneliness and misery, until one day she comes across Secours Catholique and becomes a football trainer. *“Football puts us all on the same level.”* Her dream: to obtain her papers so that she can finally have her own accommodation, and return to Algeria to embrace her mother.

“**BERNARD**

“SEEING ALL THIS POVERTY, WITHOUT DOUBT SHINES A LIGHT ON A LITTLE OF ONE’S OWN INTERIOR POVERTY.”



It was one day in August that Bernard, a former aeronautical engineer, heard of the evacuation of a squat in Cachan. *“I have to go”,* he says to himself. And so he goes.

It was the start of his battle for the right to accommodation, that he will not cease to conduct, firstly at the heart of Secours Catholique delegation of Val-de-Marne, then at national level, next at Limeil-Brévannes, where he assists with the opening of an emergency accommodation centre for single mothers. Ordained as a deacon five years ago, he strives to open parishioners’ hearts to misery: *“Seeing all this poverty,”* he tells them, *“without doubt shines a light on a little of one’s own interior poverty.”*

“ VANESSA

“DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE HAVE EVERYTHING TO HELP PEOPLE IN FRANCE, MANY SLIP THROUGH THE NET.”



Social security and Vanessa: it's a long story that starts when, aged 24, she is discovered to have a rare degenerative illness. She soon finds herself less physically able... and in difficulty. *“The CPAM and the CAF took a year to calculate my rights, a year that I lived only on housing allowance.”*

Vanessa is helped by those around her, she sub-lets her apartment, sells her possessions. She develops a fierce will to change things and joins the 'Community for a Connected Social Security.' Because if she lives thanks to social security today, she deplores that *“Despite the fact that we have everything to help people in France, many slip through the net.”*

“ GRÉGORY

“EVEN IF WE ARE POOR, WE SHOULD EAT HEALTHILY”



It was in September 2018 that Grégory settled in Saint Mathier in Haute-Vienne to be closer to his son. He arrived there with an organic market gardening project that he constructed with Jean-François Dusseigneur,

volunteer responsible for access to food for Secours Catholique. To investigate commercial opportunities, Grégory performed a market study for which he also went to see Secours Populaire. *“Even if we are poor, we should eat healthily.”* He knows something about this, having experienced difficulties and received food bank parcels. That's why he also dreams of a community grocer's, open to all, that offers organic produce at income-related prices.

“ ANNE-MARIE ET JEANNINE

“VOLUNTEERING ALLOWS YOU TO BE FULFILLED”



They are twins, born to a miner father in Jebel Jerissa, Tunisia. In another life, Jeannine was a social worker and Anne-Marie was with France Telecom. However, for seven years at the Secours Catholique in Alès they have focused

their beautiful energy, one as a manager of a local team the other as a leader of the "Good Humour" scheme which brings together around 30 women every Wednesday afternoon. Whilst Anne-Marie discovered situations of poverty that she wouldn't have suspected, her sister already recognised them. *“But at Secours Catholique, my view on people has refined, to the extent that I see them change. And picking up on that, it's incredible.”*

“ VALENTINA

“WHEN I SAW THESE FAMILIES MASSACRED, I COULD NO LONGER DO NOTHING”



If it weren't for the fall of the Soviet empire, Valentina would have lived peacefully in Uzbekistan. But war rages on her doorstep and the refugees come flooding. *“When I saw these families massacred, I could no longer do nothing.”* Valentina becomes a lawyer and studies

migration, which affronts her country's authorities and so she is obliged to migrate herself, to Azerbaijan then Georgia, before settling in Moscow where she sets up her own organisation, with help from Secours Catholique. Valentina earns the nickname 'Madonna of the Migrants' and gives them all her time. It is also said that she strikes fear into the police force, when she learns of racketeering of exiles.

RETRO-SPECTIVE 2018



3-4 FEBRUARY

Three Syrian families and around 30 volunteers from the three organisations in the Jura that welcomed them as part of the 'humanitarian corridor' scheme reunite to share their first few months' experiences of these unprecedented intercultural encounters.



20 APRIL

As part of its advocacy against energy poverty, Secours Catholique-Caritas France meets representatives from public authorities and recipients of the new Energy Cheque at Saint-Brieuc to understand the obstacles to its use.



8 JULY

First coach trips for the 1,000 children aged from 6 to 17 who will be welcomed for at least a fortnight as part of the family holiday scheme.

AND ALSO...

JANUARY The National Council of Activity (CAN), the new consultancy body of Secours Catholique-Caritas France, comprising one third of people with experience of vulnerability, meets for the very first time in Paris. – A victory of advocacy for Secours Catholique-Caritas France. The adjudicator cancels the decision adopted by the administrative council of Île-de-France Mobility which excluded foreigners entitled to state medical aid (AME) from the benefit of reductions in public transport. **MARCH** A preliminary working party is organised in Lyon for the people engaged in the 'Dignified Access to Nutrition for All' projects, a theme brought by Secours Catholique-Caritas France for several years to national, European and international bodies. A second meeting will take place in Nantes from 26 to 28. **MAY** Secours Catholique-Caritas France organises a large national seminar with the theme of changing the way we look at migrants and based on the publication of the study 'Perceptions and attitudes of the Catholics of France towards migrants' carried out by More in Common. **JUNE** On the occasion of the Global Day of Parents, the co-founding associations of 'Family Houses' (Maisons des Familles), Secours Catholique-Caritas France and the Apprentices of Auteuil, publish an evaluation of the social impact of these spaces in which to breathe and exchange. – Ten youngsters from Young Caritas Val-de-Marne, five Christians and five Muslims, cycle from Sucy-en-Brie to Taizé where they hold an Islamic-Christian weekend with the theme: interior life and fraternity.



23-26 AUGUST

On the theme "I have a [green] dream, cohabitant of the planet" 550 young people from around the world participate in the 5th summer school of Young Caritas in Saint-Malo.



30 NOVEMBER - 2 DECEMBER

Launch in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, of a two-year regional program to accompany the agroecological transition of eight countries of the Sahel, with the aim of relieving the social and environmental challenges that the region faces.



26 OCTOBER

Delegations of Secours Catholique-Caritas France participate in the 3rd 'unemployment strike' organised as part of the project 'Zero Long-term Unemployment Areas'. The objective of the day: to show that there are still useful activities that can be transformed into employment for the long-term unemployed.

AUGUST 20. A historic victory for the indigenous peoples of Peru. After several years of struggle, the Court of Appeal of Lima orders the suspension of oil drilling projects until the indigenous people have been consulted. **SEPTEMBER** The launch in Abidjan of 'Ivory Coast: We're Turning the Page' The objective of this new platform is to create a militant, citizens' campaign to guarantee the respect of the fundamental rights and wishes of the people as the presidential elections of 2020 approach. **OCTOBER** 28 and 31. Some 50 members of Secours Catholique-Caritas France delegations and people in vulnerable situations, meet in Lourdes to draw upon learnings from the national meeting of families which took place in 2015 and included 600 people, of which 200 were children. **NOVEMBER** A group composed of twenty-three people from the head office and from different delegations of Secours Catholique-Caritas France, also including Caritas Brazil, Colombia and Haiti, participate in the World Social Forum on Migration in Mexico. **DECEMBER** As part of the end of year campaign, Secours Catholique-Caritas France launches 'The Fraternal', a chocolate cake to share with the largest number possible. – In Marrakesh member states of the United Nations adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. This historic law is the fruit of several years' negotiations in which Secours Catholique-Caritas France has participated.

A CAMPAIGN TO RENOVATE THE SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEM

WHICH SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEM FOR OUR CENTURY?

Based on the observation that 'our social welfare does not, or no longer corrects all inequalities,' Secours Catholique-Caritas France began, in 2015, to consider the improvements to be brought to the system to ensure that nobody is left on the side-lines. A study was conducted involving those in vulnerable situations as well as experts and professionals and was followed up in 2018 with a major public survey, the results of which have been presented in our 2018 statistical report on poverty in France.

“Social welfare is a genuine treasure that allows us to stop worrying about the future and that protects us from life's misfortunes”, notes Daniel Verger, manager of the centre for 'Studies, Research and Opinion' at Secours Catholique-Caritas France. He adds: *“But it doesn't prevent the fact that in our centres, we have found that large numbers of people are falling through the cracks.”* Indeed, as our world has changed, as life expectancy has risen, as family relationships have transformed, as unemployment and job security concerns are touching more and more people... our system of collective support does not, or no longer, corrects all inequalities. In 2015, on the basis of this observation, Secours Catholique launched a wide-scale review in an attempt to rethink our social welfare starting from the experiences of its end users.

MERGING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE

This two-year project uses the 'knowledge hubs' process which comes from Quebec and consists of alternating, in small groups, between time for in-depth study and time for co-creation and 'logical dreaming' group exercises. Thus, on one hand, a collective, uniting Secours Catholique, Aequitaz, The Federation of Social and Sociocultural Centres of France and Accorderies France network, was formed with the aim of bringing together the knowledge of people with experience of vulnerability, experts and professionals. On the other hand, Secours Catholique undertook a process that was completed at the Secours Catholique Fraternal Assembly, organised in Saint-Malo in August 2017 on

the theme of 'contributing to society and being protected'. Reflections were also added by members of the senior management of the French/European Secours Catholique, and at the heart of the delegations in Champagne Sud, Chambéry, Rennes, in the Rhône and the Hauts-de-France...

The major national survey in favour of fairer social welfare launched in 2018, was a logical next step for this work. More than 3,000 people responded, which enabled, through their experiences, a large-scale overview of the way people use social welfare today in practical terms.

INSUFFICIENT PROTECTION IN A CRISIS

Although social welfare affects everyone, it is not always experienced in the same way by those at different levels of the social scale. Half of respondents with a standard of living lower than €1,000 per month report having been confronted with an unforeseen benefits withdrawal, as opposed to 10% of those with an income higher than €2,000. There is the same inconsistency with situations not provided for by the authorities, something which mostly affects those on a lower income. In other words, society does not provide sufficient protection in times of difficulty. Vulnerable people therefore economise on food and health, according to the survey, which could explain the difference in life expectancy between the richest and poorest: 13 years difference for men, eight years for women. Who is at fault? It is not the administrative teams, who are described by respon-

dents as mostly welcoming and attentive. It is more that the complexity of the system may be to blame. Information is often poorly communicated, people are sent between one service and another, and the delays in receiving allowances are too long. Limited language skills are also an obstacle, as is the internet, which is supposed to make things easier, but often leaves many excluded.

“POOR PEOPLE’S EXPERIENCE OF SOCIAL WELFARE IS PAINFUL. IT DOES NOT CORRECT INEQUALITIES, IT SIMPLY PAPERS OVER THE CRACKS.”

SOPHIE

TO BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE AND TO BE PROTECTED

From these statements, the Collective for Solidarity-based Social Protection has outlined seven key principles which, it says, permit the establishment of a new social contract based on a united commitment to protecting the whole of society. It recognises non-monetary contributions, such as carers’ voluntary work. But it is also based on trust and a recognition that mistakes are made, including by those on minimal social benefits, advocates for the non-suspension of benefits during application reviews, and tackling more efficiently the issue of failure to claim, which today still includes around a third of those encountered by Secours Catholique.

ADVOCACY SUPPORT

The combination of the results of the major public survey, and the contributions of different groups following two years of work fed into the statistical report on poverty in France published in November 2018 by Secours Catholique. This document, which was widely distributed to elected officials, serves to support an advocacy that rests on a very simple idea: to live well together, everyone must be able to contribute to society and also be protected. ■

THE 7 PRINCIPLES

PROPOSED BY THE COLLECTIVE FOR SOLIDARITY-BASED SOCIAL WELFARE FOR PUBLIC DEBATE

PRINCIPLE OF DIGNITY

Stable and effective income, shelter and care for all those living in France.

PRINCIPLE OF JUSTICE

The financing of social welfare must be based on fair foundations, whereby each contributes according to their means. Public services, benefits and support must protect citizens and continue to serve to correct inequality throughout their lifetime.

PRINCIPLE OF QUALITY

The public authorities must ensure a quality service based upon trust, and assure the continuation of rights under all circumstances.

PRINCIPLE OF CONTRIBUTION

All contributions to society – paid work, as well as family support, engagement in community, trade unions, politics, volunteering – must provide access to comparable rights for all.

PRINCIPLE OF SUSTAINABILITY

All policies (agriculture, ecology, housing, tax, education, economic...) affect health and quality of life. Hence the importance of all policies being in line with social welfare system objectives.

PRINCIPLE OF DEMOCRACY

The importance and implications of a social welfare based on solidarity must be transmitted and shared by all. This is done by educating the general public by civic culture as well as new governance connecting business, trade unions, state and citizens.

PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY

Social welfare must treat all those living in the territory equally, whatever their age, status, sex and nationality.

PROMOTING THE RECOGNITION OF EVERYONE'S KNOWLEDGE

"The knowledge of vulnerable individuals and groups is recognised and shared to create awareness and new practices."

Secours Catholique National Project 2016-2025.

PEOPLE AND GROUPS living in vulnerable situations develop an expertise that remains misunderstood and even scorned. Yet recognising the value of each individual's knowledge is fundamental to fighting effectively against poverty and transforming society. Universal participation is the first of the four changes envisaged by Secours Catholique-Caritas France, and has formed the basis of 2018's advocacy and activity in France and internationally.

People with experience of vulnerability make up a third of the participants in our new National Council, which met for the first time in January 2018. With this group, we brought our advocacy to government so that its strategy of combating poverty includes the participation of those concerned by its policies. It is also with this group that we held our large-scale national survey and focus group to rethink our social welfare system (see p. 8). It is with this group that we create and develop projects such as the AIS (*Social Estate Agency*) and that we improve the practices of, for example, financial support. And finally, it is thanks to this group's knowledge and opinions, that via experiences such as the journal *L'Apostrophe* or the Nevers theological sessions, together we grow in humanity.



WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WHOLE OF FRANCE

A THIRD OF PEOPLE ON THE NEW NATIONAL COUNCIL HAVE EXPERIENCED POVERTY

The desire of Secours Catholique-Caritas France to better recognise everyone's knowledge in order to create awareness and new practices came to fruition first of all with the creation of a new consultancy body, the National Council (CAN in its French acronym), which has an advisory role to the board of directors for the implementation of the national project. Created in 2017, the National Council is composed of 60 people chosen for their varied experiences: of a difficult life, of organising activities or of taking charge.

This body met twice in 2018: for the launch, on the 24 and 25 January in Paris, then in Strasbourg from 18 to 20 September. The first subject tackled by the National Council was that of shared governance, with a very practical question: "If we all wish to be stakeholders at every level of the organisation, what should we change from today?" Numerous propositions were put forward during the course of these two sessions and were communicated to Secours Catholique's board of directors. These proposals value the significant

presence of people in vulnerable situations within our projects and our governing bodies – particularly in the delegation councils - emphasising the importance of everyone taking an active part (in organisation, support and training of members, material means).

STUDY OF THE PARTICIPATION OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN SECOURS CATHOLIQUE

The participation of people with experience of vulnerability within decision-making bodies plays a part in the key principles of the national project of Secours Catholique-Caritas France. In order to support the development of this approach in our own network, we asked an anthropologist to look at our practices around the participation of people in decision-making positions, within the areas of rallying citizens for advocacy and living together as equals. This important study conducted by two delegations as well as the head office and its decision-making bodies was concluded at the end of 2018. The first observations revealed that more and more actions are »»

» developing in this collaborative spirit, that genuine investments have been made in this area, and that the number of delegations installing a diverse council is increasing. The conclusions and recommendations of this study will be presented in the course of 2019.

CONTRIBUTING TO GOVERNMENT STRATEGY ON THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

The strategy on the fight against poverty announced by the President of the Republic of France in September 2018 is one of the results of the advocacy of Secours Catholique-Caritas France and its partners. It is, in effect, thanks to our collective rallying that this theme has become part of the programme of reforms and that a consultation with the principle players – including Secours Catholique – began in January 2018. Several of our advocated measures have been retained, among which are the increase of the employment bonus, the widening of trials for 'areas of zero non-claimants', the opening of more nursery places and access to school canteen meals for families facing difficulties, the spread of the Budget Advice Points (PCB in its French acronym) and their state funding up to six million per year, and also the promotion of participation in the drawing

up of social policies by those implicated. That those currently in or with experience of living in vulnerable situations joined Secours Catholique to participate in the workshops was important and enabled us to achieve our aim of having their contributions better represented in decision-making (the inter-ministerial delegate even remarked on the striking level of inclusion). Also, there was a change of outlook by the government which, at least temporarily, has removed words such as fraud or handouts from its usual terminology.

A SOCIAL HOUSING AGENCY CO-CREATED AND MANAGED BY REHOUSED PEOPLE

Secours Catholique-Caritas France's Social Housing Agency project (AIS in its French acronym) aims to combat inadequate housing and push forward the policy of Housing First. In operation since the end of 2018, the agency brings together supportive landlords and people in inadequate accommodation, supported by Secours Catholique, with a view to aiding access to better quality, longer-term housing. The role of the agency is to find accommodation with rental prices suitable for the budget of those in need, and to encourage landlords to rent their property with a contract resembling that offered by social housing. As well as offering accommodation, the AIS works with identified individuals and families on taking the first step away from the streets or out of emergency accommodation towards having not just a roof, but a 'home' which suits their needs. To ensure the success of this project, those in inadequate housing were included right from the beginning. Their contribution has enabled the fine-tuning of the project, especially by working on the circumstances of access to housing and making AIS a unique experiment where future tenants and landlords, volunteers and staff collaborate. To make the project sustainable, those involved drew up a charter which enabled the organisation of all parties, including a representation of tenants within the governing bodies of the association.



E. PERRIOT / SCCF

RETHINKING FINANCIAL AID WITH THOSE CONCERNED

During 2017 Secours Catholique-Caritas France undertook an important study to rethink its financial aid in order to realise the ambitions of its national project. Based on the practices of the delegations, but also – essential to the originality of the project – drawing upon the experiences of those concerned, this study permitted the identification of 11 reference points to offer a dignified welcome to those requiring aid. In 2018 Secours Catholique produced several organisational tools to put into practice these 11 points: a promotional pictogram poster for reception areas, an educational booklet for leaders, a memo leaflet for volunteers and a partner brochure aimed at social leaders. The national group baptised 'Aid and Mutual Support' that led the work produced a capitalisation report on the project to take the lessons learned on board and to share them within the organisation. Finally, to discover and share the changes produced by the project, the reports were made into audio slideshows for 11 reception areas.

CONSIDERING THE TESTIMONIES OF MIGRANTS

In the winter of 2018, during the debates around asylum and immigration laws, Secours Catholique-Caritas France invited deputies to their centres to meet and converse with migrants. 150 deputies and nine senators from the Senate took up the invitation, and the meetings were very fruitful. The reality of migrants' lives, and especially the high costs of stamps for the *taxe de séjour*, led to a group of parliamentarians headed up by Stella Dupont, councillor for Maine-et-Loire, proposing an amendment. Although it was rejected at the finance commissioning vote, this amendment nevertheless allowed the creation of a commission on the subject at the start of 2019, a commission during the course of which Secours Catholique will be heard. We are delighted that the voices of migrants have contributed to this request for amendment of the law at National Assembly level.

RAISING AWARENESS AMONG CATHOLICS REGARDING THE RECEPTION OF MIGRANTS

Study of Catholics in France regarding migrants

To better understand the hesitation in welcoming migrants observed among some Catholics in France in order to change their outlook – this was the purpose of a survey that Secours Catholique-Caritas France, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, JRS France (Jesuit Refugee Service) and Pastorale des Migrants commissioned in 2018 via More in Common. Based on a typological approach, the study groups Catholics in the sample according to their perceptions, their attitudes and their level of engagement with migrants. It reveals that the attitude of Catholics towards migrants cannot be summed up by a conflict of being open or closed, but is dominated by ambivalence. Two of the five groups identified, who represent 45% of the total sampled, bear witness to a strong openness towards otherness. Two other groups, making up a third of the panel, show more of a closed attitude. The last group (22%) show ambivalence, torn between, on the one hand, compassion towards migrants and sympathy with the Pope's appeal, and on the other hand, fears regarding Islam. These results leave hope that a substantial proportion of Christians can be led towards a greater disposition to hospitality and solidarity, on the condition that we understand how to listen and take into consideration the fears expressed. They will serve as a base for an awareness campaign to be conducted in our delegations in 2019.

Awareness and change of attitude towards migrants

The opinion survey outlined above is one of the three stages of a substantive work initiated by Secours Catholique-Caritas France, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, JRS France and Pastoral Care of Migrants on raising awareness and changing the attitude of Catholics towards migrants. This work began with a survey and analysis of the impact of the actions already carried out in this direction in our networks, at national and inter-association level. It concluded on 24 and 25 May 2018 with a national seminar aimed at identifying best practices to create and develop within our networks. It was an important step which allowed us to analyse our actions and the opinions of Catholics towards the reception of migrants. ■



X. SCHWEBEL / SCOF

L'APOSTROPHE: THE EXPERIENCE OF VULNERABILITY EXPRESSED IN SPEECH AND PROSE

The journal *L'Apostrophe* was launched in 2016 and blossomed in 2018 with the publication of editions four and five. A genuine dynamic has been created around this journal, whose writers are all people living with or having experience of difficulty or difficult circumstances. In 2018, four writing workshops were launched and writing groups were also created around France: spaces where participants could open up their creativity through words as well as images. An editorial committee composed of people with experience of vulnerability and members of our communication and activity departments bring the journal together. For each edition, several of these writing groups are called upon to reflect on a particular theme. Their contributions are then put together by the editorial committee – also composed of people with experience of vulnerability. In each edition, we challenge ourselves to remain loyal to the honesty of the words and thoughts of the authors. The texts are then, with that intention, reread and checked in groups and can be subject to much to-ing and fro-ing. The hope is that by the quality of

the debates it puts forward, *L'Apostrophe* can serve as a tool for advocacy.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS ON THE THEME OF HOSPITALITY

Each year in Nevers, the Saint-Laurent network organises a pastoral theology session devoted to the experience of faith of those living in poverty and within the diakonia. In December 2018 the groups exchanged and reflected on the theme of hospitality.

An extract: "*Hospitality... Is to welcome with one's heart: from the moment where one extends hospitality to someone, it is really to welcome them deeply. It isn't simply to say, 'OK I'll welcome you for one day, but afterwards I won't think of you.'* It is also a case of accepting their personality, of getting to know one another. And perhaps one day, in turn, they could be welcoming me. This is what creates the link. [...] When one is suffering, to welcome others is not always easy. When we suffer, we are happy to have met people who welcome us. We can learn from those who accept us and take the plunge when we try to welcome someone. Not to welcome them with our suffering or take on theirs, but to welcome in joy, to be able to tell them:

'Put down your burden, let us welcome you.' Hospitality: it should be a joy."

FOLLOW UP ON THE NATIONAL MEETING OF FAMILIES

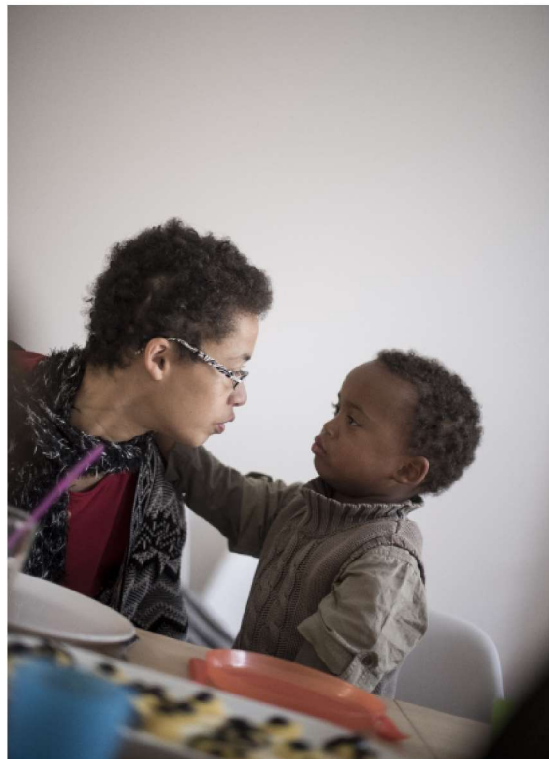
To follow up on the first family meeting in Lourdes, organised in 2015 by Secours Catholique-Caritas France which brought together 600 people, including 200 children, a family session bringing together 53 people took place between 28 and 31 October 2018. It was an opportunity for participants to see the project's achievements, share how they are getting on since the family solidarity work in the delegations, and discuss how to improve the support for families by connecting them with each other. Numerous delegations were represented, bringing along parents in difficult situations and one bringing a group of adolescents. Certain parents, having participated in the 2015 meeting and having become involved in their delegation's activity were even present as team supervisors. The session proved that most of the delegations are now developing other forms of support with the aim of handing over completely to the parents. The exchanges over three days provided reassurance over what could be done with families and encouraged others to evolve their practices.

MAISONS DES FAMILLES: PARENTHOOD EDUCATION SPACES

Launched in Grenoble in 2009 by Secours Catholique-Caritas France and Apprentis d'Auteuil, the Maisons des Familles are places dedicated to listening, sharing and mutual support between families. In 2018, we had a total of 15 in France, of which three were created in the same year in Ermont, Toulouse and Valux-en-Velin, and four others planned in Chambéry, Le Mans, Nanterre and in French Guiana. On 1 June, on the occasion of the Global Day of Parents, the cofounding associations of Maisons des Familles published an evaluation of the social impact of these structures. If each has distinguishing properties, all share a number of fundamentals which set them apart from classic parenthood support. Organised around a kitchen, a living room or a playroom, these houses are real living spaces, decorated and adapted by the families themselves. Places of socialisation, respiration, mobilisation, the Maisons des Familles allow wrap-around support

that reassures parents of their educational skills, enriches their methods and develops an educational relationship founded on communication, sharing and exchange between parents and their children.

"With my sons, it brought us closer together because at home I can't always be by their side, I have to cook, do housework... By the end, I'm tired. Here, I can play games with them. I'm not so stressed and they see that." »»»



X. SCHWEBEL / SCOF

GIVING VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING A VOICE AND A CHANCE TO START ANEW

»» They are called (or have chosen the name) Étienne, Happy, Henriette, Irina, Jude, Rhania, Véronique... They come from Africa or Eastern Europe and have experienced exploitation, not only sexual but also for work, having been forced into begging. These are forms of modern slavery involving human trafficking, a little-understood phenomenon shrouded in lies. To give these victims an opportunity to make their voices heard, to listen to them and believe them, is to bring back some truth and visibility to their experiences. It is to give them back their human status, so long denied to them, to value their rights, to permit them to be central to their own story again and to reconstruct their lives, as well as influencing decision-makers and to adapt laws to take into account the experiences of victims. This is why, in 2018, on European Anti-Slavery Day, the group of associations "Together Against Human Trafficking" which Secours Catholique-Caritas France co-ordinates, completely revamped their website *contrelatrite.org* and launched a newsletter which gives prominence to victims by informing readers of the realities of slavery.

“ THIS IS THE OVERRIDING FEAR: SOMETHING BAD IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME. YOU ARE SCARED OF WHAT WILL BE DONE TO YOU, TO YOUR FAMILY. THAT IS WHAT REALLY MATTERS. WITHOUT ENOUGH CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF [...] YOU ASK YOURSELF, HOW AM I GOING TO MAKE IT? ”

VÉRONIQUE

GIVING PRISONERS THE CHANCE TO SPEAK

Between 2016 and 2017, at the initiative of Secours Catholique-Caritas France and Caritas Germany, a large-scale consultation was carried out into prisons in eight countries in Europe with a view to identifying the elements necessary to bring autonomy to inmates. The need to be recognised as a human being in one's own right is a prerequisite to the ability to make choices and empower oneself. Equally important are the needs for socialisation, improvements to daily life, productive use of time during the sen-

tence and the possibility of having real space for relaxation. The results of the survey, analysis and propositions that arose were set out in a report which was published in September 2018 and distributed to associated networks and decision-makers. With the aim of raising awareness in schools and in wider society, the idea arose to translate the words of the inmates into an 8-minute long cartoon which, through the creation of a puppet, will show how the prison system can either contribute to breaking a person or to enabling them to become human again.

ENCOURAGING ART FOR ALL

The access to culture, especially through artistic practice, occupies an important place among the diverse types of support offered by Secours Catholique-Caritas France. These activities often heavily involve those we support and have the greatest impact on their lives. To better measure the benefits of these experiences we carried out a study that was completed in 2018.

Based on an inventory of the projects already undertaken at local level, the study considers needs and identifies several priorities: raise awareness of and unite the network of organisers within Secours Catholique who are involved in cultural activity, associate with other organisations already undertaking similar activity and make further investment. This work has also led to the creation of an 'act through culture' team which will bring this project to national level and pilot the development of a regional network. There is a lot at stake because, as the president of Secours Catholique Véronique Fayet commented, culture is: *"to breathe, allowing us to open up to the world, to see different horizons and move closer to one another."* ■

WITH ALL THE KNOWLEDGE IN THE WORLD

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY TIES TO COMBAT SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN BURKINA FASO

For several years, Secours Catholique-Caritas France has been a partner of ATD Quart Monde, whose strategies resonate with ours. The ATD activities that we support in Burkina are based on three pillars: respect for human dignity, reaching out to the most isolated and vulnerable communities and developing the skills of the most disadvantaged. Therefore the ATD programme with the support of Secours Catholique, focuses on actions which prioritise knowing over 'having' and by developing community cohesion so that no one is left outside the circle of solidarity guarantees safety for all. As part of the programme, between 2014 and 2018, a self assessment was conducted by members of the ATD with the support of Secours Catholique. This highlighted both the progress and the difficulties encountered as well as the originality of the approach. In fact through working very closely over the past thirty five years with children, families and extremely poor and marginalised communities, but also through gaining local credibility, ATD Quart Monde has succeeded in encouraging participation of very poor individuals and communities in the running of the country and reinvigorating the ethical foundation. Many of the same points as Secours Catholique stands for throughout the world.

A FRUITFUL EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE BETWEEN OUR PARTNERS IN BANGLADESH AND VIETNAM

This innovative project arose from a need expressed in September 2018 by CENDI, a Vietnamese partner, which defends the customary land rights of indigenous communities. It wished to set up a monitoring and evaluation framework to improve measurement of the impact of its projects. As part of a South-South pooling of expertise, Secours Catholique- Caritas France called upon a consultant from a training and research institute of Caritas Bangladesh. He spent 10 days with CENDI in Vietnam. As a result of this exchange, new indicators were included which take into account the wellbeing, culture and vitality of the community. Together, they

devised six questionnaires which would enable them to harvest information at the beginning and end of the project. This methodology will gradually be included in all future projects which will be conducted by our partner in Vietnam.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AND MOBILISING WOMEN IN MARGINALISED AREAS IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

In Israel and Palestine, Secours Catholique-Caritas France supported acts of solidarity and justice carried out by marginalised communities. Conducted by Mahapach-Taghir, an Israeli organisation built on a partnership between Jews and Arabs from Israel, this project aims to combat social exclusion by creating socio-educational opportunities for all, particularly for women and children. The organisation also strives to strengthen the leadership of women who are fighting within their communities for better access to basic services and supports communities of women who are committed to social change. ■



ALLOWING ACCESS TO BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS

*"Access to rights, including to education and work,
is a reality for all!"*

Secours Catholique National Project 2016-2025.

ACCESS TO BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS is a major challenge for our society. To guarantee this for all, without exception, giving priority to the most vulnerable, Secours Catholique-Caritas France altered its actions, its aid and its training in keeping with a systematic approach to support for access to rights, for advocacy to combat no-uptake and for identifying bottlenecks which create backlogs of people to be taken in. In 2018, our efforts focused on the right to housing, firstly for those who are homeless and then on decent housing for those living in inadequate housing. We continued to mobilise on the right to a decent job, including the continuation of the 'Zero long-term unemployment areas' project and the development in Eastern Europe of social and solidarity economy projects. We have also continued to defend the right to a decent diet, a theme that we have supported for a number of years in national, European and international bodies, with an emphasis on a transition to agroecology on all continents. Finally, with the current rise in the far right and nationalist tendencies, we have maintained the pressure for the respect of migrants' rights, both in transit countries, at our borders and inside our country. With a victory for advocacy, to which we are proud to have contributed: the signature in December 2018 in Marrakesh of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.



ACCESSING RIGHTS IN FRANCE

FOR DECENT JOBS AND INCOME

SUPPORTING THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT

As demonstrated by our statistical report published in 2018 on poverty in France, the profile of jobseekers who attend Secours Catholique-Caritas France centres has changed significantly. On average, they have been unemployed for 2.6 years, against 1.6 in 2011, and many (42% of people seen) are foreigners, with or without a residence permit, with specific issues. For these people who are further removed from the labour market than in the past, traditional support (help with writing a CV and covering letters, interview preparation ...) is no longer suitable. This led our fifty employment teams to rethink their support more as a first step towards a return to work. It is about helping people to prepare themselves for work and to gradually return to employment through volunteer missions or work experience for just a few hours a week in suitable organisations. The objective is also to remove barriers to employment through access to training, literacy and numeracy. So

Secours Catholique calls upon all its stakeholders to give French lessons or provide funding for mobility through microcredit, to get involved with a global movement for employment. These first steps on the road towards employment also make us engage with local stakeholders.

ADVOCACY FOR THE RIGHT TO TRAINING FOR ALL

At the beginning of 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France was very involved with the debate around the law 'for the freedom to choose one's professional future' which, in our view, overlooks certain jobseekers' training and support issues and so hinders their access to employment and to a fair income. Therefore we proposed several amendments, including the establishment of a specific fund matching system for the professional training account (CPF) for jobseekers whose career aspirations require long term skills training. We also proposed the creation of a new category of people entitled to the citizen engagement account (CEC) namely the long term unemployed in precarious situations who wish to engage in public service volunteering in »»

» approved organisations. This CEC contribution would give them access to additional rights to training under the CPF, on the same basis as volunteer administrators or supervisors. Therefore, 200 hours of community based engagement per calendar year would entitle them to 20 hours training. At a conversion rate of €14 per hour of training, the value of 200 hours of volunteer activity would be around €300 per year.

MOBILITY TO FACILITE ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT

Well aware of the importance of mobility in order to access employment, especially in the regions, Secours Catholique-Caritas France supports people through personal microcredit. As a result, the percentage of car purchases funded by microcredit reached 84% in 2018, compared with 72% in 2014. As part of our efforts to support millions of people with 'insecure mobility', we have continued to work within and currently chair the Solidarauto Federation, a network of solidarity garages. At the end of 2018, there were six licenced solidarity garages in France

and two sponsored projects. These operate as donation hubs for vehicles which are repaired and sold at a fair trade price (with a warranty on parts and labour) to people who are accompanied by our teams or directed by the social services. By 31 December 2018, the network, with a total of 30 employees and 80 volunteers, had sold 1,200 vehicles and carried out 20,000 repairs.

In 2018, we also entered into a partnership with the Renault Dacia group which allowed the lease of a new vehicle with the option to buy. An agreement with the Caisse d'Epargne reduces monthly payments to under €100.

SECURE HOUSING FOR ALL

ADVOCACY FOR HOUSING FIRST

Secours Catholique-Caritas France defends the right to housing, a constitutional right guaranteed by the State which became enforceable under the DALO law, and continues to help people living in poor housing to assert it. For many years we have campaigned within the Collective of United Associations (CAU) for the implementation of the 'Housing First' approach which prioritises access to permanent housing, a necessary prerequisite for integration and reintegration. We have also followed with interest the five year plan for housing first, presented by the government in 2017 and which for the period 2018 – 2022 forecasts the creation of 10,000 places in boarding houses, the mobilisation of 30,000 private sector housing units and the allocation of this housing as a priority to people living in emergency accommodation. Despite its laudable intentions, this plan does however raise some reservations. In 2017 the association was involved in the work of the CAU which aimed to identify the necessary conditions for its implementation. In 2018, we took part in the committee monitoring the implementation of the 'Housing First' plan. We also contributed to the analysis of the ÉLAN bill (Evolution of housing, development and digital technology), a draft bill which is not without risk in terms of the capacity to produce social and emergency housing. Finally, with ATD Quart Monde, Solidarités nouvelles pour le logement (SNL), Habitat et humanisme and the Fondation Abbé-Pierre, we began research to clarify the lack of access to social housing by the poorest households and to offer solutions. We continue with our engagement, all the more so as we are seeing a dramatic increase in the number of people on the



X. SCHWEEBEL / SCOF



G. KERBAOL / SCCF

streets, with huge numbers of families, children and even babies.

MOBILISING AGAINST ENERGY INSECURITY

The renovation of millions of 'energy sieves' in the French private housing sector is an ecological, economic and also social emergency as it is one of the conditions of the right to live in decent housing. This is why Secours Catholique-Caritas France has continued its commitment to the 'Rénovons!' organisations and made a number of criticisms and suggestions with regard to the energy renovation plan published in spring 2018. In particular we expressed our regret that it made no provision for specific measures for the renovation of rented accommodation and offered sometimes binding incentives to landlords of poorly insulated accommodation. We warned about the inadequacy of financial resources and the lack of organisation for implementation of the plan, given the objectives: the renovation of 500,000 homes per year, including 250,000 occupied by low-income families. Finally, we insisted on the need for social services support for some struggling owner occupiers as the Éco Habitat network in Picardy are doing in conjunction with volunteers from Secours Catholique.

Secours Catholique also took part in the National Observatory on Fuel Poverty (ONPE), who assessed the state of fuel poverty in 2018, and published a study of thirty households suffering fuel poverty.

APPEALING TO THE AUTHORITIES ON ENERGY CHEQUES

Following a two-year trial period in four departments, the energy cheque, a scheme which replaces social energy tariffs for electricity and gas, was rolled out throughout the country from 1 January 2018. Secours Catholique-Caritas France was concerned to note that during the trial period, 20% of cheques had not been used by the relevant people and that very few had returned the certificate giving them 'protected client' status, particularly in winter power cuts. For this reason, in 2018, we requested a meeting between the authorities and recipients of the cheques who had not used them. This took place in the Côtes-d'Armor branch, based in Saint-Brieuc. Unfortunately, only some of the proposed changes were adopted and the increase in the value of the €50 cheque is still inadequate. We also obtained agreement that a household, which had not received a cheque, for want of a tax return, could obtain it from the Payment and Services Agency (ASP). To reduce the level of non take-up of the cheque, with »



C. HARGOUES / SCOF

» the help of our delegations, we have committed to transmitting the public information campaign which explains how it works.

FOR A HEALTHY DIET

ADVOCACY FOR THE RIGHT TO A DECENT DIET

The right to decent and sustainable access to food is a plea which for a number of years, Secours Catholique-Caritas has brought before national, European and international bodies. At the end of 2017 and the beginning of 2018, we took part in France's national food conference (EGA), during a workshop with the theme of combating food insecurity. Our findings led to an amendment which introduced a definition of food insecurity which, we hope, will allow us to go further than simply a distributive approach to guarantee sustainable access to good quality, healthy food for all. In March 2018, two meetings on 'Decent access to food for all' were organised in Lyon and Nantes. The 80 delegates (project leaders, stakeholders from Secours Catholique, people with experience of food insecurity ...) were able to share their experiences and practices, but also learn about inspiring local initiatives and listen to professionals on the subject.

We continue our advocacy at local level, supporting the initiatives of people experiencing food insecurity, and at national and European levels, by fighting for recognition for the right to food. In 2018, as part of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), we took part in the IPES-Food initiative which aims to devise a European common food policy by 2020 which will be more ambitious than the current common agricultural policy.

SPICE CORNER... AND SOCIAL DIVERSITY

In May 2018, the Champagne Sud delegation of Secours Catholique-Caritas France and its local partners opened a solidarity grocery named 'Spice Corner' in Vendeuivre-sur-Barse. Managed with the help of the town hall, the county council and the social centre, this grocery, which is open to everyone, provides essential foodstuffs as well as organic and local products at prices to suit all budgets. Families facing financial difficulties find products that they would like, which meet their needs as well as a space for group activities. As regards solidarity customers, they pay an annual subscription which allows them to buy groceries at cost price and to take part in community activities. We no longer talk about clients and volunteers, as they all ensure the smooth running of the place and its development. Just a few weeks after the opening, the grocery had 70 members! ■

RECOGNISING AND APPLYING THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

MOBILISATION AROUND THE ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION LAW

At the beginning of 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France mobilised against the asylum and immigration bill, judging it to be unbalanced owing to its essentially repressive intention, and devoid of a realistic response to the real problems encountered by migrant people, with the risk of further deteriorating the precarious situation in which thousands of individuals and families find themselves. On the eve of the presentation of the text to parliamentarians, we urged all our delegations to mobilise (see above, p. 13), by inviting members of their constituencies to meet and listen to the migrant people that they are supporting. This process, initiated with the Federation of Protestant Mutual Aid, counted on the effect of the meeting to change outlooks and gain an understanding of what is happening on the ground. Seven fact sheets summarising our main considerations were submitted to the delegations. The objective of this advocacy was to secure specific actions for the benefit of the migrant people that

we encounter in our centres, namely: the chance to regularise the status of undocumented people whose claims have been rejected; challenging the Dublin regulation and its implementation in France; protecting the most vulnerable, particularly young people. Whilst this action has not prevented the law being passed, it provoked a real debate amongst the LREM MPs and demonstrated the ability of migrants to play an active role in advocacy campaigns which are relevant to them.

RESPECTING THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS AT THE FRANCO-ITALIAN BORDER

In spring 2017, against a backdrop of tightening the policy of controls at the external and internal borders of Europe, and of a major shortfall in public funding for the care of migrants, charities were left alone to provide them with help and advice. This is why Secours Catholique-Caritas France, Amnesty International France, La Cimade, Médecins du Monde and Médecins sans Frontières decided to join forces at the Franco-Italian border. This rapprochement was formalised by the joint hiring of a coordinator to support actions and actors working on both sides of the border. The overall assessment, completed in November 2018 is generally positive. This multi-agency action has strengthened the links and interactions between stakeholders and has been well received in the media and politically. The pooling of networks and skills actually promotes greater efficiency in actions, especially those requiring logistics, mobilisation and coordination. Furthermore, the sharing of precise information on what is happening in one place or another along the border enables the group to fulfil an observatory role. Therefore the decision has been made to renew the agreement until spring 2019 and to initiate a similar policy on the coast around Calais and on the Franco-Spanish border.

STUDY ON THE RECEPTION OF MIGRANTS AS PART OF THE 'HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS' PROJECT

The 'humanitarian corridors' project launched in 2017 aims to organise the reception in France of very vulnerable people who are refugees in Lebanon. It makes it possible to obtain humanitarian visas for these families in exchange for the organisation on the spot of their reception by voluntary groups. This project which was the subject of an agreement signed by the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, »»

» Secours Catholique-Caritas France and its partners, enabled 160 people to be taken in between July 2017 and end September 2018. A year after the first arrivals, we wished to learn from the experience of the families who were taken in and of the groups that welcomed them. The survey conducted with 21 families and 27 groups gives information on the provision of support and housing to these people and on access to school and health, etc. It highlights the groups' arrangements for mobilisation and passes on recommendations made by the respondents, notably better preparation before and after departure and the need for easier access to rights. Since the start of the project, with European states leaning towards a policy of outsourcing reception to EU borders, which we oppose, we are questioning the merits of pursuing a 'protocol' that binds us to the Ministry of the Interior and therefore to a policy which we denounce. However, we maintain our support for Christian and citizens' networks that are involved in the reception and support of migrants, whatever their status or situation in the asylum process, and we continue to challenge the authorities to assume their responsibilities and duties vis à vis migrants.

“WE FIND THAT THE SITUATIONS ENCOUNTERED BY THE PEOPLE WE SUPPORT ARE MADE WORSE BY NON TAKE-UP.”

CONTINUING THE GLOBAL MIGRATION CAMPAIGN

Since 2017, Secours Catholique-Caritas France has been involved with the Caritas Internationalis campaign on migration, known as 'Share the Journey'. This global campaign has two objectives: to guarantee genuine respect for the basic human rights of migrants throughout their journey and to help change the way these people are perceived. In January 2018, we organised a two-day meeting in Paris dedicated to this campaign, with over 100 people, both employees and volunteers, from all delegations. This initial meeting was followed by another in May, also for two days, which was more specifically dedicated to raising awareness and changing attitudes. Once again, around 100 people attended: members of our network but also of CCFD-Terre solidaire, JRS France and Pastorale des migrants, and a representative of our partner in Mexico. Following these two major events, several days were dedicated to the campaign in the delegations, in order to exchange ideas, discuss overall, raise the profile and bolster the actions of Secours Catholique-Caritas France.

LEARNING FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

In 2018, as part of the Global Migration campaign, Secours Catholique-Caritas France set up international 'learning meetings' (in Bangladesh, Morocco, Senegal and Turkey). Aimed at members of our network in France, both employees and volunteers, the objective of these meetings was to discover the truth about international migration, to understand the work of our partners and their networks and finally, to encourage the exchange of practice and experience between field workers. To guarantee the success of

these innovative meetings, the participants spent quite some time preparing beforehand and capitalising on the experience afterwards. In addition to finding out about the very different situations experienced by migrant people

depending on the country and also the practices of our partners, these meetings provided a better understanding of the complexity of the journeys, the role of governments, of how our partners operate, of networking, etc. They will be reconvened in 2020, and will offer our international partners the opportunity to come and meet Secours Catholique actors and to see at first hand the realities experienced in France.

PROMOTING ACCESS TO SOCIAL RIGHTS

TRAINING TO HELP OBTAIN ACCESS TO SOCIAL RIGHTS

Secours Catholique-Caritas France teams often make the observation that the situations experienced by people who they support are compounded by non take-up, suspensions or delays in payments of benefits to which they are entitled, or through delayed access, or late renewal of their right to supplementary Universal Health Care (CMU), to State medical assistance, to personalised housing assistance (APL). Owing to the constantly changing legislation and the complex procedures, eligible households and indeed those who support them are often not fully aware of their social rights. To bridge this gap, training in access to rights, aimed at volunteers, is being developed in many regions where we have delegations. Through practical examples, this training helps them to identify difficulties more easily and with appropriate responses, help to



S. WASSENAAR / SCOF

remedy them. They also provide benchmarks for social rights and recommend partnerships with social services or other associations.

ADVOCACY FOR THE RIGHT TO HOLIDAYS FOR ALL



For a number of years now, Secours Catholique-Caritas has campaigned alongside other associations to defend the right to holidays for all. In particular, we support the National Agency

for Holiday Cheques (ANCV) so that it can continue to allocate €26million to this social purpose, including €478,000 in 2018 for Secours Catholique. Since these amounts are not enough on their own to provide holidays for all those who are deprived of them, we also lobby the Family allowance funds (CAF) to agree to grants for holidays for families and children. In fact, some departmental funds do not offer these grants, or not enough to cover the needs. For this reason, in 2018, we encouraged our network to pursue the advocacy that we conduct at department and national levels, in the local area. Holidays are not a luxury but a right, an opportunity for some respite, to leave everyday life behind and most importantly to show that you are the same as

everyone else.

"It allows you to leave the house, forget the misery, and leave everyday life behind. It allows you to interact with others, to visit all sorts of places for a ridiculously low price".

EUROPEAN ADVOCACY FOR THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION FOR DETAINEES

Following the major inquiry into self-determination of people detained by the courts, which was conducted in prisons in France, Albania, Germany, Spain, Ireland, Kosovo, Lithuania and Portugal, a working party, made up of members of the eight Caritas delegations in these countries, continued the discussion, with visits to prisons in Albania and Kosovo in particular. Based on the results of the survey which demonstrates that the need for self determination, or the opportunity to take control of their lives and understand their capacity for the citizen's initiative, is the stated aspiration of all prisoners and people under criminal investigation who were questioned, we have drawn up a plea which will be brought before the Council of Europe Commission on Human Rights in 2019. This plea includes three principal demands: that the prison services promote all forms of action which help >>>

WINNING ADVOCACY

RESTORATION OF THE RIGHT TO THE SOLIDARITY TRANSPORT REDUCTION

In 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France obtained agreement that undocumented migrants, but who were entitled to state medical assistance (AMF), should once again have the right to claim the Solidarity Transport reduction which the Île de France regional council (mobility division) had denied them. After more than two years campaigning, the Paris Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the Paris Administrative Court and requested the reinstatement of solidarity pricing. Île-de-France Mobilités appealed this decision, but it was confirmed by the judgement of 6 July 2018 of the administrative court of appeal. The Île de France Mobilités regional council finally agreed to comply with this judgement. The new system was put in place from November 2018.

ASSESSMENT OF REFUGEES BY THE RIGHTS SIMULATOR

It all started with an observation made by an employee of the Mutual Aid centre for asylum seekers and refugees (Cèdre) of Secours Catholique-Caritas France. The rights simulator: mes-aides.gouv.fr, which enables people in vulnerable situations to find out about their rights to assistance, did not take into account the special situation of refugees with regard to the RSA grant. It did in fact state that to obtain the RSA, you had to have had legal residence for five years, yet people with refugee status are exempt. This fault was reported to the CNAF, which delivered a new corrected version by the end of July 2018. Nevertheless, a pop-up window stating: 'If you are a refugee or have a residency permit, tick "Yes" to this question' appears on the simulator when applying for RSA for the user, spouse and children.

ACCESS TO THE RIGHT OF DOMICILE IN SEINE-SAINT-DENIS

For several years the community centre for social action (CCAS) in Bobigny deliberately did not offer a domiciliation service, since the town did not wish to take in any more people in vulnerable situations. In March 2017, Secours Catholique-Caritas France (Seine-Saint-Denis - Île-de-France delegation - Cèdre), Médecins du Monde and the Dom'Asile association decided to file a lawsuit against the CCAS, rather than continuing to investigate individual com-

plaints, which of course, succeeded but did not help all those who are affected. The approach paid off since several weeks before the hearing, Bobigny CCAS opened a domiciliation service. Sceptical as to its effective implementation and wishing to ensure that obligation to provide a domiciliation service within a CCAS was officially registered in the court ruling, the associations attended the hearing in April 2018. The service officially opened on this date so the CCAS was not found guilty. However, to our great satisfaction, the judgement specifically included mention of the service obligation that we had hoped for.

ADVOCACY WITH THE CAF IN CÔTES-D'ARMOR

As part of its support for better access to social rights, the Côtes-d'Armor delegation of Secours Catholique-Caritas France undertook an analysis of 106 requests for assistance received over two years from people in difficulty. It transpired that 13.6% of them were affected by a temporary or permanent suspension or reduction in rights granted or requested from the CAF, with some of them going two or three months with no income whatsoever. This observation led the delegation to take collective action with the affected families, to report the shortcomings to CAF officials. The analysis was underpinned by a study of 15 applications for financial assistance, 20 accounts gathered during individual meetings throughout the Côtes-d'Armor region and two group meetings in Ploubalay, which each brought together around 10 welfare recipients and around 10 volunteers involved in support work from Secours Catholique. The positive response from the CAF to this approach has encouraged other delegations to try it.

»» people to maintain their human dignity whilst they are imprisoned; that they take steps and support activities which strengthen ties between prisoners and the outside world; finally, that legislators, rather than just agreeing in principle, provide the means to implement genuinely viable alternatives to imprisonment.

ADVOCACY IN PICTURES FOR PRISONERS' RIGHTS

In 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France provided financial support for four documentary films which, each in its own way, advocates for the rights of prisoners.

Après l'ombre (After the Shadow), by Stéphane Mercurio, follows a theatrical experience conducted with prisoners and based on their words.

Le droit d'avoir des droits (The right to have Rights), by Catherine Rechart, recounts the struggles of the few lawyers who remain alongside their clients throughout their sentence but also of former prisoners who themselves embark upon legal proceedings and litigation.

La liberté (Freedom), by Guillaume Massart, bears witness to life in the only supposedly semi-open prison in France, where trees, the sky and the sea, as well as the opportunity provided by the director to tell their story, open up a way towards liberation and reintegration.

Un demi-mètre carré de liberté (Half a square metre of freedom), by Inga Lavolé-Khavkina, collects the words of prisoners, filmed in plain sight, who discovered art in prison and who, through their works, initiate a dialogue with society.

CONTINUING ADVOCACY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

In December 2017, Secours Catholique-Caritas France, as coordinator of the 'Combating Human Trafficking together' group, presented a 10 point report on the deficiencies in French policy with regard to combating human trafficking, in preparation for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of France on human rights at the UN in Geneva. Having been presented with this information, on 13 June 2018, the UN sent a letter to the French government, reminding it of the need to establish a second plan of action against trafficking, to not confuse unauthorised migrants with victims of trafficking and to protect minors who are victims of any form of trafficking. France responded with clarification of the national laws challenged by the UN and on its policy for combating human trafficking. The group continues advocacy with the UN, as well as with the Council of Europe and the European Union so that the law is applied. Yet today, we see that many victims do not

make complaints and prosecutions for the offence of trafficking human beings are still very rare. The principle of not prosecuting victims is not applied and is not included in the French penal code. The automatic right to a residency permit for victims who have lodged a complaint is rarely applied and does not give any right to accommodation, especially as there is insufficient funding for special schemes for victims of trafficking. The route out of prostitution provided for by the law of 13 April 2016 is insufficient, insufficiently funded and is applied very inconsistently across the country. Moreover, the asylum and immigration act passed in 2018 reinforced sanctions against people with false identity papers, without any mention of the particular circumstances of victims of trafficking. ■



X. SCHWEEBEL / SCCF

ACCESSING YOUR RIGHTS IN THE WORLD

MAKING FINANCE WORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL

Finance plays a very important role in the entire economy and affects the life of everyone. It is not just about banks or investors, but also about citizens who should be able to take back control. This is the stated objective of the 'La finance aux citoyens. Mettre la finance au service de l'intérêt général (Finance for citizens. Making finance work for the common good) report', published by Secours Catholique-Caritas France in June 2018, in partnership with Finance Watch and the Veblen Institute.

The result of eighteen months work, this report analyses how the financial system works, deciphers its impact on poverty and inequalities both in the North and South, and brings to the debate proposals for reform to make finance work for the common good. It is in fact possible to remedy the negative effects of financial deregulation. The report proposes a series of measures to be put in place over a period of time. Measures that revolve round a strong and ambitious long term vision: energy transition, combating climate change, access to housing and decent employment. The ambition is to facilitate ownership of these challenges by the public and to open a dialogue with stakeholders in the world of finance and with those responsible for devising the regulations and ensuring their application.

Public debates were organised following publication of the report, based on the main issue: once again make the economy work for the common good so that we invest in societies that guarantee the basic human rights of all citizens.

“ THE LAND ISSUE CONSTITUTES ONE OF THE GREATEST STRUCTURAL INEQUALITIES IN SOUTH AMERICA. ”

THE RIGHT TO WORK AND TO A DECENT INCOME

PROMOTING ACCESS TO WORK FOR ALL IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

For two years Secours Catholique-Caritas France has been involved with a project initiated by Caritas Italie to promote the development of the social and solidarity economy in the Balkans, with the aim of enabling more people to access work and a decent wage.

This project, known as ELBA (Emergenza Lavoro nei Balcani) was developed in eight countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. In 2018, the project entered a new phase, which intended to provide better training for local teams and to lobby the local authorities to adopt legislation dedicated to the development of the social and solidarity economy. In countries like Kosovo where this type of law already exists, advocacy focuses on developing activities not only for people with disabilities, but also for young people and women.

In 2018, the ELBA group was invited to France to visit some landmark projects: two in Paris and four in Grenoble, a region which is particularly well advanced with regard to a social and solidarity economy. It was a week of fruitful exchanges which ended with a conference organised with the Mairie of Grenoble and the CRES (Regional Chamber of Social Economy Enterprises).

TOWARDS THE RIGHT TO A JOB AND A DECENT INCOME FOR ALL IN GAZA, LEBANON AND ALGERIA

To promote access for all to a decent income, in 2018 Secours Catholique-Caritas France supported several partners who work on access to employment by helping people to develop income generating activities. Our support covers both recipients, public and private partners and associations who support the projects.

In Gaza, the purpose of the project is to provide support for young people in finding their first job by helping them to find a work placement, keeping an eye on them during this placement and then helping them to find a job. In some cases, young people can also be helped to develop a micro-enterprise project and be supported with its implementation. In Lebanon, the project works with Syrian and Palestinian refugees who are given help with the creation of a micro-enterprise. Finally, in Algeria, women have access to training and advice on developing entrepreneurial skills.



E. PERRIOT / SCOF

DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO LAND IN LATIN AMERICA

In 2018, in Latin America, in the face of increasing violence towards environmental activists and human rights defenders, Secours Catholique-Caritas France continued to support communities, especially indigenous communities, in defending their right to land. The land issue constitutes one of the greatest structural inequalities on the continent. In Colombia, despite major challenges following the election of Iván Duque as President of the Republic in 2018, we have continued to support the implementation of the peace agreements and the process of restitution of land of farming communities, both afro-descendant and indigenous, who were displaced during the conflict. This support is essential as, two years after the signature of agreements, only 21% of the proposed actions have been delivered.

In Bolivia, we have supported the Guarani community in its long struggle for effective autonomy as recognised by the constitution.

In Peru, we have supported the progress made by our partners regarding recognition for the Awajun people and their ancestral lands, the subject of great envy owing to its rich resources both above and below ground. Finally, in the Brazilian Amazon, we have continued

to support the action of CIMI (Missionary Indigenous Council) to help with the recognition and demarcation of indigenous territories which have been expropriated by big landowners.

THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

SUCCESSFUL ADVOCACY FOR RESPECTING THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

On 10 and 11 December 2018, in Marrakech, Member States of the United Nations adopted the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. This historic text is the fruit of several years of negotiations which Secours Catholique-Caritas France has been part of. It is the first time that Member States of the UN have met to discuss the subject of migration, so, a victory set against the rise of the extreme right and the tightening of migration policies that we are seeing throughout the world. For several years we have been working to influence French and European Union policy on the question of migration. At global level, we have worked with Caritas Internationalis and other civil society organisations on a common advocacy document.

Secours Catholique, the only French NGO to have followed the negotiation of the Compact, has taken »»

RECEPTION, RAISING AWARENESS AND PROMOTING MIGRANTS' RIGHTS IN GAO

The Malian city of Gao, on the Niger river, is a transit point for migrants, adults (men and women) but also teenagers, from other regions of Mali or who have left Gambia, Guinea, Senegal... in search of a better life in Maghreb or in Europe. Owing to the European Union's tightening of migration policies, the town is also seeing an influx of more and more migrants turned away from Algeria, who are physically and psychologically exhausted, with no money and often without documents. For several years, Secours Catholique-Caritas France has supported the House of Migrants of Gao with medical care, food and clothing and psychological help for the most vulnerable who hope to continue their journey or return home.

Information campaigns on the dangers of migration across the desert are also conducted among the population of Gao and the migrants. In 2018, we increased our assistance so that the House of Migrants of Gao could take in more people and provide legal and also psychological support to the most vulnerable. We also assisted with its local advocacy in particular to defend migrants who had been put in jail, sometimes for no valid reason, in inhumane conditions and unable to exercise their right to defend themselves. ■

» specific action on 2 of the 23 objectives included: that of respect for the basic human rights of all migrants regardless of their status, and on developing legal ways of migration. We are pleased that the States have agreed to guarantee access to basic services for all and also that the document reaffirms the importance of humanitarian visas, temporary protection, study visas and the right to family reunification. The Compact is a message from the international community to respect the rights of migrants. It must be implemented in a bold and decisive way, with respect for these rights as the overarching principle.

DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS IN LATIN AMERICA

In 2018, the migration issue spread to the entire Latin-American continent. Thousands of people fleeing Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, because of the ongoing violence



and the complete lack of any economic prospect, continued to converge towards Mexico and the United States in extremely dangerous conditions. A recent phenomenon is group migration, in caravans, to protect themselves from traffickers and criminal gangs.

The crisis in Venezuela, which has been on-going for several years with severe consequences for health, food and safety, is also driving people to seek refuge in neighbouring countries and across the continent. In all these regions, Secours Catholique-Caritas France has continued to support the associations which provide humanitarian, psychological and legal assistance to these people, guaranteeing their rights in the country of arrival and supporting them in their integration process. One of our partners, JRS Mexico (Jesuit Refugee Service), produces a statistical report which is used as an advocacy tool to denounce the violence suffered by the migrants throughout their journey.

We note that 2018 was a particularly violent year in terms of harassment and stigmatisation of collective action, of leaders and organisations involved in defending rights. Therefore, more and more, we deal with the issues of physical and legal protection for our partners themselves.

RESPECTING THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS AND ADVOCACY FOR THE RIGHT TO MIGRATE

In 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France continued to assist with the networking of a dozen Caritas groups from Europe, North Africa and Sahelian Africa, that help migrants. It is a matter of spreading good practice and (working with the Cimade association and the Migreurop network) sharing analysis on the policies of European countries which heavily influence local situations. This supports the work of these Caritas groups on educational and economic integration, on the pro-

tection of unaccompanied minors and, more broadly, on access to rights. We have also supported actions promoting access to basic human rights for migrants. In Israel, for example, we supported an association which defends the right to health of some 130,000 people who are in the territory without official status. Our partner PHR-I (Physicians for Human Rights-Israel) also calls upon the government to regularise these people and abandon the decision to send back 60,000 of them to so-called safe countries. In Egypt, we supported migrant community organisations (Eritreans, Ethiopians, Sudanese...), helping them to improve their methods of operation, governance and funding as well as their relations with the authorities. Finally, we supported a Caritas in Morocco programme whose overall objective is to enable migrants to exercise their basic human rights.

PARTICIPATING IN THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM ON MIGRATION

In 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France chose to participate in the World Social Forum on Migration which was held in November in Mexico. Secours Catholique organised two workshops: one on citizen mobilisation and the other on the collective defence of the rights of foreigners. About 20 participants attended, including employees and volunteers, from our delegations, from head office and from our partners from the Caritas network (Brazil, Colombia and Haiti). Time spent on preparation, meetings and exchanges with Mexican and Latin-American partners led to a better understanding of the role of migration in the region. After the Forum, there were also meetings and exchanges in some of the migrant reception centres. The participants were unanimous in emphasizing the richness of these exchanges with our partners in terms of experience, knowledge and spirituality.

THE RIGHTS OF PRISONERS

Improving the detention and reintegration conditions of people imprisoned in Mauritania

Promoting access to rights of vulnerable individuals and populations has been one of the main focuses of Secours Catholique-Caritas France's action in 2018 in the Arab world. In particular, we supported a Caritas Mauritania project which aims to improve the conditions of imprisonment of 1,600 detainees in the Aleg, Dar Naïm, Nouadhibou prisons and the women's prison in Nouakchott. This project includes medical and psychological check-ups, sporting and cultural activities and access to justice. To help with the social and professional reintegration of these people and

thus limit the risk of re-offending, vocational training is provided in prison, as well as revenue generating activities for recently released prisoners. ■

THE HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE REWARDS A FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

The 'Let's turn the page' collective is an international citizens' movement coordinated by Secours-Caritas France and made up of some 250 organisations in Africa and Europe. Since 2014, its action has been based on non-violent citizen mobilisation, institutional advocacy and raising awareness in the people and government bodies of the challenges of good democratic governance, fiscal justice, political change and respect for individual freedoms. In Niger, the 'Let's turn the page' collective has existed since November 2016. In 2018, it took vigorous action against the new finance act, of which 112 measures were judged antisocial and unfavourable to the poorest, in a country already amongst the poorest in the world. As a result of this mobilization, the activists were harshly punished by the Nigerien government and 27 of them were even indicted. The jury of the Human Rights Prize of the French Republic was impressed by the approach of the Nigerian collective and by their courage. It recalled that "*these activists, who do not hesitate to denounce the political and financial malpractice of the Nigerien government but also of the mining industry, may pay with their freedom*".

DEVELOPING THE TERRITORIES

“Marginalised territories are revitalised and territorial inequalities reduced.”

Secours Catholique National Project 2016-2025.

WE HAVE SEEN IT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS IN FRANCE: cultural, demographic, social and economic divides, as well as the shortfall in services and infrastructure marginalising people and leading to tensions both within and outside the territories. This is why, given that it is an aim of our national project, we have worked harder than ever in 2018 to strengthen the capacity of individuals and groups to act for the development of their territory and its resources.

Activities on promoting regional social change took place in all the regions, to develop a common approach to the processes which allow the change and instil a shared desire to launch experiments regionally with national support. In overseas territories, this movement was continued by 'Youth Challenge Overseas' and was reconvened for the third consecutive year.

In many parts of the world, regional development is closely linked to agroecology, the best possible response to the risks posed by climate change to food security. In 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France increased its support for projects which encourage this change. We have also worked alongside indigenous populations that are defending their territories against mining industries, and communities in the suburbs of Kaolack in Senegal who organise themselves to collect and sort their waste, and in India, with slum communities to defend their rights with the local authorities and to install and maintain the infrastructure needed to clean up their environment.



C. HARGOUËS / SCSF

SUPPORTING TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT IN FRANCE

SET IN MOTION A MOMENTUM FOR LOCAL SOCIAL CHANGE

Between March and July 2018, activities on local social change (ACSL) took place in all regions. They were prepared in a participatory way by various actors from Secours Catholique-Caritas France. These sessions had several objectives: adopting a common approach to the processes which allow social change; working with all stakeholders on the changes in posture involved with these processes and supporting them and finally; inspiring a culture of local experiments with national support. Every session was attended by representatives of one of our international partners, who came to present their actions regarding social change. For Secours Catholique, these sessions confirmed that the 2016 – 2025 national project had already stimulated a real momentum for action based on the experiences of the citizens of a given region. Just

about everywhere groups are getting together and projects being devised. Local strategies to stimulate social change are being devised and feed into the national strategy which is also under development.

ADVOCACY TRAINING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE OVERSEAS

It is now three years since several overseas delegations of Secours Catholique-Caritas France launched the 'Youth Challenge Overseas' with the aim of developing local and national advocacy activities with Young Caritas members. In 2018, it was the turn of French Guiana to host a seminar of advocacy training which gathered together 70 young people from Guadeloupe and Martinique. During these four days, the young people worked on real-life cases to single out examples of poverty, injustice or exclusion in their regions and to identify their causes and »»

» consequences. All this was with the aim of considering how best to engage in an advocacy process with partners and people affected. After completing the training, the young people chose one concrete approach for each delegation: alert business leaders to the need for more internship opportunities for Martinique; combat loneliness in old people for Guadeloupe; raise public awareness of preserving the quality of a beach threatened by pollution for French Guiana.

CONTRIBUTING TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

In order to encourage our delegations to support

partnerships with stakeholders in the local social and solidarity economy and therefore to strengthen regional projects which promote access to essential goods, to autonomy and to the ability to take action for vulnerable people, Secours Catholique-Caritas France has established a national commission 'Social and Solidarity Economy'. Its role is to coordinate financial assistance and local and national partnerships around projects which encourage the contribution and involvement of people in vulnerable situations and who embrace the idea of a circular economy. In 2018, over one million Euros were allocated to these partnerships: partly in the form of grants to the heads of associative networks (Zero long-term unemployment

ACTIVITIES ON LOCAL SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE REGIONS THE EXAMPLE OF HAUTS-DE-FRANCE AND OCCITANIA

Laurent Lévêque, coordinator of regions and delegations for Secours Catholique-Caritas France, directed the ACSL session in Occitania which gathered together over 120 people in Lourdes. He returns to these four exciting days.

"This ACSL session was a continuation of others which had taken place in 2016 on regional activities, but focused in particular on organisational aspects. Later, with the ambitions of the national project as our starting point, we wondered how to change society in the regions by engaging energy, individuals, groups, associations on very specific subjects: ending the loneliness of old people, increasing mobility, keeping young people in the regions... The four day session held in Lourdes in 2018 allowed us to take another step in continuing with what had already been achieved and planned. We approached the idea of promoting local social change through the testimonies of associations such as the Accorderies du Gard, who conduct this type of activity. From the first observation, 'it happens so it is possible' we have been convinced of what could, in our view, be a more fair and fraternal region. Then we attempted to understand how this approach impacted on our practices. The outcome of these four days has been met with great enthusiasm. We set off afterwards full of daring and with a clear desire to get to work".

Bernard Schricke, the interregional delegate, directed, amongst others, the ACSL session in Hauts-de-France. A summary of three very fruitful days in Merville, with 110 representatives of the eight delegations.

"We had invited 16 associations from the region to come to show the activities they are conducting regarding social change: the creation of a leisure centre for all ages, which was requested by people living in the neighbourhood; creation of an Accorderie in Lille which has changed the neighbourhood life by creating social diversity; building a shelter in front of the school for pupils' parents... The next day, leaders of the Federation of Social and Sociocultural Centres, of the Accorderie network and Laurent Seux for Secours Catholique, explained why we as associations, are expected to act in the field of social change.

In the course of the session, we made a fresco depicting a landscape where we gradually added people, then street furniture, then existing meeting places and finally emblems of our desire for change. At the end, everyone left with a piece of the fresco.

We notice that our salaried workers, who are in their thirties and have a more developed environmental awareness, are really keen to support this type of project. This is why, at the end of 2018, we decided to carry out a six-month observation to identify the professional work time that could be released for this". ■



C. HARGOUËS / SCSF

areas, Jardins de Cocagne, Accorderies, Réseau Éco habitat, Solidarauto) and partly, exceptional financial assistance granted for the development of 32 regional partner projects. The commission also plays an advisory role to stakeholders in the project, ensures effective networking and defines the criteria and conditions for the functioning of partnerships. In 2018, Secours Catholique was involved in over 1,000 circular economy projects, including 400 solidarity shops and 400 structures for integration through work, including recycling projects, 104 solidarity furniture recycling projects, 35 accorderies, 26 solidarity cafés, 150 community gardens, 5 cooperative solidarity groceries, local currency projects...

A STRONGER COMMITMENT IN 'ZERO LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT AREAS'

As treasurer of the 'Zero Long term unemployment areas' association since 2017, Secours Catholique-Caritas France was actively involved with the board of directors, and our president, Véronique Fayet, spoke at the general meeting in May 2018. Several delegations were involved with this action at various levels. Six of them are attached to experimental projects, five attended the summer school organised in September in Paris, and others took

part in the third day of the 'Unemployment strike' on 26 October 2018. During this unemployment alert day, participants completed tasks which are useful in society but which are not done, as a way of showing that there is indeed a pool of unfilled jobs which the long term unemployed could occupy.

Thus far, over 600 people have been hired by companies in the spirit of Zero long-term unemployment areas. With ATD Quart Monde and its partners, Secours Catholique has agreed that the plan for combating poverty will expand the experiment to more regions to help to identify success factors and the conditions needed for a nationwide rollout throughout France. ■

SUPPORTING WORLDWIDE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CLIMATE POLICIES WHICH RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS

In October 2018, at the time of the release of the GIEC report (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) on the possible impacts of a temperature increase of 1.5°C and the possible scenarios to remain below that threshold, Secours Catholique-Caritas France contributed to the debate by publishing a report entitled Supporting the agroecological transition. As part of the CLARA alliance (Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance), we also contributed to the production of a scientific report which presents so far unexplored routes to avoid exceeding the 1.5°C: those which promote the protection of land rights of indigenous populations, biodiversity and food sovereignty. Finally at the COP24 which was held in December in Katowice, in Poland, we advocated, alongside Caritas Internationalis and the Réseau Action Climat, that the main principles of the

introduction to the Paris agreement (human rights, food security, the rights of indigenous peoples...) be enshrined as red lines not to be crossed by climate policies. Some recommended solutions such as carbon soil sequestration clearly threaten land rights. As far as we are concerned, human rights remain an absolute priority.

RESPONDING TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES IN THE SAHEL

Owing to a high rate of population growth and the effects of climate change, the Sahel faces environmental and social challenges. In October 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France launched a 27 month programme intended to promote agroecological transition in eight countries of the Sahel and West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad and Togo. This programme, consisting of activities which are adapted to the needs of various regional partners and cross-cutting actions (knowledge management, networking, communication), is supported by nine Sahelian organisations as well as three Caritas Europe groups, including Secours Catholique-Caritas France as lead partner. It is intended to improve food security and the resilience of vulnerable populations in the area and will support over 70 members of Caritas groups and over 4,000 producers with their agroecological transition. This process will be a critical challenge for the Sahel and West Africa in the coming years.

AGROECOLOGY AS A RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The '*Soutenir la transition agroécologique*' (Supporting the transition to agroecology) report is aimed at political decision makers and demonstrates that agroecology is pivotal to tackling climate change and food insecurity. The document focuses on the political and economic stranglehold which is preventing the expansion of agroecology and calls for a response to climate challenges with ambitious public policies which are also consistent with food security objectives. Agroecological transition currently seems like the best response to climate change for several reasons. It has low greenhouse gas emissions, it enables farmers to adapt better to climate changes and it creates decent jobs since it leads to the reterritorialisation of food and energy production systems. This report complements the one published in 2016 entitled '*Agroecology and sustainable development*.' ■

ENSURING FOOD SECURITY IN BANGLADESH THROUGH AGROECOLOGY

Caritas Bangladesh, a partner of Secours Catholique-Caritas France for nearly 30 years, operates in one of the most remote regions of Bangladesh: the Chittagong Hill Tracts, a region of hills and forests 45% of which is inhabited by indigenous communities. Intensive cultivation and the huge impact of climate change have caused soil depletion and erosion to the point that agricultural production is no longer enough to feed a continually growing population. In the light of this, following the food security projects which have run until now in the



E. PERRIOT / SCOF

region, Caritas Bangladesh has joined local organisations and research centres to assist with the transition of the most vulnerable rural populations (indigenous and Bengalis) to agroecology. Launched on 1st January 2018 with financial support from the French Development Agency (AFD), this new project will run for a period of three years. Its primary objectives are to increase food security, to build the capacities of local stakeholders for sustainable management of the natural resources, to improve resilience in the face of climate change, to guarantee access for indigenous people to community services and to land and to develop cooperation between civil society and the authorities around research into agroecology.

“ THE EXTENSIVE MINERAL AND OIL RESOURCES OF CONGO BRAZZAVILLE HAVE LONG BEEN EXPLOITED TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE POPULATION. ”

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF COMMUNITIES IN THE FACE OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

The extensive mineral and oil resources of Congo-Brazzaville have long been exploited to the detriment of the population. Furthermore, the

people living in the vicinity of the operations suffer environmental pollution and soil impoverishment. For several years, Secours Catholique-Caritas France has provided support to the Diocesan Commission for Justice and Peace of Pointe-Noire, which works to defend the economic, land and environmental rights of communities living close to oil extraction sites on the west coast of the country in Pointe-Noire and Kouilou. To give itself a real chance of making sustainable progress, the project involved the extractive companies, the authorities and also

the neighbouring communities, so that they become agents of their own development and of the improvement in their living conditions. This project which was part of a process started in 2007, ended in 2018; a

pivotal year as it saw the achievements of previous projects materialise: the contribution by petroleum companies to the development of neighbouring communities, the implementation of an environmental responsibility policy and the improvement of land governance.

BOLIVIA

**CIPCA, A PARTNER OF SECOURS
CATHOLIQUE, HELPS INDIGENOUS
COMMUNITIES WITH STRUCTURE
AND ORGANISATION AND WITH THEM
DEVELOPS AGROECOLOGICAL PRODUCTION**



A HISTORIC VICTORY FOR AMAZONIA

This is a historic victory for the Awajún and the Wampis, indigenous peoples of Peru. Following several years of struggle, they have been granted recognition of their right to prior consultation on policies for exploiting their region's resources. The battle began in 2006, when the oil extraction companies appropriated their lands to conduct their activities. In August 2014, a complaint was made against the Peruvian state for abuse of their rights and the environment. This action was supported by amongst others, partners of Secours Catholique-Caritas France, namely the CAAAP (The Amazon Centre of Anthropology and Practical Application) and CooperAcción. In 2015, together with these same associations and the CCFD-Terre solidaire, Secours Catholique published a report entitled *Le baril ou la vie* (The barrel or life) which documented the impact of the activities of the French oil companies, Maurel & Prom and Perenco, on the lives of the Awajún and the Wampis. Victory came on 20 August 2018: the Lima court of appeal ruled and ordered the suspension of activities on the ground until the people concerned had been consulted. ■

ALLOWING THE INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA TO DISPOSE OF THEIR LAND FREELY

One of the challenges for the recognition of the rights of indigenous populations in Latin America is giving them the opportunity to choose for themselves what to do with the lands which belong to them. This self-determination allows them to live in dignity and to develop methods of production and consumption which respect their traditions and ancestral knowledge. At the heart of this matter is also the environmental question: indigenous people traditionally have a very strong link with nature but, more and more, the question of the development model arises.

In Bolivia, a country where recognition of the right to land is already granted to the indigenous peoples, in 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France supported the CIPCA association which is working to guarantee the food sovereignty of these peoples.

CIPCA promotes family farming based on traditions and ancestral knowledge, which is resilient to climate change and where surpluses are sold through short distribution channels. In Peru, we supported the actions of the Jaen Caritas which for the production of organic coffee has developed a model for transferring agro-industrial activities to an agroecology approach and for the creation of cooperatives. A development model which now extends to peasant farmers in the cocoa and agroforestry sectors.

MOBILISING COMMUNITIES TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS IN SENEGAL

Owing to significant population growth, many communes in Senegal are facing unhealthy sanitary conditions mainly linked to the management of household waste. In the Kaolack region, in order to contribute to improved development of these urban areas, Secours Catholique-Caritas France is supporting Caritas Kaolack with its project to install efficient and sustainable waste management in three small towns. This project, which was co-funded by the French Development Agency (AFD), began in 2015 and should be transferred to the relevant local councils at the end of June 2019. During these three years, a whole system for waste collection has been set up thanks to the substantial engagement of the people. Organised into 24 environmental committees, the families pay a small contribution to pay the wages of the carter who ensures that the rubbish is collected. In 2018, as part of the project, rubbish dumps as well as waste recycling centres were built in each town, with a target for recycling of 60%, especially of plastic, organic waste, aluminium and of 40% landfill. Today these facilities are operational. From now on, it is up to the three towns to provide the necessary funding to operate the cooperative responsible for managing collection, sorting and for finding outlets for recycled materials. Caritas Kaolack will provide follow up until the end of 2019 to support the consolidation of the cooperatives and the recovery of waste.

MOBILISING CITIZENS' COLLECTIVES IN THE INDIAN SLUMS

Indian cities, real drivers of the country's economic growth, represent the hope for a better life for »»



E. PERRIOT / SCOF

»» agricultural workers escaping the poverty of the countryside. But the work they find is often unskilled, informal and with no guarantee of regular income so these new citizens end up by swelling the ranks of slum dwellers. To help them to combat the poverty and exclusion that they encounter, the Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) programme was devised with the help of Secours Catholique- Caritas France in 23 affected cities: Ranchi (State of Jharkhand), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Cuttack (Odisha) and Guwahati (Assam).

The objective of the first phase of the programme was to create collectives in the slums to mobilise the residents, to educate them about their rights and how to assert them with the local authorities and the media. The communities were also helped with the installation and maintenance of infrastructure such as drains, electricity networks and sanitation with a view to improving the overall living conditions in the slums. In 2018, the programme entered

“ INDIAN CITIES OFFER THE HOPE OF A BETTER LIFE FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS WHO ESCAPE THE POVERTY OF THE COUNTRYSIDE. BUT THESE NEW CITIZENS END UP SWELLING THE RANKS OF THE SLUM DWELLERS. ”

a new two year phase intended to set up a network of collectives where others already existed in the same states in India and have them meet in order to promote advocacy and joint actions across the state, and then nationally including all the networks.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND NEW MODELS OF TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE FOR THE INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA

In his encyclical *Laudato si*, Pope Francis proposes the concept of end to end ecology, as a route to finding an answer to the social and environmental crisis. In 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France and its Latin-American partners seized upon this concept to reflect together on the promotion of new, environmentally friendly models as opposed to the extractive model which currently prevails throughout the continent. This involves educating the people

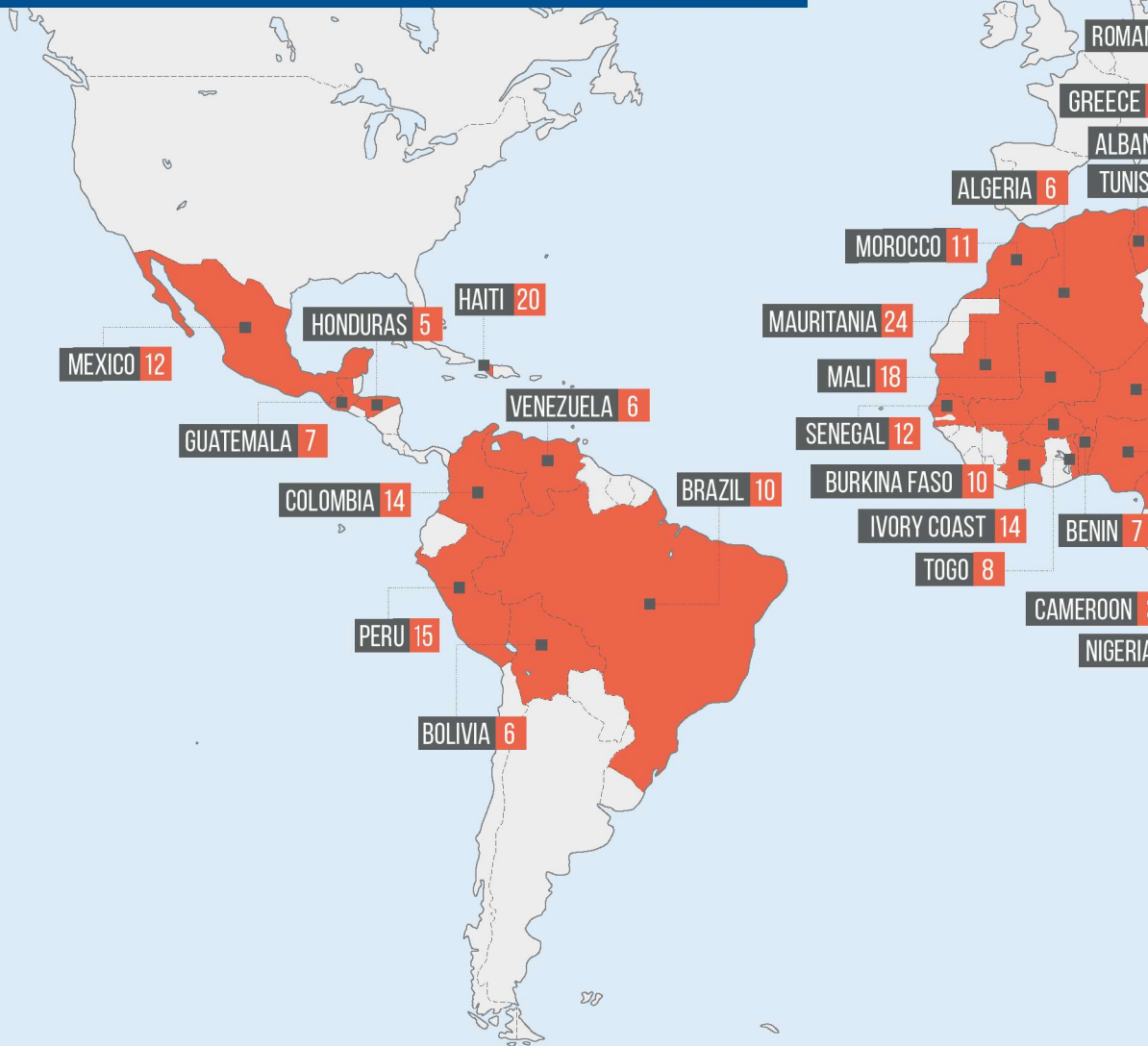
about the right that they have to decide on the development model which governs their territories. The stakes are high, as if the choices remain in the hands of the political elites, the extractive and large landowning model will persist. Throughout these fruitful discussions, in 2018, Secours Catholique supported partners who were working to strengthen citizens' participation in local decision-making bodies. This is the case in Colombia, where there is a vision of building peace by involving citizens in the regions, or in Peru, where our partner APRODEFH combines social cohesion, historical memory and agroecology.

STRENGTHENING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNANCE OF TERRITORIES IN MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA

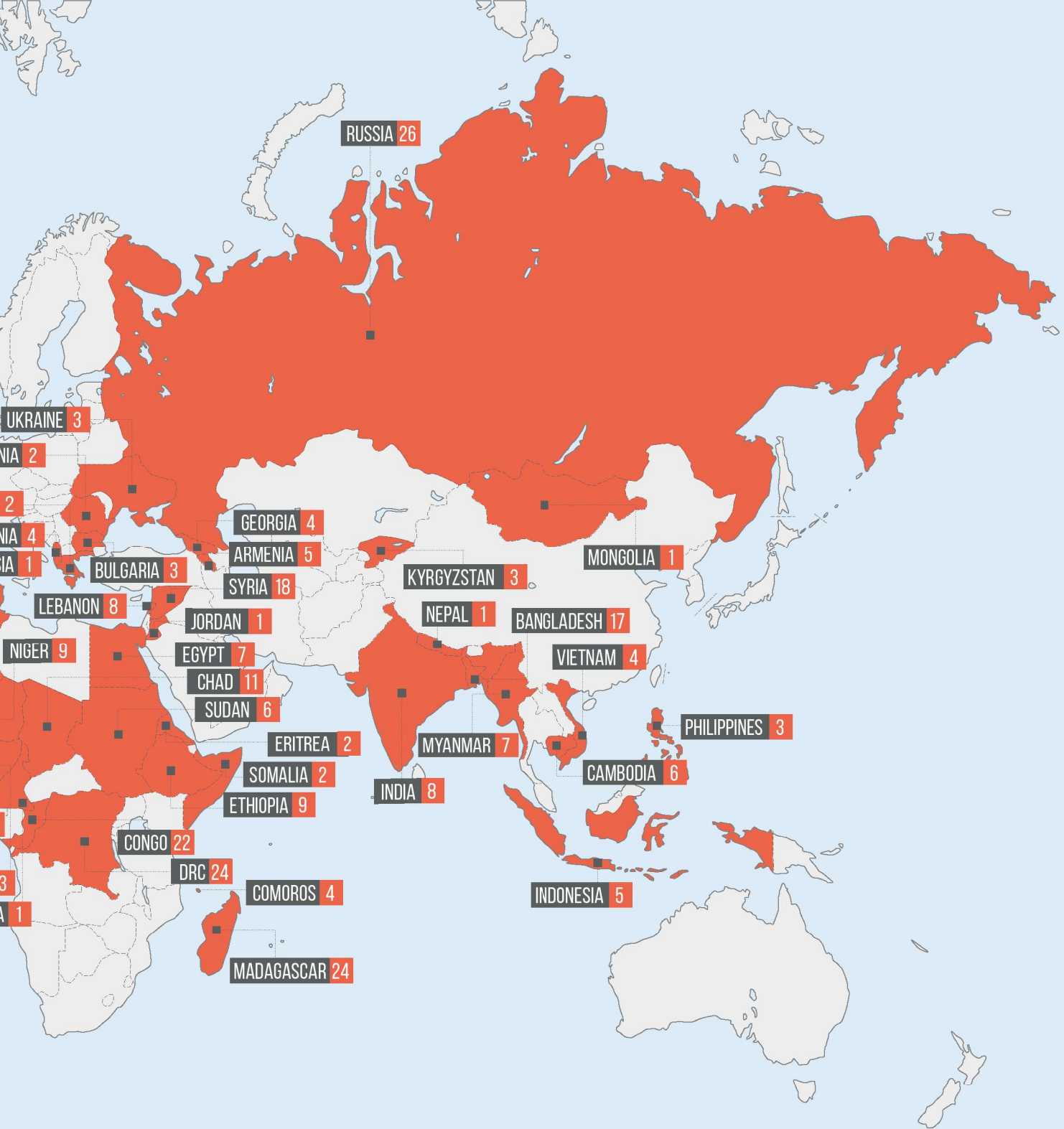
To improve the situation of populations within their territories, in 2018, Secours Catholique Caritas France supported projects which aimed to develop sustainable practices and strengthen citizen participation. Both in the countryside and in the towns of Morocco and Mauritania, our partners support the creation and strengthening of formal and informal groups capable of obtaining changes from the authorities and local actors, necessary for a sustainable improvement in the situation. This was through a range of actions. In rural areas groups of small producers adopt more environmentally friendly agricultural practices and improve their access to market. In urban areas young people's and women's associations help with literacy, encourage small businesses and run cultural, sports and awareness-raising activities.

In Morocco, the programme developed in 2018 aimed to strengthen and develop small family farms who organised themselves into collectives and to improve their revenues as a result of agroecology. In Mauritania, we supported the national Caritas, which had been working for 10 years with rural groups, that it helps with organising themselves into co-operatives (for rice, horticulture), and economic interest groups (floodplain recession crops and cereal banks). The final four year phase of the project, co-funded by the French Development Agency (AFD) ended in June 2018. ■

598 PROJECTS SUPPORTED ACROSS THE WORLD



COUNTRY NUMBER OF PROJECTS



BUILDING AN INTER-CULTURAL AND INTER-FAITH SOCIETY

"Different cultural and religious communities working together."

Secours Catholique National Project 2016 - 2025.

GLOBAL UPHEAVALS and the disintegration of the economic and political situation provoke tensions that call for cultural, inter-cultural and inter-faith approaches to enhance diversity and strengthen social cohesion. As we have been hoping for many years, in 2018 it was young people from all over the world and of all faiths who showed us the way towards this change in society, first and foremost through welcoming and meeting each other. The 550 young people from diverse backgrounds who participated in the 5th Young Caritas Summer School created many new opportunities for celebrations and vigils to break down the barriers between religions. Our desire to improve the acknowledgement of diversity within our network and through our actions was also an opportunity to question, without taboo, how religion expresses itself in our teams and the cultural shock that can be felt in communities when welcoming migrants, or by children from other cultures, as part of the Family Holiday Network.



G. KERBAOL / SCOF

SUPPORTING THE EMERGENCE OF AN INTER-CULTURAL AND INTER-FAITH SOCIETY IN FRANCE

YOUNG PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO DEFEND OUR 'COMMON HOME'

From 23 to 26 August 2018, the 5th Young Caritas Summer School was held on the theme of the 'common home' as evoked by Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato si*. For four days 550 young people from diverse backgrounds (young volunteers, those in difficult situations, engaged citizens, and others) from all over France, but also from Haiti, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Peru, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal, celebrated their common desire to act when faced with social and environmental emergencies. Through 'journeys' designed around objects such as mobile phones, clothes, meat or waste, young people shared their experiences, good practices and solutions to preserve their common home.

Secours Catholique-Caritas France was pleased once again to see how this great summer gathering fulfilled its mission to energise the network of young people and to strengthen their capacity to build, in their great cultural diversity, social projects that will transform our societies.

“ WE ARE FACED NOT WITH TWO SEPARATE CRISES, ONE ENVIRONMENTAL AND THE OTHER SOCIAL, BUT RATHER WITH ONE COMPLEX CRISIS WHICH IS BOTH SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL. STRATEGIES FOR A SOLUTION DEMAND AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO COMBATING POVERTY, RESTORING DIGNITY TO THE EXCLUDED, AND AT THE SAME TIME, PROTECTING NATURE. ”

EXTRACT FROM LAUDATO SÍ ENCYCLICAL OF POPE FRANCIS



G. KERBAOL / SCOF

'KAWAA' VIGIL AND INTER-FAITH CELEBRATION IN SAINT-MALO

»» For young people at Young Caritas, 2018 was a year not only of integral ecology, but also of inter-faith gathering. On the first evening of the Summer School in Saint-Malo, seven vigils 'between heaven and earth' were organised across the site in honour of partners from all over the world. Throughout the stay, many 'Kawaa' ('coffee' in Arabic) were organised to learn about the faith of others: Are the five daily prayers obligatory for Muslims? What's it like to be a Christian to you? Does mass speak to you? Finally, on the third day, some forty young people, Christians, atheists and Muslims, rose at dawn to share a common spiritual moment on the theme of 'being on earth'. Many opportunities to realise that the spiritual dimension is shared and enriched by contact with others.

EN ROUTE TO TAIZÉ WITH THE BICYCLES OF HOPE

It is a challenge taken on by the Young Caritas of Val-de-Marne: to travel 400 kilometres in five days from

Sucy-en-Brie to Taizé to participate in a weekend of Islamic-Christian meetings on the theme: Inner Life and Fraternity. Along the way, the ten participants on these bikes of hope (five Muslims and five Christians) were able to show that 'Living together is possible!' The choice to go on salvaged bikes was inspired by Young Caritas' decision to focus its Summer School on integral ecology and sustainable development. And continuing the theme of integral ecology, the cyclists took time to meet others and punctuated their journey by sharing moments with the people who welcomed them along the way. During the summer, the Young Caritas of Val-de-Marne repeated this feat as they travelled to Saint-Malo Summer School.

CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS TOGETHER WITH MARY

The 'Together with Mary' gathering, of which Secours Catholique-Caritas France is a part, is made up of Christians and Muslims, volunteer representatives engaged in their communities or simply believers who want to promote a better way of living together, who are focussed on Mary, a figure celebrated in both religions. In 2018, one of the 'Together with Mary' events took place in Cergy in the Val-d'Oise, at the initiative of our local teams, amongst others, who experience cultural and religious diversity on a daily basis through

“ WE HAVE SOMETHING THAT UNITES US, MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS, IT'S MARY AND JESUS, IT'S GREAT, IT'S IN THE NAME OF FRATERNITY THAT WE ARE HERE. ”

NAWEL

their hosting. The 200 participants walked together through the streets of the city, stopping at the Church of St. Mary of the People and then at Cergy's Grand Mosque.

REVISITING THE INTER-CULTURAL HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS EXPERIENCE

In 2017 Secours Catholique-Caritas France began its 'humanitarian corridors' project, a programme negotiated with the State by five charities to allow Syrians, Iraqis or Palestinians who were refugees in Lebanon, to

reach France in possession of a visa and to be received by volunteers to welcome them and offer friendship and administrative support. 500 people were taken in during one year, notably in the Jura, where three groups wanted to revisit the inter-faith meeting which took place over a weekend in February 2018. The 70 volunteers who participated in these host groups said that the experience had been incredibly enriching, even if the meeting was full of questions and doubts. While it was not possible to answer all the questions arising from the experience of otherness, the families said once again that hosting is not intended to change the families who are taken in but to protect them from war and risks associated with exile, and to support them as they make their own way in France.

JOURNEY OF HOPE AS TOLD BY ABOU BAKRY, ASYLUM SEEKER

In October 2018, the Essonne delegation of Secours Catholique-Caritas France organised a Journey of Hope to Tauves in Auvergne. Abu Bakry, an asylum seeker from Mauritania told his story:

"The Journey of Hope is a chance to meet and an opportunity to get to know the other participants. I made this journey to clear my mind and forget the worries of my daily life. This is often the case with journeys organised by Secours Catholique. They are really well organised. It also allowed me to express myself, to externalise my worries. As migrants, we are not listened to, so meeting people during the Journey of Hope comforts us. We also had festive moments like the evening when I danced, even though I never dance, but that evening I felt liberated. The warmth of the group made this a special time, and I would like to relive an experience like this. Thanks to this trip where barriers did not exist between individuals, I felt valued: I was given the chance to live normally and I was trusted. All this thanks to Secours Catholique where there is solidarity and a fraternity that is not found elsewhere."

FAMILY HOLIDAY NETWORK MEETING IN NANTES

On 24 November 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France organised a Family Holiday Network (AFV in its French acronym) meeting in Nantes with families to reflect on the inter-cultural and inter-faith «shock» that can happen when hosting. Indeed, children who come from Essonne represent great social, cultural and religious diversity, as do the families who receive them in the Loire-Atlantique and who all have a different relationship to their religion and their culture. Starting from the idea that, like a rose, the inter-cultural encounter is certainly always beautiful, but that it also has thorns, the participants shared both the beautiful moments as well as those that could create unease or tension. They were also able to congratulate themselves, in the year when the AFV was celebrating its 70th anniversary, which this initiative succeeds where politics fails: bringing several worlds closer together.

THE QUESTION OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AND THEIR EXPRESSION BY SECOURS CATHOLIQUE

It was the arrival of a young volunteer doing civic service wearing the Islamic veil at Secours Catholique-Caritas France in Roanne and the various reactions that this provoked, and the unease that this aroused even within the team, that provided an opportunity to address the issue of forms of religious expression at Secours Catholique. This study was carried out through a survey and individual interviews with the team in May 2018. It highlighted these findings that Secours Catholique is not always comfortable or clear on this issue, and that the volunteers who had reacted most strongly to the young woman's background may have had a sense of injustice as they feel obliged not to display their faith. There were some ideas for the future: taking time to interact with volunteers to discuss something other than self-help activities. Dare to talk about one's religion, one's faith... Dare to talk about it with Muslims or other believers who attend the receptions, and also dare to share spiritual experiences (celebrations...). ■

SUPPORTING THE EMERGENCE OF AN INTER-CULTURAL AND INTER-FAITH SOCIETY AROUND THE WORLD

IN BOLIVIA AND MEXICO, SUPPORTING COMMUNITY RADIO TO BRIDGE A GAP

In 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France supported partners, in particular Jesuits in Bolivia, Mexico and Peru, who have radio networks within their organisation. Radio Aclo in Bolivia, Radio Huayacocotla in Mexico and Radio Kampagkis in Peru specialise in the production of indigenous language broadcasts, which allow local populations, in particular women, access to information, but also to have their voices heard and to discuss their living conditions through programmes recorded locally. These community radio stations, important elements of social media communication, are an alternative to the media associated with the countries' elites, and create an inter-cultural link between those people who, although sometimes are very close, do not communicate with each other.

“ IN LEBANON, ADYAN IS DEVELOPING INTER-FAITH NETWORKS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE AN INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP MODEL BASED ON SHARED VALUES. ”

FOR THE CREATION OF A CHURCH WITH AN AMAZONIAN FACE

Our partners, in particular REPAM, the Ecclesiastical Pan-Amazonian network are heavily invested in a project to create a Church with an Amazonian face, in which the presence and work of the Church are respectful of the local traditions and culture. With this in mind, Secours Catholique-Caritas France supported the activities carried out during the Pope's visit to Peru in January 2018. In particular, much work has been achieved by two Peruvian partners in the raising of awareness among young people on the question of inter-religion promoted by the Pope, on the triple border between Bolivia, Brazil and Peru.

CONTRIBUTING A SOCIAL COHESION TO COMBAT VIOLENCE ON THE LATIN AMERICAN CONTINENT

The reception of migrants by host populations in Latin America as elsewhere, can lead to rejection. Thus, with time and an increase in the number of people, tensions have begun to be felt in Colombia in regard to Venezuelans fleeing the crisis as well as towards those who have come to Mexico from Central America. That is why, in 2018, we supported the awareness campaigns carried out by our partners in order to promote hospitality and mutual understanding and to defend the rights and dignity of migrants. In the face of the violence that is rampant in many American countries whether it affects families, neighbourhoods or institutions, several of our partners have developed training in a culture of peace. Caritas Mexico is, among other things, doing important work to raise awareness amongst young people giving them the tools to avoid them falling into the hands of drug traffickers and organised crime that target them.

Many of the problems deeply affecting the Latin American continent – governance, citizen participation, respect for rights, reception and integration of migrants, responses to social and environmental crises, social cohesion and inter-culturality – are global. The response from Latin America is varied and enriching, hence our efforts to share our partners' experiences, those experienced on other continents and the experience of Secours Catholique in France.



E. PERRIOT / SCOF

PROMOTING INTER-CULTURAL AND INTER-FAITH COMMUNITIES AS SOCIAL COHESION ASSETS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

In 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France took action in the Middle East to strengthen the links and cohesion between religious communities and prevent conflict. This is achieved through actions that allow communities to get to know each other, to cooperate with each other, and also to identify the areas of tension so as to better anticipate and manage conflicts. In Lebanon, for example, our partner Adyan is developing inter-faith networks to promote a model of inclusive citizenship that is rooted in values shared by all. Networks of high school students, students, young professionals or families, of all faiths and national origins (Lebanese, Palestinians or Syrians) are supported in the creation and implementation of initiatives that promote working together and living together.

Also in Lebanon, our partner House of Peace (Hope) trains Syrian refugee communities and humanitarian aid actors to identify and reduce conflict factors within Syrian communities, and between Syrian communities and Lebanese citizens, thus promoting social cohesion.

MESSAGE TO THE POPE FROM IMPRISONED MUSLIMS IN BURKINA FASO

Welcome to Maco, Pope Francis! This is the title of the documentary film that director Janusz Mrozowski shot in Ouagadougou prison (Maco) just after Pope Francis declared a special jubilee for prisoners. Made with financial support from Secours Catholique-Caritas France, the documentary had a bonus feature added in 2018 containing all the testimonies of the detainees. This was offered to the network as a tool as part of an inter-cultural and inter-faith dynamic inviting participants to see things differently. The people featured, most of whom are illiterate, find in speaking to the camera an opportunity to testify to their suffering, their hopes and what keeps them going (most often faith). They identify Pope Francis as a recognised intermediary over and above religious divides, who gives them back their dignity by enabling them to be listened to and respected. Screenings were organised in our delegations, some followed by a debate, one, notably, in the presence of the director. ■

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

IN 2018, IN THE AUDE REGION which was hit by extreme flooding, volunteers from Secours Catholique-Caritas France rolled out their post-emergency mission to the homes that were affected. Internationally, we have continued our humanitarian work in many areas that have been hit by on-going natural disasters or conflicts, such as Somalia and the Sahel, or by a serious political crisis such as Venezuela. We have also continued offering assistance to the most vulnerable people in Iraq and Syria, regardless of their origin or religion, whether they are in government or non-governmental areas, or whether they are displaced or refugees abroad.



NATIONAL MOBILISATION TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF FLOODING IN THE AUDE REGION

On 14 and 15 October 2018, torrential rainstorms hit the Aude region, killing 14 people, injuring 75 and causing property damage estimated by insurance companies at €200million. Very quickly, Secours Catholique-Caritas France launched an appeal for financial donations and released €100,000 from its emergency fund to meet the immediate needs and above all to ensure a tailored post-emergency mission: listen to people, provide them with material support (help with the re-equipment of houses with white goods, furniture, etc.) and administrative support in the process of working with insurers, as well as moral and psychological care. To do this, the local delegation of Secours Catholique was able to count on the emergency team that was set up: volunteers from all over France came to meet and support those in need. Visits continued for five months, the time it took for the most vulnerable to gradually get back on their feet.

RESPONSE TO THE VENEZUELAN CRISIS

While the media regularly reports on Venezuela's eco-

nomie and political crisis, in 2018 its consequences for food insecurity, malnutrition, hygiene and health were rarely mentioned. Secours Catholique-Caritas France knows the issues well from helping vulnerable populations for several years now, both locally and in the Latin American countries where they have taken refuge through the work of Caritas Venezuela.

In 2018, the humanitarian aid project, carried out with the financial support of ECHO, Swiss Cooperation and the Chanel Foundation, focused on the district of Caracas and seven states (Bolívar, Carabobo, Lara, Miranda, Sucre, Vargas and Zulia), in which 48 parishes gathered research on the nutritional situation by assessing 5,350 children aged 0 to 5 years (52% boys and 48% girls). These measures revealed that 3,084 of these children suffered from nutritional deficiency, and there were symptoms of acute, severe or moderate malnutrition for 627 of them. In addition to the care of these children, 2,200 food parcels were distributed to families. The data collected on the malnutrition that is rampant in the country has been used to publish three nutritional bulletins in 2018 which constitute one of the few sources of information on the situation in the country and were therefore highly anticipated, both nationally and internationally. »»



L. CHARRIER / MYOP

Since September 2018, Secours Catholique, Caritas Venezuela and Médecins du Monde France have come together in a consortium, with two strategic areas of intervention: nutrition and health. Caritas Venezuela's nutritional programme in the district of Caracas and the states of Bolivar, Miranda, Sucre and Zulia is thus strengthened by the experience of Médecins du Monde France, which provides medical consultations and the supply of medicines and implements referrals and counter-references, and community prevention and health education activities. There is also a psychosocial component to the programme.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN THE SAHEL

In 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France became involved in the humanitarian crises in the Horn of Africa and the central part of the continent. Our action is also focused on two crises in the Sahel: the conflict with Boko Haram, which is cyclical but enduring and affects all the countries around Lake Chad; the other, further north, is structural, linked to droughts and floods that are having an increasing impact due to population pressure and, in part, climate change.

Our response is twofold. Working mainly with partners from the Caritas network, we provide direct emergency and post-emergency assistance in several areas: food security; water, hygiene, sanitation; health and shelter. From a longer-term perspective, we are also working to build the capacity of our partners to respond to crises and the resilience of vulnerable communities. This last activity responds to the encyclical of Paul VI *Populorum progressio* and to Pope Francis' *Laudato si* since it is a comprehensive approach from communities working in their environment in a sustainable way, and includes the issue of crisis management.

SCHOOLS TO SUSTAINABLY PROTECT CHILDREN FROM FAMINE

Drought, coupled with the armed conflict in Somalia since 1992, has led to serious problems of food insecurity, malnutrition and in education. In 2018, the International Emergency Division of Secours Catholique-Caritas France supported seven schools heavily affected by drought in the Gedo region. Our goal is to ensure access to basic education in a protective environment, by combining it with food support. Indeed, lessons learned from the 2011 famine show that many deaths of children due to drought could have been prevented if they had access to vital services (drinking water, nutrition, cholera prevention, etc.) in protected schools.

This project incorporates a new pilot component: training children and teachers in disaster risk reduction plans through agroecology practices that will improve the resilience of the affected school communities. It targets 1,690 children in the Gedo region of southern Somalia. In a country where few actors are able to intervene because of insecurity and the mistrust of the population, we are fortunate to be able to rely on a partner whose teams come from local and therefore well-accepted communities. ■

**AN
ORGANISATION
AT THE
SERVICE OF
OUR AMBITION**

TRANSFORMING OUR ORGANISATION TO BETTER RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGES OF FIGHTING POVERTY

In order to implement its national project, Secours Catholique-Caritas France needs to evolve its organisation and its way of operating. In 2018, we continued to work on the three internal challenges we have set for ourselves.

A LEARNING ORGANISATION

STRATEGIC ROUTES TO BECOME A LEARNING ORGANISATION

In 2017, Secours Catholique-Caritas France completed an audit of its practices in order to identify how to improve its learning from its experiences and capitalise on the solutions that are coming up throughout its network to reduce poverty. This initiative identified several strategic routes, three of which have been implemented in the network in 2018. The first is to systematise team learning (team in the broadest sense) to allow the association to increase its spin-off and innovation capacity. The second, to develop collective intelligence processes that promote exchanges and interactions between people, teams and work units. And the third, to develop knowledge management, that is to set up the identification, formalisation, sustainability and transmission of knowledge... Successes include the 'Help and Mutual Assistance' group who worked as a learning team (see above, p.13) and the Var delegation that developed its project in the process of collective intelligence (Theory U, process of accompanying emerging change). By the end of 2018, three regions had embarked on 'learning team' processes, as well as two at management level.

THE TADAF PROGRAMME : TOUS'ACTEURS, DON'ACTEURS, FORMATION

Since 2016, Secours Catholique-Caritas France has been engaged in an ambitious project to transform its information sharing in order to make it easier for everyone involved to use (volunteers, staff, donors, people who have experienced insecurity) to facilitate network collaboration, to better appeal to or recruit them and, above all, to retain them by adapting to their way of working and offering them persona-

lised paths. The three flagship projects that form part of this transformation were regrouped in 2018 into the same programme called TADAF, (in French) Tous'acteurs, Don'acteurs, Formation. As of October 2018, the project entered its implementation phase in which all stakeholders were involved. Starting in 2019, the old systems will gradually be replaced, beginning with those for managing donations, volunteers, partners and events.

A RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION

WELL-BEING AT WORK AS A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUE

Secours Catholique-Caritas France has embarked on its national project to transform its operating methods to meet the demands of global sustainable development, that is, not only in its economic and environmental dimension, but also social dimensions. With this objective, the quality of life at work survey that we have been conducting periodically with our staff since 2013 has been enriched in 2018 with questions about cooperation between employees and volunteers, and coupled with a survey of volunteers from the organisation.

The response rate was high as more than 640 of the 970 employees responded to the questionnaire, as well as 10,000 of the 33,000 volunteers contacted by email. On the employee side, there is a slight upward trend in overall satisfaction (from 66% in 2015 to 67% in 2018), but with two important areas of progress identified: workload regulation and recognition of the work done. On the voluntary side, the survey reveals that altruism remains the main motivation for engagement (78% of respondents), with differences in motivation across age categories,



E. PERRIOT / SCOF

including a clear drop in Christian commitment: 58% of the over 75s compared to 28% of under 34s. Also noteworthy is that 15% of volunteers aged 35 to 49 had visited Secours Catholique services in the past, and therefore have probably experienced poverty.

The process was supported by Research and Solidarity, an organisation that publishes a study every year called *Voluntary France*. The closeness of the results of our survey to the trends observed at the national level gives us valuable benchmarks to guide our strategies for recruiting, welcoming and engaging volunteers.

A COHERENT ORGANISATION

LAUNCH OF REGIONAL TRAINING SERVICES

Historically, training of volunteers from Secours Catholique-Caritas France was provided locally by delegations. Following our experience of 'regional training services' conducted over the past ten years in Brittany and the Loire region, we decided to pool the training efforts of delegations from the same region to better equip our volunteers to take ownership of our associative project through clear benchmarking and a common culture. In order to better respond to the new forms of engagement and constraints of our volunteers, especially the

active ones, in addition to day-to-day and weekly training, these regional services offer solutions such as highlights on three consecutive days, evening classes or even e-learning.

At the end of 2018, seven regions were engaged in this approach: Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Brittany, Centre-Val de Loire, Grand Est, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Occitanie and Pays de la Loire. Composed of training-volunteer leaders from the region's various delegations, the teams from these regional services harmonise their practices, exchange and build training specifications together. In 2019 a national database will make training modules available to delegations, with animated clips and various tools.

DELEGATION PROJECTS IN LINE WITH THE NATIONAL PROJECT

Every five years, each delegation establishes a draft plan by which it sets out its ambitions and the way to achieve them. The first projects inspired by Secours Catholique-Caritas France's national projects were approved in 2017, and a second wave (27 projects) in 2018.

To help delegations in this process, we have been organising 'promotions' of six to seven delegations for the past two years, who meet to realign how to develop their project in relation to the situations experienced in their territories. The directive is to limit themselves to five objectives that are relevant to all audiences (for example, improving the lives of people in precarious situations, valuing talents...), which also respond to the need to support people towards access to rights instead of having short-term and distributive goals, and which allow for collective actions or even advocacy. These two-day 'promotions' help delegations to plan and take ownership of the national project, while ensuring that the level of ambition remains appropriate and consistent with the habits and practices of the teams. ■

17 YEARS ON THE STREET

Today, Christian lives in a boarding house where he is getting back his zest for life. Let us give the most fragile the power to take their destiny into their own hands.

#RÉVOLUTIONFRATERNELLE

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CF/Agg/AF/55 - Conception: agence bastille - Photo: Christophe - Thebaud - Sipa

A NEW YEAR END CAMPAIGN FOR THE CHARITY

COMMUNICATION

In 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France reinvigorated its end-of-year campaign. This brings together the results of work to share our activities with the general public and parishes, to develop opportunities to raise money to give us the means to act and, finally, to recruit new donors to ensure the sustainability of the organisation. Here are the main steps of this campaign and the tools put in place.

EARLY NOVEMBER

PUBLICATION OF STATISTICAL REPORT ON POVERTY IN FRANCE, THE CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

Like every year, it was the publication in early November of our statistical report on poverty in France that launched our end-of-year campaign. The 2018 edition of this report also presented the results and proposals from consumer research entitled: 'Survey on fairer social protection' Its publication led to the organisation of media and consumer events, both locally and nationally.

FRATERNAL REVOLUTION CAMPAIGN

The 2018 national Secours Catholique-Caritas France campaign, which started in early November, showcased our vision: the Fraternal Revolution. Through three singular and very real life paths: those of Benoit, Christian and Nadia, all recently supported by Secours Catholique. Their stories show the strength of the fraternal revolution that moves us to act alongside the most fragile and allows everyone to take control of their lives. And with a campaign signature conceived as a call to all citizens to join us, since the fraternal revolution is what everyone will do in their city, in their neighbourhood, with their neighbours... so that together we can build a just and fraternal world.

To be as visible as possible, the campaign has been displayed in municipal, associative, partner, parish, urban transport, trade formats... But also displayed by delegations in their towns, villages and churches.

FROM 1 TO 31 DECEMBER

YEAR END CAMPAIGN: FRATERNAL SHARING!

In order to raise awareness of our work and engage new donors, it was necessary to experiment with new, more visible and engaging fundraising activities. That's the motivation behind "Fraternal", a gourmet cake designed by Secours Catholique, in collaboration with Chef Damien, co-creator of the recipe site 750g. A true symbol of generosity, sharing



S. LECLEZIO / SDCF

and participation of all in the fight against poverty and exclusion, the Fraternal was baked in the charity's centres, in families, among friends, and shared with the general public in markets, in front of the stations, near blocks of flats, in shopping malls, at all opportunities in the holiday season for people to talk about generosity and fraternity.

"SOLIDARITY FOR ADVENT"

A free activity organised by Secours Catholique-Caritas France aimed at Catholic schools (from CP to CM2), the operation 'Solidarity for Advent' was aimed at awakening children to solidarity, to change their views on poverty and exclusion, but also to enable them to become actors in the fraternal revolution to which Secours Catholique-Caritas France aspires. It was also an opportunity to create a link between schools and our local teams. Its principle? The children were invited to open an Advent box each day and to take the time to discuss, to carry out a challenge, to reflect around a quotation... with their teacher, on the themes of living together, prejudice and solidarity. An educational booklet adapted to different levels of education allowed teachers to lead this moment of reflection. ■

PUBLICATIONS

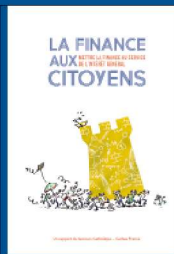
STATISTICAL REPORT AND A PROPOSAL FOR A FAIRER SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM



In November Secours Catholique-Caritas France's 2018 statistical report entitled *'The State of Poverty in France'* was published. In this report into a fairer social protection system, based on the analysis of more than 86,000 encounters in our centres, it is noted that poverty is becoming ever more deep rooted

in France. This worrying situation confirms the analysis of the social protection survey we conducted from January to May 2018 with the participation of 3,300 people: our social security system no longer addresses all inequalities (see also p.8).

PUTTING FINANCE AT THE SERVICE OF PUBLIC INTEREST



The result of 18 months of work, the *'Finance to citizens'* report published by Secours Catholique-Caritas France in June 2018, in partnership with Finance Watch and the Institut Veblen, analyses how the finance system works, examines its impact on poverty and inequality in the North and South, and brings to the debate proposals for reform to put finance at the service of the common good (see also p.28).

AGROECOLOGY AS A RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE



Aimed at policy makers, the report *'Supporting the Agro-ecological Transition'* demonstrates that agroecology is a key approach to climate change and food insecurity. It emits little greenhouse gas, it makes it possible to better adapt to climate change and create worthwhile jobs

through the reterritorialisation of food and energy production systems. This report complements the one we published in 2016 under the title *'Agroecology and Sustainable Development'*.

INVESTIGATING PRACTICES FOR EMPOWERING PRISONERS



Published in September 2018, this report is based on a large-scale consultation carried out between September 2016 and March 2017 in prisons by eight European Caritas, in order to identify 'good practices' enabling the empowerment of people placed behind bars. The activities identified are echoed in European prison and probation rules and in

other texts drawn up by the Council of Europe. The report now serves as a support for national and European advocacy (see p. 25).

TWO NEW EDITIONS OF L'APOSTROPHE, THE POVERTY EXPERTS JOURNAL

Launched in 2016, *L'Apostrophe* is a twice-yearly journal written by people who, through their personal experiences in the face of poverty, have developed an expertise on poverty issues. In 2018, two new issues were published, one focusing on social inequalities and the other on migration (see also p.14). ■



DONATIONS AND FINANCE

An increase in social security tax on pensions, reform of the wealth tax, levying tax at source... All these factors explain the 7% decline in Secours Catholique-Caritas France's donations in 2018. And while this decline was partly offset by an improvement in legacy revenues, we have been working to mobilise our network to renew its fundraising practices by increasing local activities.

A DIFFICULT YEAR FOR FUNDRAISING

Secours Catholique-Caritas France's donations were down by 7% in 2018, and this was for several well-identified reasons: the increase in social security tax on pensions, which penalised charities like ours whose donors are on average from the older age bracket; the prospect of implementing levying tax at source, with the uncertainties of last-minute implications and the late sending (September-October) of tax rates to households; and finally, the reform of the wealth tax, which mainly affected the Caritas France Foundation and therefore its capacity to contribute to the financing of our work. To these factors, which we had anticipated, was added the 'yellow vests' crisis at the end of the year. It has indeed fanned counterproductive fears for donations, but also greatly impeded the smooth running of our major operation 'The Fraternal', which was scheduled to be launched on 1 December, when the movement was in full swing.

MOBILISING THE ENTIRE NETWORK TO COLLECT DONATIONS

The 'Fraternal Cake' initiative was a success with regards to the participation of Secours Catholique-Caritas France delegations, and the charity's visibility. The operation itself was part of the focus favoured for several years within our network so that everyone in the charity is involved in fundraising. This is done by organising events open to all and people mobilising their own networks and distributing donation envelopes not only on the eve of the holidays, but also throughout the year.

FINDING GRANTS FROM NEW SOURCES

The famous 'parliamentary reserve', which was stopped by the National Assembly in 2017, had served for a long time, at least in part, to subsidise projects run by local charities like those implemented by the Secours Catholique-Caritas France delegations. Local Secours Catholique members now need to mobilise themselves and invest their time to show the inhabitants of the region, but also the elected officials, that the work undertaken deserves to be continued and supported.

To this end, the charity provides its network with a grant-giving guide explaining to delegations what can be applied for from the town hall, the region, the department, institutions like CAF, and even European funds, to fund not only their own projects, but also all the work of Secours Catholique. At a time when income from private donors is declining, a special emphasis has been put on our network to raise more money through grants, including relying on tools such as this guide.



S. LE CLEZIO / SCSF



C. HARGOUËS / SCOF

INCREASE IN INTERNATIONAL GRANTS

The overall level of grants given to Secours Catholique-Caritas France in 2018 remains low (around 7% of income), but it should be noted that there was a strong increase in the level of international grants. Fluctuating year on year, they reached €3.2 million in 2018, as opposed to €2.2 million in 2017, thanks to money received for emergency work in Venezuela, a country where we have played a significant role for many years.

AN APPEAL FOR VICTIMS OF THE AUDE FLOODING

On 14 and 15 October, 2018, the Aude was hit by very violent floods which left 14 dead, 75 wounded and extensive damage. This disaster prompted the generosity of our donors, which enabled Secours Catholique-Caritas France teams to help affected people in the region in the post-emergency period for several months, helping them overcome their material difficulties, but especially the psychological shock of having lost everything.

LEGACY DOCUMENTS - A RETURN TO NORMAL SERVICE

In 2018, the amount raised by legacies received by Secours Catholique-Caritas France was €42.5 million. A very considerable increase compared to 2017 (+19%), these legacies represent more than 30% of our resources. This improvement is cyclical. It can be explained by the return to normal of the treatment of inheritance files after 2017 which was a year when notaries were overwhelmed as a result of the reform of their profession, but also by strong demand from their customers who wanted to rearrange their assets due to the implementation of the wealth tax reform. The outlook for the coming years remains very mixed, with more and more charities positioning themselves to receive this type of support. The same goes for life insurance receipts, which had been rising for several years, but have now slowed down. ■

THE CARITAS FRANCE NETWORK

The Caritas France Network was created at the initiative of Secours Catholique-Caritas France to bring together the organisations it has helped to create or which share its values, aims and principles. Its goal is to encourage innovation and cooperation in the territories by combining the skills and resources of its members and thus to promote global support and the ability to act for anyone experiencing poverty or exclusion. The aim is also to awaken solidarity and fraternity, to act on the causes of poverty. Four new members joined the network in 2018: Fédération Solidarauto, the Éco Habitat Network, Foncière Chênelet and Caritas Île-de-France Social Real Estate Agency.

ACCOMMODATION AND HOUSING SUPPORT

Faced with the housing shortage and problems of poor housing, the Caritas France Network developed new solutions in 2018: mobilisation of housing through solidarity-based savings and housing in the private sector, and support for heating improvements for housing. Projects that complement the accommodation offered and the overall support to housing delivered by Secours Catholique-Caritas France.

THE 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 and guidance towards independence, as well as offering employment, to people living in poverty, those who are socially excluded and people living with disabilities. The organisation works in 19 cities, 14 in the social sector and five in the disabled sector, spread over three regions: Centre-West, Île-de-France and South. In 2018, more than 1,000 employees, mostly social workers, and nearly 400 volunteers helped more than 13,000 people, including 350 people with disabilities (suffering from a disability or from autism), through 127 social support services (emergency accommodation, social integration centres, day-care centres, boarding houses, nurseries...) managed by the organisation. Support put in place by the teams ensures that those being cared for are active participants and see their participation as a rich resource. Assistance through work is the support favoured by the educational projects rolled out by the cities working in the disability sector. Its network of nurseries, 'Growing up in Nursery', now offers 100 places.

At the heart of the Caritas France network, ACSC contributes to the evolution of society and the way it cares for vulnerable people. It continues its dynamic based on a vision involving professionals, volunteers and the participation of the people it supports.

acsc.asso.fr

CARITAS HABITAT



Founded in 2015, Caritas Habitat is a property company designed to facilitate access to social and solidarity accommodation, such as social housing, temporary houses and charity shops, through the use of solidarity-based savings. Its aim

is to provide a housing property response to projects carried out by our delegations or by ACSC, to manage assets provided by the foundations, congregations and our delegations, or by negotiating with local authorities or developers. Certified as an ESUS (company of social utility) and with project management expertise, Caritas Habitat has obtained approval from the financial markets authority to launch its first call for solidarity-based savings in 2018.

www.caritashabitat.org

FONCIÈRE CHÊNELET



Foncière Chênelet was established close to Calais in 2009 to respond to major social housing problems for those with the lowest incomes and offers high quality ecological accommodation. As certified social housing contractors Foncière

Chênelet builds high quality social housing, with low rent, most often in rural areas.

fonciere-chenelet.org

SOCIAL REAL ESTATE AGENT CARITAS ÎLE-DE-FRANCE



At the end of 2018, Secours Catholique and ACSC set up the social real estate agency in the Parisian region, Caritas Île-de-France, in order to trial a new way of enabling people to transfer directly to conventional housing, without going through the stages

of emergency or temporary accommodation. By mobilising home owners open to the idea of renting to people who do not have all the usual guarantees, the agency will have to show that with good quality support it is possible for some people to have direct access to stable housing.

ÉCO HABITAT NETWORK



The Éco Habitat Network was created in 2014 as a trial initiative by Secours Catholique Picardie delegations based on the observation that many families in a very precarious situation who own their homes do not use public services to carry out energy improvement work in order to reduce their energy consumption. The mission of the Éco Habitat Network is to link up people working in the field of energy improvement for housing (communities, businesses, volunteers) to allow very low income households to carry out ambitious work, financed at 90% by the charity.

www.reseau-ecohabitat.fr

EMPLOYMENT AND INTEGRATION

In addition to the overall support for gaining employment carried out by Secours Catholique-Caritas teams, the Caritas France Network develops and finances integration projects, supports social innovation and experimentation, and carries out advocacy actions in favour of employment and the integration of the most excluded.

TISSONS LA SOLIDARITÉ

Founded in 2004 by Secours Catholique-Caritas France



to unite the charity shops it had created to support employment. Tissons la solidarité ('weaving solidarity') has expanded and currently organises

and unites 70 companies through employment projects. The people being placed work in different roles in textiles and ready-to-wear businesses. They benefit from training approved by textile professionals: a sales training created with Chanel, couture training sponsored by Christian Lacroix. Some of the integration projects that Tissons la solidarité brings together cooperate locally with Secours Catholique delegations through its charity shops. In 2018, a new National Partnership Agreement was agreed between Tissons la solidarité and Secours Catholique.

www.tissonslasolidarite.fr

COMITÉ CHRÉTIEN DE SOLIDARITÉ AVEC LES CHÔMEURS ET LES PRÉCAIRES



Created over 30 years ago, the Comité chrétien de solidarité avec les chômeurs et les précaires (the Christian Committee of Solidarity with People who are Unemployed or Vulnerable) aims to keep a spotlight on the consequences of unemployment. By raising awareness amongst Christian communities as well as society as a whole and fighting indifference through the testimonies of the people who experience unemployment, the Committee invites everyone to act so that these people can once again become fully active citizens. With the support of Secours Catholique-Caritas France, the Committee produced a new newsletter entitled *Beat Unemployment*.

ccscfrance.com

FÉDÉRATION SOLIDARAUTO

Solidarauto is the brand of garages originally created by Secours Catholique-Caritas France delegations in several territories. These Solidarauto garages promote personal mobility to facilitate professional and social integration through the sale of used vehicles, the maintenance, repair and rental of vehicles. In 2018, the federation included six garages in France.

solidarauto.org

DEVELOPMENT OF PHILANTHROPY, INNOVATION, RESEARCH

The Caritas France Network also has the cross-organisational function of developing, promoting and financing research and reflection on the theology of charity and social innovation.

LA 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 (90 in 2018). It allows individuals, families and groups of friends to create their own foundations and it ensures they are running smoothly while supporting the founders (choice of projects, involvement of friends and families...). Its second mission is to raise funds to support the projects managed by Secours Catholique-Caritas France, Caritas Network in France or internationally or by other partners. In 2018, two thirds of the funds raised were redistributed to the Caritas global network and the Caritas France network. Since its creation, the Fondation Caritas France has supported close to 1,000 projects in this way.

Lastly, the foundation supports research and experimentation. It gives an award each year to a young social sciences researcher during the colloquium which is organised by the Institut de France.

www.fondationcaritasfrance.org

LA FONDATION JEAN-RODHAIN

The Fondation Jean Rodhain was created in 1981 to contribute to Christian reflections 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 those working on the ground based on the experiences and testimonies of poor people. Every two years, it organises a colloquium bringing together 50 academics and professionals. It created and financially supported chairs of studies in various theological universities and continues to support the "At the service of fraternity" website a product of the Diaconia 2013, with a view to sharing the practices

of a fraternity which are accessible to all.

www.fondationjeanrodhain.org

www.servonslafaternite.net

PRESENCE IN ALSACE

More specifically, history has led us to develop a special presence in Alsace, covering all the elements mentioned above.

FÉDÉRATION DE CHARITÉ CARITAS ALSACE

Founded in 1903 by Monsignor Paul Müller-Simonis to 'better organise Catholic charity in Alsace' the Charity Federation Caritas Alsace has been working in Strasbourg for over 100 years. 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. The Federation also carries out the work of Secours Catholique-Caritas France in Alsace, under the name 'Caritas Alsace, Secours Catholique network'.

www.federation-de-charite.org

GOVERNANCE AND CONTROLS AT SECOURS CATHOLIQUE-CARITAS FRANCE

31 DECEMBER 2018

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of Secours Catholique-Caritas France is made up of 183 members, in two categories: 152 active members – administrators, qualified board members, delegation presidents and vice presidents, as well as 1 treasurer by administrative region – and 31 honorary members. The age limit is set at 75 years.

Active members are 83 men and 69 women. Honorary members: 18 men and 13 women.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS is made up of 21 members, all voluntary; 12 are delegation presidents or vice-presidents, nine are qualified. 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 and a secretary.

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

BOARD

President:

Véronique Fayet

Vice-presidents:

Louise Avon, Claire Escaffre

Treasurer:

Dominique Dubois

Secretary:

Françoise Maury

OTHER MEMBERS

Bernard Alet - Pierre Boit - Pascal Bourgue - Alain de Brugière - Gilles Cagnard - Anne Duthilleuil - Marie Fleury - Francine Guilbert - Chantal Nicol - Geneviève Pastorello - Emmanuel de Rivoire - Guy Sayaret - Jean-Marie Schiffli - Béatrice Victor

General Secretary:

Bernard Thibaud

Chaplain General:

Père Hervé Perrot

Honorary Presidents:

François Soulage, Joël Thoraval

LINKS WITH THE BISHOPS'; 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 co-opted by the board of directors after approval by the Permanent Council of the Bishops' Conference of France, and then elected by the

General Assembly.

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

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

- ▶ Strategic Committee
- ▶ France Committee
- ▶ International Committee
- ▶ Funding Committee
- ▶ Audit Committee
- ▶ Appointments Committee
- ▶ National Animation Committee (CAN in its French acronym)
- ▶ Management & 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 law.

THE MISSION OF SECOURS CATHOLIQUE-CARITAS FRANCE

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, 1,420,000 people were supported in 2,400 reception centres.
- ▶ Internationally, 598 projects were carried out in 2018, in 63 countries or zones, in partnership with the Caritas Internationalis network (165 Caritas). In one year, 3.9 million people benefitted from Secours Catholique-Caritas France's international projects.

ORGANISATION

- ▶ 74 delegations on 31 December 2018, made up of 3,500 local teams in mainland France and overseas territories, covering all the national territories.
- ▶ Network of 66,000 volunteers and 940 staff across the country.
- ▶ Three centres: the cité Saint-Pierre in Lourdes, Abraham's house in Jerusalem, and the CEDRE asylum seeker and refugee reception centre in Paris.

TRANSPARENCY AND CONTROLS

The annual accounts 2018 including the Income and Expenditure Accounts, were certified by an auditor from Deloitte and approved by the Annual General Meeting held on 12 June 2019. 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 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 25 April 2018, Secours Catholique-Caritas France had its 'Donate with confidence' stamp 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 – Agence nationale pour les Chèques-vacances

Association Georges-Hourdin – Biocoop – Caisse d'épargne – CGR Cinémas – Communauté de l'agglomération havraise – COSUDE (Swiss Official Development Assistance Agency) Swiss embassy in Colombia – Dons Solidaires

ECHO (European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations)

EDF – La Fabrique Aviva

Fondation Caritas France – Foundations under the Foundation Caritas France umbrella: Fondation L'Arbre du voyageur – Fondation Avenir solidaire – Fondation Aveyron solidaire – Fondation des Épiniers – Fondation François, Monique et Pascal Bilger – Fondation Girafe formations – Fondation Le Manteau de saint Martin – Fondation Pro-femmes – Fondation Tolot

Fondation Carrefour – Fondation Chanel – Fondation Crédit coopéra-tif – Fondation Eiffage – Fondation de France – Fondations abritées par la Fondation de France: Fondation Guy-Nicolas – Fondation Hardy – Fonds Merymu – Fondation Macif – Fondation NED (National Endowment for Democracy) – Fondation Notre-Dame – Fondation Porticus – Fondation Sainte-Geneviève – Fondation Saint-Irénée – Fondation Sancta-Devota – Fondation Somfy – Les petites pierres – Fondation Suez

Fonds de dotation Antigone – Grand Lyon – Jean Lutz SA – La Poste – Le Petit Futé

Minister of Culture – Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs

McMillan-Stewart Foundation – Moneta – Orange – Redevco Foundation – Saint-Christophe assurances – European Union

As well as many town, regional and district councils.

And the companies that support us pro bono:

BNP Paribas, La Poste, Orange.



TOGETHER, BUILDING A FAIR AND FRATERNAL WORLD

Document developed and produced by the
communications department

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Editorial Revisions: Irsane de Scitivaux

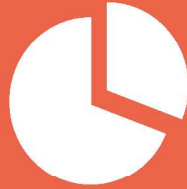
Cover photo:

C. Hargoues/SCCF

Design: Fadip department

July 2019

SECOURS CATHOLIQUE - CARITAS FRANCE IN FIGURES



€344M

TOTAL BUDGET OF WHICH 86% IS SPENT ON PROGRAMMES

2018, IN FRANCE



1,350,000

PEOPLE SUPPORTED IN FRANCE



66,000

VOLUNTEERS



5,000

CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS SUPPORTED IN THEIR STUDIES



2,400

RECEPTION PLACES



290,000

FAMILIES SUPPORTED



3,000

PEOPLE SUPPORTED TO RETURN TO WORK



3,000

PEOPLE SUPPORTED IN THEIR HOLIDAY PLANS



1,300

CHILDREN WENT ON HOLIDAYS HOSTED BY FAMILIES



967

MICROCREDIT CASES OF WHICH 540 ARE NEW

2018, INTERNATIONALLY



3.9 MILLION

SUPPORTED INTERNATIONALLY



598

PROJECTS



65

EMERGENCY PROGRAMMES