



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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**ENSEMBLE,
CONSTRUIRE
UN MONDE JUSTE
ET FRATERNEL**

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ANNUAL REPORT APPROVED
BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF 13 JUNE 2023

WEAVING FRATERNITY

“Here are not two distinct crises, one environmental and one social, but a single complex socio-environmental crisis.” This is what Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudato si'* and what we witness every day at Secours Catholique, both in France and internationally.

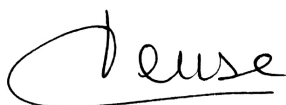
Our five priorities for advocacy and action chosen to be rolled out with a view to the 2022 elections, are intended to respond to this dual emergency. They set the course for building a world that is not only fairer and more fraternal, but also more sustainable. We are living it, in no small measure, through our two flagship programmes for 2022. The Together, Living Well, Eating Well programme, through which we are setting in motion systemic changes to guarantee decent access to sustainable, high-quality food for all, and the programme we are conducting with our partners in 18 countries, thanks to a long-term partnership agreement with Agence Française de Développement (AFD), with a view to defining and implementing our vision of a sustainable ecological transition. Two ambitious programmes that complement each other, based on a local-global approach to which we committed in 2021.

Our advocacy priorities guided our mobilisation at the time of the year's two major elections, and then in the context of the debates on the new Solidarity Pact, which must meet the social and environmental challenges. During two years of health crisis, the poorest households have become more impoverished despite ad hoc state assistance. This is borne out by our annual Statistical Report on poverty, where we track the changes in living standards of the people we support, after deducting necessary expenditure such as energy and rent. At the end of 2021, this was €5 per person per day, at a time when energy and food costs were still under control. Innovative and ambitious policies are needed to lift people out of long-term poverty. We have launched some of these in partnerships, for example, the Zero Long-term Unemployment Zones, which are expanding rapidly. A 100% Access to Social Welfare Zone is being set up. Or Mon Accompagnateur Rénov', a government scheme modelled on the one we have devised with our partner Réseau Eco-Habitat, to make the renovation of heat leaking properties accessible to all homeowners, thanks to the support of a trusted third party.

This trust, that our teams and volunteers know so well how to cultivate, in a spirit of fraternity, with people in vulnerable situations, is the hallmark of Secours Catholique. It is also what makes our advocacy approach so special, when we invite politicians to meet the people we support, so that, like us, they can put faces behind the figures for unemployment, immigration, poor housing, poverty..

In 2020, the need was felt to reaffirm the spiritual dimension that inspires our approach, and to strengthen the contribution of people who have experienced poverty to the association's reflections and decisions. Several of our delegations are already trialling shared governance. We have drawn on this experience as we continue to evolve our practice moving towards a Secours Catholique that is ever more open and participative, and as close as possible to the realities of people on the ground. ■

Véronique Devise
National President



Adélaïde Bertrand
Secretary General



Hervé Perrot
Chaplain General



THEY ARE SECOURS CATHOLIQUE

“CLAIRE

“I CAN EXPLAIN WHAT THE FIGURES
AND STATISTICS DON'T SAY.”



CHRISTOPHE HARGOUËS / SCOF

Claire came to Secours Catholique in search of support, and now represents the charity on the board of directors of Montpellier's Centre Communal d'Action Sociale (CCAS).

"When I first came to Secours Catholique, all I could do was cry. I had no income after separating from my husband, and I was ashamed to ask for help. I was welcomed by a team of volunteers. Little by little, I got involved too, and then I agreed to represent the association on the CCAS board. The first meeting was amazing. Now I feel more comfortable and at ease. I can explain what the figures and statistics don't say, namely that poverty is a daily struggle where everything is linked, where you have to choose between looking after yourself, feeding yourself and paying for a public transport season ticket. The trust I've been given has helped me to rebuild my life. Once again, I have the strength to exist, to be."

“FATHER VYACHESLAV

“OUR TEAMS ARE PREPARING TO REBUILD.”



GAËL KEBBAOL / SCOF

Father Vyacheslav Grynevych, Secretary General of Caritas Spes Ukraine, describes the response to the shockwaves caused by the outbreak of war.

"On 24 February, at 5:30 in the morning, I received a phone call informing me that the war had started. We immediately put the 38 centres in our seven Ukrainian dioceses to work to address the needs."

We urgently evacuated the twenty orphanages that we manage and sent the children to safe places throughout Europe. We then coordinated our response with our European partners. Several hundred of our volunteers were able to distribute food, blankets and personal assistance to the most vulnerable, to children and people in difficulty. I'm proud to have launched such a community effort. Today, our teams are preparing for reconstruction."

“LOUNIS

“THE PRIORITY IS TO HELP PEOPLE.”



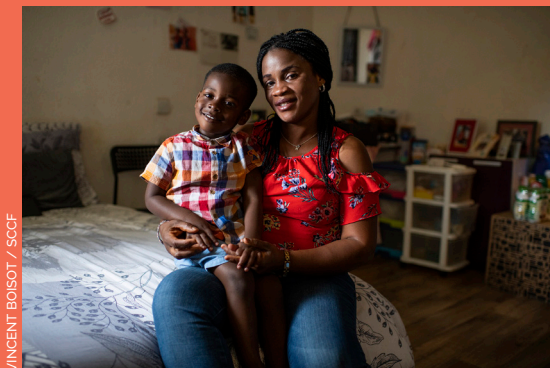
VINCENT BOISOT / SCOF

Lounis, a 26-year-old student, is in charge of a shower facility for homeless people at Secours Catholique in Orléans.

"I arrived from Algeria in 2019. Studying here was something that

had been close to my heart for a long time. Before joining Secours Catholique, I was involved in other associations, and then in 2020 I set up my own association, which offered foreign students the chance to help the elderly during the pandemic. It was also a way of integrating these young people into French life. Volunteering is a way of getting to know French people. At Secours Catholique, we don't ask about nationality, papers, or someone's situation... That's what I liked about it. 'Fraternity is not just an empty promise, it's a revolution and together we can make it happen': that's my motto now."

“MARIE
“YOU’RE ALWAYS
NEEDED SOMEWHERE.”



VINCENT BOISOT / SCOF

Thanks to Marie Zouo-Manh, a volunteer with Secours Catholique, women living in hotels can use the charity’s kitchen. The idea was inspired by her own situation.

“I arrived in France from Cote d’Ivoire in 2018. I’ve always lived with my son in a hotel on an industrial estate. When I turned to Secours Catholique in 2019, I was abandoned and without papers. I was accompanying another mother from the hotel who had come as part of her Dalo (right to housing) application. A meal had just been shared. I helped serve the food. For the first time in a long time, I felt useful. At the end of the day, I asked if I too could give some of my time. I suggested that we open the kitchen to women like me who were living in hotels and had nowhere to prepare meals. The project was approved. Today, I manage the planning and mobilise volunteers. This commitment has made me realise that you’re always needed somewhere.”

“LENA

“GETTING INVOLVED MAKES ME FORGET THE TRAGEDY MY COUNTRY IS GOING THROUGH.”



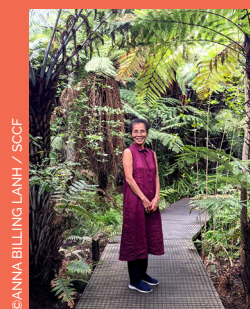
CHRISTOPHE HARGOUES / SCOF

Lena fled Ukraine in the early days of the conflict. She found some respite in Aix-en-Provence, and a sense of meaning, by getting involved with Secours Catholique, working with homeless people.

“I was working for a large property company in Kiev. The day after the Russian offensive, I fled by car with my 14-year-old daughter towards the Romanian border. A French woman I’d met a few years earlier on holiday in Armenia offered to let me live in her flat in Aix-en-Provence. Once in Aix, we received protection from France. My daughter went to school, and I learnt that Secours Catholique helps refugees with their administrative formalities. I was so well received that I offered to volunteer there. With the other volunteers, I go out to meet homeless people. Our support is so important to them, I can see it in their eyes. It takes my mind off the tragedy in my country. It’s therapy for me.”

“TRAN THI LANH

“THE SPIRIT OF NATURE IS IN THE FOREST.”

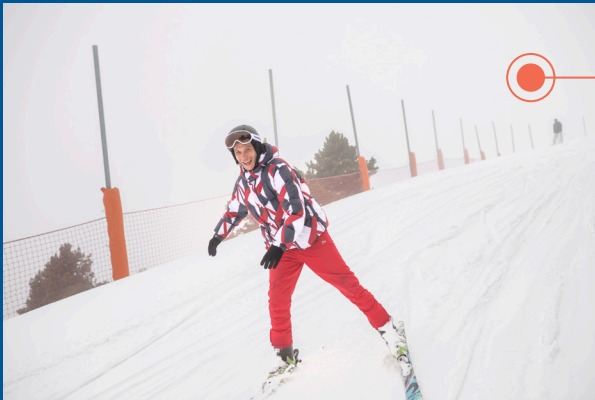


© ANNA BILLING LANH / SCOF

Anthropologist Tran Thi Lanh, founder of the NGO Speri, a partner of Secours Catholique in Vietnam, is fighting for recognition of the land rights of indigenous people.

“I grew up in central Vietnam. In 1987, I met the Dzao communities in the Ba Vi mountains, who have lived in harmony with the forest for over a thousand years. I decided to live with these people, to gain an understanding of their traditional knowledge and using it to preserve biodiversity. In 2015, I founded Cendi, now Speri, an institute that supports indigenous people. We have successfully lobbied for the recognition of customary law and the ‘sacred’ nature of forests. I too believe in the existence of a connection between humanity and the environment. I believe that the spirit of nature is in the forest.”

LOOKING BACK AT 2022



XAVIER SCHWEBEL / SCCF

28 MARCH

A dozen Cité Notre-Dame residents, a housing and social reintegration centre run by Cités Caritas in Paris, are enjoying a holiday in the Vercors. It's a chance for them to learn about winter sports, get away from it all and bond with each other.

9 MAY

Côte d'Ivoire hosts the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. In this West African country, the Man region is severely affected by deforestation and the massive use of chemical pesticides. For several years, Caritas Man, a partner of Secours Catholique, has been training farmers in the region in agroecology.



ANAS PACHABEZIAN / SCCF

AND ALSO...

25 JANUARY. Publication of *Paroles de Chômeurs*, a white paper produced by a group of associations including Secours Catholique, with a view to collecting the experiences of jobseekers and their recommendations to candidates in the 2022 presidential and legislative elections. **26 FEBRUARY.** The Démat&préca collective, which includes Secours Catholique, the Abbé-Pierre Foundation, the Fédération des Acteurs de Solidarité, Uniopss, ATD Quart Monde, Aides, the Fédération d'Entraide Protestante... publishes a manifesto 'for a more humane public service open to its citizens'. **2 MARCH.** The daily newspaper La Croix and Secours Catholique teamed up for a special edition featuring Claire, Gisèle and Fulbert, people living in vulnerable conditions, who came to discuss important, or forgotten, issues in the presidential election campaign. **6 APRIL.** The Ensemble Contre la Traite des Etres Humains collective, coordinated by Secours Catholique, publishes a paper setting out the key points to be considered in public policies to avoid any risk of trafficking in the context of the war in Ukraine. **13 TO 15 JUNE.** In Lourdes, Secours Catholique held its General Assembly, preceded by a day of discussions on changes in governance in the light of contributions from the delegations gathered in May and testimonies from external speakers who had led such changes. **28 TO 30 JULY.** Secours Catholique and several of its partners in Latin America, as well as in Africa, members of the French and international management teams and the presidents and



XAVIER SCHWIBEL / SCCF

27 JUNE TO 2 JULY

The inaugural event of the programme run by Secours Catholique as part of its multi-annual partnership agreement (CPP) with the AFD: more than 90 representatives from partners from the 18 countries involved met to launch their work on strengthening vulnerable people's capacity to promote and design a sustainable ecological transition.



ÉLODIE PERRIOT / SCCF

25 OCTOBER

Following the publication of an editorial co-signed by Secours Catholique, the associations of the Collectif des Associations Unies Contre le Malogement (CAU) and 23 local councillors, the Minister for Housing makes commitments to ensure that no more children sleep rough. Plans to close accommodation sites by 2022-2023 are abandoned.



GAEL KERBAOL / SCCF

17 NOVEMBER

To coincide with the publication of Secours Catholique's statistical report, the Nord/Lille delegation presented four new Fraternibuses to the public on the forecourt of Lille cathedral. The Fraternibus travels the roads of the Hauts-de-France region to meet people who are isolated or living in vulnerable conditions.

employees of the delegations (Aude-Roussillon, French Guiana and Berry), take part in the Pan-Amazon Social Forum (Fospa) held in Belém, Brazil. **24 TO 29 AUGUST.** Young Caritas participants in vulnerable situations take part in a theatrical residency with the Les 4L company. **28 SEPTEMBER.** As part of Secours Catholique's advocacy for internet access in prisons, an open letter co-signed by over 600 people is sent to the Prime Minister and published in the media. **3 OCTOBER.** Adélaïde Bertrand takes up the position of Secretary General of Secours Catholique – Caritas France and leaves her post as Director of Regional and Delegation Coordination. **27 AND 28.** Secours Catholique organises, in partnership with the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and under the patronage of UNESCO, a conference on the theme: 'The full face of humanity: women's leadership for a just society', with presentations by Véronique Devise, President of Secours Catholique, and Adélaïde Bertrand, Secretary General. **15 NOVEMBER.** Presentation of the 2022 Statistical report by the President, accompanied by three people from the Lyon group who contributed to the report and spoke about their situations, to the Minister for Health and Solidarity. **8 TO 10 DECEMBER.** General Assembly of the Together for Peace in Colombia programme, run by a consortium of 23 French and Colombian civil society organisations, led by Secours Catholique.

BRINGING SOCIAL CONNECTIONS, FRATERNITY AND THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION TO LIFE

EVERY DAY, Secours Catholique – Caritas France teams welcome people whose main request is to be listened to. These are people who are alone, elderly or otherwise, in vulnerable situations, with inadequate housing, undocumented migrants... whose isolation from others became even more acute during the pandemic. Our teams see them first and foremost as people, not as people in difficulty, and this is what makes our mission so special. On the strength of this conviction, in 2022 we continued an approach that became essential during the lockdowns, that of reaching out to isolated people on board new Fraternibuses. New Family Centres were also set up in 2022, a model whose relevance in supporting parenthood and empowering families in vulnerable situations has now been demonstrated. These programmes, like the many initiatives developed in our delegations, are based on the main principles that underpin our commitment: listening to what people have to say, empowering them and taking account of their spirituality, whatever it may be. The spiritual dimension of Secours Catholique was reaffirmed in 2022, as was the need for fraternal dialogue between religions, which was seen in the celebration, with our partners of other faiths, that took place on International Day of Human Fraternity, on 4 February. This great desire for meaning and for cultural and religious coming together is inspired by those we meet every day.



COMBATING ISOLATION AND RE-ESTABLISHING SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

COMBATING SOCIAL ISOLATION

Secours Catholique – Caritas France sees a large number of people who are isolated, both from their family and from their non-family circle, a relational isolation often associated with increased economic vulnerability, job insecurity or poorer health.

That's why, in 2022, we continued to develop initiatives aimed, among other things, at reconnecting with these people. We do this either by going out to meet them, particularly in rural areas, thanks to the Fraternibus, travelling to meeting places that aim to bring local people out of their isolation, or by welcoming them to places where they can feel at home, welcoming events such as 'smile cafés', 'solidarity cafés' and 'solidarity gardens', where you can share a meal or an activity: cookery workshops, board games, creative activities, etc.

FAMILY CENTRES, A MODEL THAT IS GROWING

In 2022, three new Family Centres were added to the network in Villeurbanne, Rouen and Saint-Jacques-de-la-Lande, near Rennes. Co-managed by Secours Catholique – Caritas France and Apprentis d'Auteuil, as well as ATD Quart Monde and the Red Cross for the Saint-Jacques-de-la-Lande centre, these unrestricted, free drop-in centres provide invaluable support for families who suffer the daily impact of vulnerability in terms of exclusion, social marginalisation and material and emotional insecurity.

This highly original model of support for >>>

“ ISOLATED RELATIONSHIPS ARE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY. ”



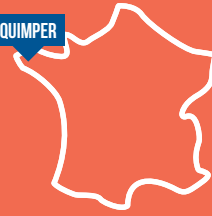
Cafe solitaire
Mardi - Mercredi - Jeudi - Vendredi
Dimanche
14h30 - 18h
Samedi
10h - 12h et 14h30 - 18h

QUIMPER
Repas Crêpes
Le 2 Mars 2022 dès 12h
Ouvert à tous !
Animation Musicale Prévue !
Sous l'Eglise Sainte Thérèse -
Espace Saint du
1 Rue Michel Le Nobletz

Open Bar 24h
pour les amis



QUIMPER



REGION

CAFÉ SOLIDAIRE IN QUIMPER

In Quimper town centre, behind the prefecture, the café solidaire is run by volunteers from Secours Catholique. As its name suggests, *Ti an dour*, meaning 'house of water' in Breton, is a place to recharge your batteries. It's open in the afternoons from Tuesday to Sunday, and on Saturday mornings for the self-repair workshop, where anyone can learn how to repair small household appliances. Karine, Anthony, Jacqueline and Maimouna meet there regularly to "kill the loneliness", or play a game of Triomino, like Martine, 73, a former care assistant. "I'm alone at home. My children are away. It helps me pass the time." Nicolas, 53, finds the atmosphere "a bit like a family. It's like a ray of sunshine". At the moment, he's "sleeping outside". To keep warm, he has three options, "either the library, or the social centre, or here". In this rather unusual bistro, everyone pays according to their means. There's a ceramic money box on each table to collect the money. "It's a way of saying that it's not free, that you can participate," explains Erwan Gueguen, a facilitator with Secours Catholique. More than financial participation, it's the involvement of people that is sought after. "When someone comes to the café, they can go behind the counter to lend a hand," says Erwan Gueguen. This helps to build confidence. The idea is also to "build on each person's talents". Jacqueline, an octogenarian, organises a knitting workshop every other Friday, and Marie-Annick, aged 68, comes in from time to time to play the accordion. "It's a place where we're happy and optimistic," she says. "A bit removed from all the worries that are going on at the moment." ■

GAËL KERBAOL / SCOF



FULL REPORT ON THE
SECOURS CATHOLIQUE WEBSITE:
bit.ly/CafeSolidaireSC

» families was the subject of a study carried out in 2019 in Vaulx-en-Velin, Annecy, Grenoble and Marseille in partnership with the Mission Régionale d'Information sur l'Exclusion (MRIE), entitled Working with Parents to Help Children Grow Up.

In 2022, the Family Centres in Lyon, Chambéry, Annecy, Grenoble and Marseille are keen to develop this work with their institutional partners and associations over five study days on the theme of Parenthood/Poverty. Based on the premise that the words and experiences of each person are unique,

“IT WAS LIKE A CHALLENGE. BEFORE THE PEOPLE AT THE TOWN HALL, WE’RE ALSO DOING GOOD FOR THEM, IN THE END WE’RE ALL THE SAME!”

SANAE, CO-ORGANISER OF THE PARENTHOOD POVERTY EVENT IN CHAMBÉRY

special, and precious, these days were designed, prepared and run in conjunction with parents.

Parents, who are often invited to speak as witnesses, were able to play their role as parenting experts. The mayors and social players present were receptive to this approach, which enables parents to be seen in a different light.

They intend to draw inspiration from it to continue adjusting social interventions to match as closely as possible to people's needs. ■

»» IN BRIEF »»

BOUCHES-DU-RHÔNE: ON THE ROAD ALL YEAR



OLIVIER SARRAZIN / SCCF

“Secours Catholique? They’re my friends! It would be a bit sad if they weren’t here,” says Youssef, a homeless man who is regularly met by volunteers from Marseille’s mobile night shelter. Every night of the year, winter and summer, they go out to meet homeless people or those in vulnerable accommodation (squats, hotels). In winter, a hot soup or a cup of coffee helps to create a bond. This fraternal presence helps to build a relationship of trust, so that the following day, in the association’s reception centres, they can work with some of them to find solutions for social reintegration.

VAR: A HIVE OF IDEAS TO DEVELOP LINKS BETWEEN LOCAL RESIDENTS

In the Var, in Provence Verte, and more specifically in Carcès, the Idea’s Hive bus parks every Thursday near the stadium and a children’s playground. Over a cup of coffee, volunteers from a group of residents offer visitors a warm welcome and a sympathetic ear. They offer intergenerational get-togethers based around board games for young and old alike... Their aim is to develop links in this village that has become a dormitory village, deserted during the day by residents who have gone off to work elsewhere, and to provide a moment of respite for mothers and joy for isolated senior citizens. This project, initiated by Secours Catholique, has developed in partnership with local institutions and associations. Today, the collective manages petty cash and implements its own sustainable development projects for the village.

RHÔNE: FAMILIES HELPING EACH OTHER OUT

On Wednesdays, Sana takes her children to the Family Centre in Vaulx-en-Velin, co-founded by Secours Catholique and the Apprentis d’Auteuil. This centre is a place of mutual aid and support for families – particularly single-parent families – who feel they are in difficulty. There are almost twenty of these Centres in the national network. For Sana and her children, the paid staff, volunteers, and mothers who attend the centre are a *“second family”*. *“Until now, when the school asked for the name of someone to contact in an emergency, I had no one,”* she says. Another mother, Meriem, now supports her as much as she can. *“She’s there for everything!”* exclaims Sana, whose face lights up. *“Her smile is enough to make me feel better.”* ■

ENABLING THE POOREST TO PARTICIPATE AND BE HEARD

TRAINING ON LOCAL SOCIAL CHANGE WITH A BRAZILIAN PARTNER

Within the framework of the CPP signed with the AFD on sustainable ecological transition (see pp. 42-43), Secours Catholique – Caritas France has planned to combine its experience of promoting local social change in France with that of diverse international partners. In December 2022, this took the form of an initial training course on the conditions for mobilising and empowering people and groups to act for social change.

It was based on the experience of a Brazilian partner who is supporting the process of mobilising producers in favour of the development of agroecology, and of the representative of one of them: a rural workers' union. The players and leaders from the national network taking part in the training course had been asked to reflect beforehand on their own practices as a starting point for the discussions.

WORKING TOGETHER TO EMPOWER PEOPLE

In 2022, the third Secours Catholique – Caritas France training course on developing people's power to act was held. This genuinely practical training course, which lasts for six months and consists of several two-day sessions, enables all those involved – leaders, volunteers and people living in vulnerable conditions – to work together and acquire a methodology for stimulating local change.

The idea is that each of the groups (ten by 2022) should start with an action or advocacy project that they want to run in their area. Whether it's running a *café sourire*, setting up a *Fraternibus* or lobbying on mobility, participants are tasked to ask themselves what difficulty they want to tackle, how it is perceived by the people concerned, and what they can do, here and now. The process helps people to take a step back from what they want to do and what they can do. It has been shown to transform both the actions proposed and the people involved.

CREATIVITY AND CULTURE AS LEVERS FOR EMPOWERMENT



SEBASTIEN LE CLÉZIO / SCOF

For several years, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has been promoting creativity and culture as important means of empowering people. A number of initiatives are planned for 2022. The second national Sharing for Action meeting, devoted to artistic, creative and cultural practices, was organised in Lourdes in the summer. Around a hundred people from all over France attended for three days of sharing and experiments which included the creation of plant mandalas under the trees surrounding Cité Saint-Pierre.

Two artistic residencies were held, the first during the summer with young people in vulnerable situations from Young Caritas, on theatrical practice with the Les 4L company, and the second during autumn on the theme of words, music and sounds. These proposals for artist residencies made their appearance on the Secours Catholique landscape in 2021. They validated the perception that opening up a space and giving time to support the creativity of those involved in the network is a powerful lever for bringing out the fruits of creativity and can be a driving force in the fight against poverty. Around twenty people took advantage of these opportunities to set up creative group or individual work.

The writing workshops that have run since 2016 as part of *L'Apostrophe* magazine continued in 2022

with the publication of two new issues, the first on citizenship, timed to coincide with the presidential campaign, and the second on food, at a time when inflation is making decent access to quality food difficult.

METHODOLOGICAL GUIDELINES FOR GATHERING PEOPLE'S OPINIONS

Acknowledging people's expertise on the vulnerable situations they experience is an integral part of all Secours Catholique – Caritas France's approaches and actions. This shows the importance we attach to hearing what people have to say.

In 2022, we wanted to draw up an inventory of our

practices for collecting and recognising what people have to say, and also to conduct interviews with internal and external professionals to gather bibliographical references on the subject. The results of this work were presented to our Action and Advocacy and Commitment and Leadership Departments.

Twenty or so initiatives have been identified that put people's voices at the heart of their work: *Dis-Moi* in Haute-Loire (see In Brief), *Séjours Participatifs* in Finistère, *À Toi la Parole* in the Pays de l'Adour, the Conseil d'Animation National (CAN), etc. Capitalising on these initiatives has enabled us to identify benchmarks that will form the basis of an educational booklet. This will be developed in 2023 with the people involved. ■

>>> IN BRIEF >>>

GIRONDE: 'ON THE ROAD, THE GAME', AN EDUCATIONAL GAME ON COLLECTIVE ACTION

The Secours Catholique – Caritas France Gironde delegation has many years' experience of running groups for participants to meet and share, and has developed the On the Road, the Game, an educational tool for empowering people. It's a fun and instructive way of setting up a holiday, a cookery workshop or a charity garage sale. It shows that what is inaccessible to an individual becomes accessible to a group, and that projects that might seem unattainable are within reach when you work together.

The game does not hide the difficulties that may arise in the proposed approaches, but it shows how to call on resources to overcome the obstacles. The game was designed and tested with teams from the delegation based on their day-to-day experience. In 2022 it was produced and offered to all delegations wishing to develop their group action practice.

HAUTE-LOIRE: WORKSHOPS FOR ACCESS TO CULTURE



Over the past four years, more than a hundred people in difficulty in the Haute-Loire have been taking part in around fifteen creative workshops. Organised by a group of associations including Secours Catholique, the aim of these workshops is to help participants flourish and rediscover a taste for social interaction. The *Dis-moi* adventure began in 2016. The workshops are free, open to all, and offer a safe environment for the most vulnerable, because the artist in charge of the workshop understands the approach. Now bringing together over a hundred participants, the 16 workshops are running smoothly. *Dis-moi*

has become an entity in its own right, enabling some participants to bounce back and find a job or a stability they had lost.

VAR: THE PLAYGROUND IN TOULON

Secours Catholique is relaunching its presence in Toulon city centre by taking over a space belonging to the diocese, known as the Playground. Open every day of the week, it houses a community centre and an art gallery showcasing works by people in vulnerable situations. Located in the Chalucet district, a cultural hub in the Toulon metropolitan area, the space is adjacent to several art schools and student accommodation and is resolutely geared towards this target group. The aim is to encourage students to make this exhibition space their own, and to provide them with support if they need it via the community services department, as well as taking part in a range of meetings and activities. ■

BRINGING SPIRITUALITY TO LIFE

'ON THE WAY WITH BARTIMÉE' TOWARDS THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF SECOURS CATHOLIQUE

The spiritual dimension is not only essential, but it is fundamental. This truth was strongly expressed at Secours Catholique – Caritas France at the time of the health crisis, making it necessary to draw up a reference text on the association's position on this issue. This was drafted in 2021 with nearly 600 stakeholders, then adopted by our General Assembly before being published in a booklet, *On the Way with Bartimée*, in 2022. The reference text is informed by the various elements of the four parts of the booklet: firstly, the words of people who have experienced poverty, then the source texts which clarify all the notions present in the reference text (the intercultural dimension, secularity, our link to the Church, its social doctrine...), to accompany their understanding and, finally, various pedagogical means and proposals for animation to appropriate the contents and bring them to life. The booklet closes with a framework document linking the spiritual, evangelical, and ecclesial dimensions.

Starting with the poorest, it is an invitation to renew, live and serve together in a new spiritual, evangelical and ecclesiastical dynamic.

MARKING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN FRATERNITY

February 4 was declared International Day of Human Fraternity by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 21 December 2020. This decision followed the signing by Pope Francis and Sheikh El-Tayeb, Imam of Al-Azhar, of a joint founding document on human fraternity.

In 2022, Secours Catholique – Caritas France decided to celebrate this day and adopt it, so that it works towards one of the changes targeted in our national project on fostering the construction of an intercultural and interreligious society. Following an opening address by Véronique Devise, President of Secours Catholique, the commemoration continued in the form of a round-table discussion with speakers from partner associations involved in the

religious exchange, such as Coexister, Groupe d'Amitié Islamo-Chrétienne (Gaic) and Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). They drew on a booklet on fraternity published by the Saint-Laurent network and compared it with their own experience and their own vision of fraternity.

SETTING UP A SECULAR GROUP

The stated aim of the law of 23 August 2021 reinforcing respect for the principles of the Republic (CRPR law) is to arm the Republic against all forms of separatism, to protect the republican model of secularism and to oppose the development of community withdrawal and separatism in all its forms. It gave Secours Catholique – Caritas France the opportunity to reflect on secularism and to make the Church's voice heard on this subject. A Secularism Unit was created in 2022. Its mission is to further develop our partnerships with the Service National des Relations avec les Musulmans (SNRM), Coexister and Ensemble avec Marie through joint actions and training. At a time when the tendency is for people to turn in on themselves and for community tensions, we are fulfilling our mission to build a fraternal society together, while respecting differences and beliefs.

“BUILDING A FRATERNAL SOCIETY WITH RESPECT FOR DIFFERENCES AND BELIEFS.”

DEFINING NEW DIRECTIONS FOR SECOURS CATHOLIQUE AT CITÉ SAINT-PIERRE

Since the early 1990's, Secours Catholique – Caritas France delegations have been organising and are building 'journeys of hope' with people in vulnerable situations, a shared journey of fraternity and a search for meaning. While these journeys take place in various places of pilgrimage or retreat, the Cité Saint-Pierre was a pioneer and remains a flagship

>>> IN BRIEF >>>

BOUCHES-DU-RHÔNE: MONTHLY SPIRITUAL WALKS

For the past year and a half, Secours Catholique in Aix-en-Provence has been offering a monthly spiritual walk to the people it supports. The route, which covers a handful of kilometres along the Côte Bleue between Sainte-Croix and La Couronne, west of Marseille, lends itself to two or three stops to listen to a Bible text. *"I don't need to go into a church to share my faith,"* explains Jean-Baptiste, 55, a regular member of Secours Catholique. For this former judoka from the French West Indies, who has lived in Provence for the past twenty-five years, the five-kilometre walk is just a leisurely stroll, but, he says *"the important thing is to enjoy time with others"*.

The twenty or so participants met at around gam in the deserted car park on Sainte-Croix beach, some of them coming from Aix, Sausset-les-Pins or Carry-le-Rouet, and others as neighbours, like Dominique and Jeanine, two local pensioners. Pascale, a volunteer for twenty-eight years in Aix-en-Provence and co-initiator of these spiritual walks, stands at the centre of the group and talks about Antiquity. She tells this story that has spanned the centuries, that of a boatload of migrants who arrived here in search of drinking water. They questioned the first native to come along, *"a deaf-mute who finally understood them and pointed out to them a source of pure water. To thank him, the travellers cure him of his dual affliction"*. This text is sure to raise questions for the walkers on the use of their senses and their relationship with others. ■



CHRISTOPHE HARGOUES / SCCF



ELODIE PERRIOT / SCCF

venue. In 2022, for the first time since the Covid pandemic, these journeys were able to fully resume, with over 500 participants in total.

In the same year, Secours Catholique defined a five-year plan for what it wanted to do in this unique location. Integral ecology is the cornerstone. The aim is to highlight the link between vulnerability and ecology that the Pope refers to when he speaks of *"the cry of the earth, the cry of the poor"* in the encyclical *Laudato si'*. Through the Cité Saint-Pierre, Secours Catholique wishes to show and experience a concrete ecclesial implementation of this message. Our five-year project for the Cité Saint-Pierre is based on four principles: to take up the challenge of a sober, simple and joyful welcome, and to live it out on a daily basis; to dare to live the experience and teaching on charity in the service of the Church; to work together to once again give life to commitment, a source of joy, fraternity and growth; to open up the Cité Saint-Pierre, in communion with its territory and its time. ■

COMBATING VULNERABILITY THROUGH ACCESS TO RIGHTS FOR ALL

THE YEAR 2022 was marked by national elections, at a time when the daily lives of many people in France were proving challenging. With the aim of overcoming all divisions and fears, Secours Catholique – Caritas France proposed a strategy to the candidates in both the presidential and legislative elections, namely fraternity, a fraternity that we live out every day in our mission to welcome, listen to, help and support the most vulnerable. To the 9 million people living below the poverty line, the 12 million in fuel poverty, the 4 million inadequately housed, the 3 million permanently out of work, the 7 million receiving food aid, the families evacuated from their makeshift camps, the people forced to flee their lands... we put faces. We work with them to find solutions, experimenting with ways of bringing about structural change. Examples include the Together, Eat Well, Live Well programme, which is beginning to create local solutions for decent access to sustainable, high-quality food, and the 1DigneToit programme for renovating energy inefficient flats, which grew out of our partnership with the Réseau Éco-Habitat and is now inspiring the Mon Accompagnateur Renov' public scheme. There are also pilots like Zero Long-Term Unemployment Zones, whose large-scale deployment would make it possible to offer employment to those who have been deprived of it for too long, or the upcoming 100% Access to Social Welfare Zones, which aim to enable all those entitled to social benefits to actually receive them. The fair and fraternal world we are hoping and praying for can happen. It requires political courage, the kind of courage that we are constantly instilling in elected representatives by inviting them to follow our lead.



COMBATING FINANCIAL INSECURITY AND ENSURING ACCESS TO A DECENT INCOME

THE IMPACT OF THE CRISIS ON THE POOREST HOUSEHOLDS

In November 2022, Secours Catholique – Caritas France published its annual report on the state of poverty in France, a statistical study based on an analysis of the situations of more than 46,000 households cared for by its teams in 2021. To measure the impact of the health crisis on the most vulnerable households, we have supplemented this report with a study conducted in partnership with the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) and the University of Paris-Saclay. The study was based on the situation of 9,000 households over three distinct periods: before, during and after the crisis. The aim was to measure changes in the standard of living of these households, and how much they have left to live on after deducting essential expenses such as rent, electricity, etc.

The first observation is that the public assistance granted in 2020 was effective on a one-off basis. But as it was not permanent, by the end of 2021, beneficiary households' situations had worsened. As for those who were unable to benefit from this aid (people in insecure or informal employment, the unemployed, single women), their standard of living fell throughout the period.

The result for this sample as a whole was that two years after the health crisis, the amount left to live on for food, clothing and entertainment averaged €5 per person per day, whereas we estimate that you need at least €7 just to eat. Above all, this study shows that the poverty rate in France, as measured by the Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (INSEE) on the basis of household income alone, does not reflect the vulnerability actually experienced. On a constant income basis, money left over for living for the poorest households

continues to fall as a result of inflation, particularly for food and energy. Our Statistical Report 2022 also includes a contribution from people living in poverty in the Rhône who, together, have identified and analysed the broad outlines of their shared experience of poverty: the fear, the mental burden, the constant trade-offs to be made, the development of mathematical skills... hard facts that they were able to express to the Minister for Health and Solidarity when the report was presented.

PROGRESS IN THE STATISTICAL APPROACH TO POVERTY

Between 2016 and 2019, Secours Catholique – Caritas France contributed to a participatory research project launched in six countries by ATD Quart Monde and Oxford University. The aim was to try to define the multiple dimensions of poverty as experienced by people and not just in terms of income. In 2022, following on from this work, INSEE asked Secours Catholique and ATD Quart Monde to work with two members of INSEE on two of the dimensions of poverty identified in the 2021 study, namely isolation and administrative misconduct. This work was presented to INSEE on 24 June. This research, which will continue in 2023, is in line with our call for poverty to be studied in all its dimensions as felt and experienced by people.

MANIFESTO FOR UNIVERSAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Having a bank account is essential if you want to collect your wages, withdraw cash, pay bills, receive benefits and repayments, and access advice on credit, microcredit and savings. Yet many people are still finding it difficult to access these services, in the face of electronic banking, particularly those whose accounts have been closed, asylum seekers and the elderly.

In 2022, to document this situation, Secours Catholique – Caritas France, together with Emmaüs France, APF France-Handicap, UFC que Choisir, Familles Rurales and the Confédération Syndicale des Familles, drew up a report on financial inclusion in France. Published in October 2022 in the form of a manifesto, this document includes numerous figures and testimonials and makes six proposals to achieve financial inclusion for all: create a universal banking

service in France; maintain access to cash; ensure that systematic authorisation bankcards can be used everywhere; provide asylum seekers with a genuine payment card; guarantee physical accessibility to banking infrastructures for people with disabilities; and combat digital exclusion.



ADVOCACY SUCCESS STORIES

• PROGRESS ON THE NON-TAKE-UP FRONT

Non-take-up of social benefits, its scale and the issues involved were at the heart of the report - No Access: a social debt that compels us -, published by Secours Catholique – Caritas France in 2021. Of the recommendations we made to the public authorities, two of them were taken up in 2022.

The first concerns our idea of a 100% Access to Social Welfare Zone, which we had already included in the previous Poverty Plan, and which the law on differentiation, decentralisation, devolution (3DS), adopted in February 2022, enshrined the principle by authorising pilots. Since the Poverty Plan and the publication of our report, No Access: a social debt that compels us, four zones have launched pilots in Bastia, Lyon, Paris and Ardèche. The French Minister announced that, as part of the Solidarity Pact, a dozen 100% Access to Social Welfare Zones would be selected at the beginning of 2023 for a pilot supported by the Ministry. Several other pilots are also being prepared, including one supported by the Tarn-Aveyron-Lozère branch of Secours Catholique.

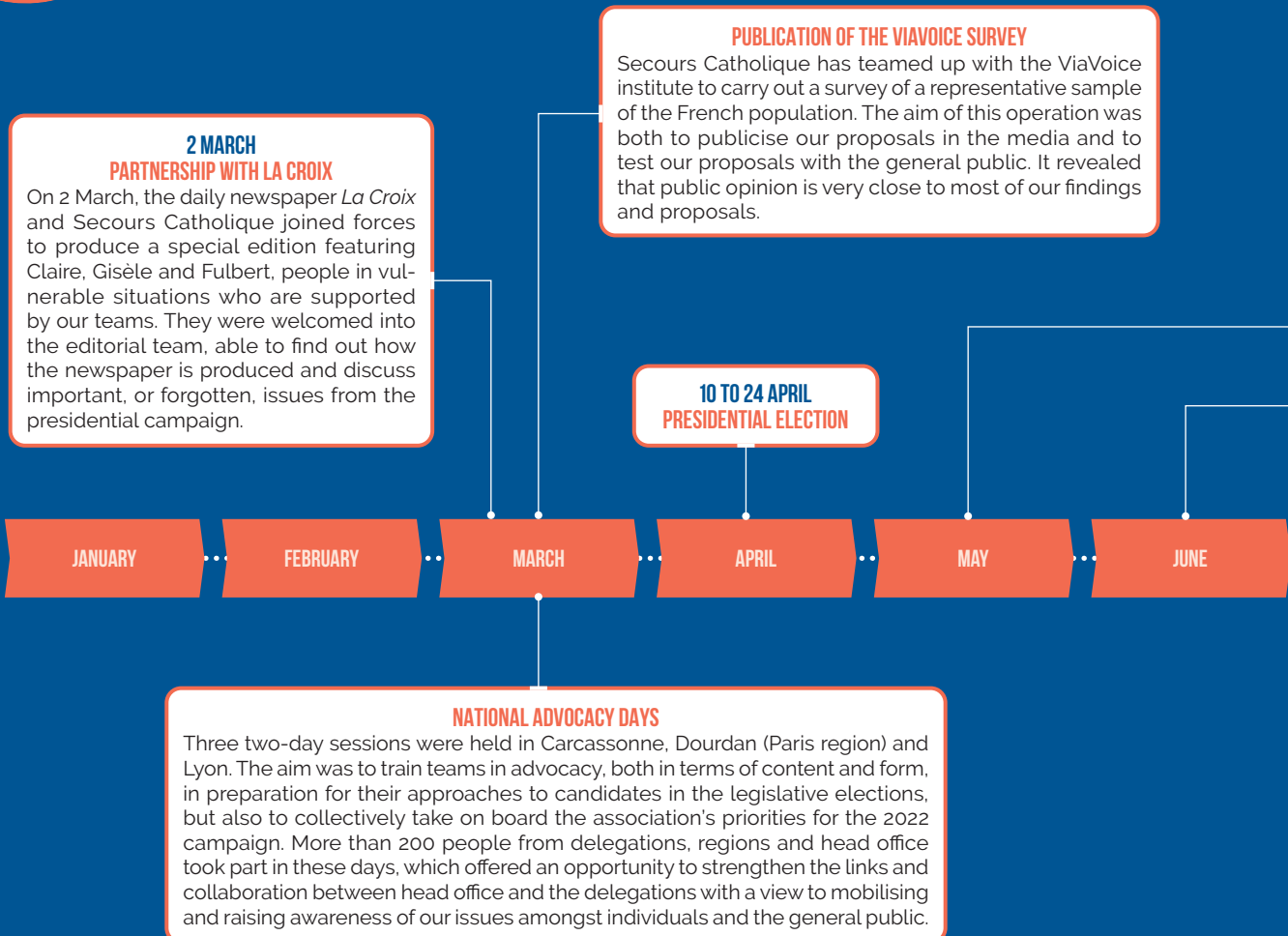
The second recommendation, supported by the Collectif Alerte and the Pacte de Pouvoir de Vivre, concerns the automatic payment of welfare benefits to people who are eligible. The Minister of Solidarity has announced that he intends to make this one of his priorities. Although the proposed system only partially meets our expectations, it is a step forward that we welcome. We will be monitoring to ensure that automation does not mean dehumanisation, and to ensure that any excess payments are reimbursed under conditions that leave people with a decent standard of living.

FOCUS

'LET'S TAKE THE SIDE OF FRATERNITY' CAMPAIGN

TAKING ACTION DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGNS

To achieve the just and fraternal world that Secours Catholique – Caritas France hopes and prays for, we need policies that guarantee everyone a habitable planet, respectful treatment, decent housing, employment and income, and decent food. These policies are possible. That's why we mobilised at national level with the Pacte du Pouvoir de Vivre collective, Alerte and the CAU, throughout the first half of 2022, to defend these proposals to the presidential candidates – Anne Hidalgo, Yannick Jadot, Emmanuel Macron, Jean-Luc Mélenchon, Valérie Pécresse, Fabien Roussel – or their campaign teams. We also did this more locally, during the legislative elections. Delegations had the choice of getting involved at different levels: internally, to raise awareness of the issues involved in voting and help their teams to adopt our five advocacy themes for 2022; with the general public, by organising events to stimulate debate; and finally with candidates, to canvass them on our proposals. ■



14 TO 21 MAY 2022
NATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION

Here are some of the 20 public events organised by the delegations.

21 May, Place de la République in Paris: a series of events and participatory workshops enabled passers-by to find out more about our advocacy, particularly on issues that are relevant in Paris – access for all to decent housing, work or a decent income, respect for the dignity of exiles and a fair ecological transition.

19 May, Sainte-Bazille (Périgord Agenais): a film debate was held in the presence of three candidates in the legislative elections (Nupes, Ensemble and LR), who were able to engage in discussion with several people in situations of energy poverty around the screening of a short film, *Quand l’Energie vient à Manquer* [When Energy Runs Out].

13 May, Massieu (Isère): a film-debate was held on the film *Nouvelle Cordée*, about the Zero Long-term Unemployment Zone scheme, attended by over 50 people.



12 TO 19 JUNE
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

16 NOVEMBER
LAUNCH OF A PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We took advantage of the election of the new MPs and senators we met during the campaign to set up a cross-party parliamentary friendship group. The aim is to create a space for meeting and discussion, based on the words and ideas of people with experience of poverty, to cross-check our analyses and proposals and share our thoughts off-camera. The first meeting took place in November, with 12 elected representatives in attendance.

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

PURSUIT OF NATIONAL ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

The five advocacy priorities based on Thinking about the Future produced in 2021 within our network and with our international partners served as a compass throughout the mobilisation around the elections. We continued to push our proposals further when the Finance Bill for 2023 was being examined by parliamentarians. The challenge was to ensure that the resources earmarked would be equal to the challenges and promises.

IDEAS, PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES TO HELP PEOPLE BACK INTO WORK



CHRISTOPHE HARGOUES / SCCF

Supporting people into employment is one of the missions of Secours Catholique – Caritas France, with around 50 dedicated teams across the country. As an association, we are involved in work-based social integration structures that specialise in helping

people to find employment including those that are growing like Boutique Solidaire or Cités Coop, and pilots such as Zero Long-term Unemployment Zones. By December 2022, the latter had 50 approved businesses contribut-

ing to the creation of 1,809 additional jobs and 263 projects in the development phase. We are also developing alternative projects to salaried employment, where the work of everyone is valued within the framework of a solidarity-based economy.

“STRENGTHEN PEOPLE’S POWER TO ACT, ENHANCE SOCIAL TIES AND SELF-ESTEEM.”

Accorderies, which operate on the principle of exchanging services for units of time, help to strengthen people’s power to act, social ties and self-esteem, which are often damaged by the experience of unemployment or vulnerability. A study on the impact of the Accorderies was carried out in 2022.

PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSIONS ON SOCIAL PROTECTION

In 2015, Secours Catholique – Caritas France, together with other organisations such as Aequitaz, the Fédération des Centres Sociaux and the Accorderies, launched a citizens’ investigation into what could be a fairer social protection system that leaves no one by the wayside. A small group of jobseekers then embarked on an exchange of knowledge and expertise. The final season of discussions on social protection, which ended in November 2022, focused on the question of ways of contributing to the common good other than paid work, which could be recognised by the fairer social protection system we are calling for.

WORDS FROM THE UNEMPLOYED

People are rarely consulted about political decisions that affect them, especially when they are unemployed. That’s why, in the aftermath of the health crisis which has created a great deal of job insecurity, and at a time when debates were getting underway on the reform of unemployment insurance, Secours Catholique – Caritas France joined forces with the Collectif pour la Parole de Chômeurs to hear what jobseekers have to say. The white paper resulting from this survey is aimed at society as a whole, but also and primarily at candidates in the 2022 presidential and legislative elections. It does not cover all the issues relating to employment, nor all the possible solutions, but gives voice to the feelings of people who are looking for work and to their proposals. Published and presented to the press on 25 January 2022, Paroles de Chômeurs was widely reported in the media, with numerous articles in the written and audiovisual press. ■

PROVIDING SUPPORT TO MATCH PEOPLE'S NEEDS

PRACTICAL GUIDE TO AID POLICY

Financial or material aid to people in difficulty is an integral part of the support provided by Secours Catholique – Caritas France. Each delegation has its own practices, and a number of them have asked for support in rewriting not only their aid policy, but also the support that goes with it, particularly in terms of access to rights, and benchmarks to try and provide better support for volunteers faced with complex situations.

In 2022, we designed a kit to share some of the best practices tried out by certain delegations, reference sheets on various subjects and the documents that form the basis of the association's doctrine. This kit is intended to evolve to provide a better inventory of what exists and to try to provide answers to questions that arise in daily practice. It was developed with an initial group of eight delegations who wanted to rewrite their aid policy. A second group was launched in December 2022. Its reflections will be used to enrich the kit.

TRAINING MODULE FOR CCAS DELEGATES FROM THE NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE REGION

Over the past few years, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has stepped up its support for the 1,500 volunteers appointed to the CCAS. Training courses have been developed for them, to increase their skills, help them make the right decisions and keep them informed of the issues the charity is involved in. In 2022, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine regional advocacy group and the dedicated head office team designed a one-day training module. The aim is to enable CCAS/CIAS representatives to improve their position and become more aware of their role, by highlighting the three essential attitudes they need to adopt while working as part of a network in complex organisations: wanting to participate in local change, helping to identify problems and sharing internally and externally. ■



MATHIEU GÉNON / SCCF

>>> IN BRIEF >>>

IN CORSICA: CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

The La Clé collective, of which the Secours Catholique – Caritas France delegation in Corsica is part, organises a conference every year. In 2022, the aim was to examine the role that local authorities can play in the fight against poverty, drawing on concrete examples, such as in Cachan (94), where local residents are invited to take part in drawing up community projects, or in the Lyon metropolitan area, which is experimenting with RSA, a social security benefit that supplements the income of young people. The issue of combating no access to social welfare was also addressed, most notably in Corsica, with the deployment of a France Services bus and the 100% Access to Social Welfare Zone in a district of Bastia, the results of which have already been seen.

The presence of a large number of elected representatives, including the region's poverty commissioner was a source of satisfaction for the group ■

FOCUS

'TOGETHER, LIVING WELL, EATING WELL' PROGRAMME

The recent health crisis has highlighted the relevance of Secours Catholique – Caritas France's advocacy on decent access to sustainable, high-quality food. The Together, Living Well, Eating Well programme launched in 2021 aims to bring about systemic changes in this direction.

INTERVIEW WITH LAURENT SEUX, PROGRAMME MANAGER



GAËL KERBAOL / SCSF

How did the Together, Living Well, Eating Well programme come about?

For several years now, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has been developing alternatives to traditional food aid in order to offer decent access to sustainable, high-quality food.

The relevance of this approach was demonstrated by the scale and persistence of food insecurity during the health crisis, the fragility of distributive aid models and the lack of local resilience. Together, Living Well, Eating Well is a response to the urgent need to contribute

to significant changes by 2025.

We have set ourselves four key areas for action: adapting and developing our own practices, supporting civic action with people living in food insecurity, raising awareness of the issues, and conducting a public awareness campaign of

local and national advocacy for the right to decent, high-quality food.

What does this mean for the Secours Catholique network?

Around thirty delegations are already involved in decent access to food projects. Based on this experience we designed a national programme on

'solidarity-based fresh food baskets' and produced guidance on 'solidarity-based grocery shops', in order to establish a framework for action for delegations wishing to start up or adapt their practices. Involvement in these types of access to food is quite a change. This is what emerged from the internal study completed in 2022 from feedback on food aid practices, involving more than 1,000 beneficiaries. This feedback gives us ideas on how we can better support our teams in adapting and changing their practices.

How can we move on to more systemic changes?

To take our advocacy to the next level and start making changes, we are working with people living in vulnerable situations to mobilise them around these issues. From 10 to 14 October 2022, 150 people, of whom around fifty are directly concerned, ten national partners and three international partners came together for a week of training. Our work with people living on the margins of society to ensure that everyone has decent access to sustainable, high-quality food is our signature trademark amongst those working on this issue in France.

We are also a member of the Comité National de Coordination de Lutte contre la Précarité Alimentaire (Cocolupa), where we co-lead, with ATD Quart Monde, a working group on people's participation. As part of our advocacy and based on the work carried out within Cocolupa, we took part in the public debate on food vouchers and are involved in issues of accessibility in the catering sector for people in vulnerable situations.

“ WE SUPPORT CIVIC ACTION ALONGSIDE PEOPLE EXPERIENCING POVERTY. ”



CHRISTOPHE HARGOUES / SCOF

What's the outlook for the coming year?

We are going to continue to support the initiative and action, while developing our advocacy work in France but also in partnership with our international colleagues. Food is a global issue, as our partners from Spain, England and Haiti reminded us during our training week. Similarly, during our participation in the Fospa in Brazil (see p. 41) with the Berry

delegation, we were able to measure the impact of international trade agreements on these issues from both sides. ■

IDEAS FOR THE REGIONS

The *Territoires à vivreS* pilot, which aims to create new forms of cooperation for sustainable and inclusive food systems, was launched in 2021 in **Lyon, Aix-Marseille, Montpellier and Toulouse**. Secours Catholique – Caritas France helped steer the project, along with the Cocagne, Civam, Vrac and Ugess networks. One of the projects was inaugurated on 28 January 2023 in Montpellier, where the municipality created a budget line to fund a local cash account that is accessible at a preferential rate for people in vulnerable situations, and usable at local product distribution points that are open to everyone. The terms and conditions of use of this account have been defined by a citizens' council, half of whom are disadvantaged people, including people supported by Secours Catholique. ■

THE LOCAL-GLOBAL DIMENSION OF THE 'TOGETHER, LIVING WELL, EATING WELL' PROGRAMME

The Together, Living Well, Eating Well programme of Secours Catholique – Caritas France defends a model of decent access to sustainable, high-quality food for all, and aims to bring about systemic changes in this direction, both in France and internationally. To bring this local-global dimension to life, a knowledge exchange was created in 2022. In July, as part of the Fospa, one of the four workshops organised by Secours Catholique presented actions taken in Colombia and in Berry, France, to defend the right to decent and quality food.

In October, several international players took part in the meeting organised in Lourdes as part of the programme: Caritas Spain, the UK Food Power network and our partner in Haiti, Concert'Action, which supports rural communities to improve their living conditions and encourage their transition to agroecology. ■

ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE MOBILITY

FOR AREAS WITH LOW EMISSIONS AND HIGH ACCESSIBILITY

By 2025, almost half the population of France will be living in a low-emission zone (LEZ). This is a step forward in terms of health and the environment, but it also has a social impact that should not be overlooked. Indeed, 38% of the poorest households have a Crit'air 4 or 5 car, and 50% have no alternative means of transport. From 2021 onwards, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has been considering financial schemes combining microcredit, conversion allowances and zero-interest loans to give as many people as possible access to clean vehicles. But the introduction of the LEZ is also an opportunity to accelerate the move away from the car as the sole means of transport. With this in mind, the Isère, Cantal-Puy-de-Dôme, Rhône and Haute-Normandie delegations, together with Emmaüs France, Solidarauto and the Action Climat network, carried out a survey in 2022 among the most disadvantaged people in order to understand the mobility problems

they encounter and to draw lessons from them with the help of experts. The document resulting from this study was published in June 2022 under the title For Cities and Conurbations with Low Emissions and High Accessibility. It proposes a set of nine concrete recommendations for public authorities, socio-economic players and the community to reconcile the problems of mobility, health and the environment. With the development of alternative, shared, supportive, environmentally friendly and other forms of transport, solutions exist to enable all citizens, regardless of their place of residence or resources, to access all the services in their area.

OFFERING VIABLE ALTERNATIVES TO THE COMBUSTION-POWERED PRIVATE CAR

In its report For Cities and Conurbations with Low Emissions and High Accessibility, Secours Catholique – Caritas France advocates the development of alternatives to the combustion-powered private car. In 2022, each of our delegations, at their own level, will be working towards this goal, devising all sorts of initiatives to meet specific needs.

Bike workshops. The idea is to collect bicycles donated by individuals or parishes, repair them and lend or hire them to people in need. These workshops have started to develop in eight regions. They also offer introductory courses in bicycle maintenance and serve as an advocacy platform for economical and responsible mobility.

Provision of vehicles. Seven Secours Catholique teams are currently offering this car-sharing solution, which began in 2021. The principle is simple. A person who does not have a car can reserve one made available by the delegation to go to an appointment. They pay a token rental of 1 or 2 euros per day plus fuel.

Fraternibus or bringing services to people. Over the years, entire regions have found themselves without local shops or meeting places. The Fraternibus brings life and fraternity back to the area once or several times a week. You can have a cup of tea or



ADVOCACY SUCCESS STORIES

• BETTER ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR THE POOREST PEOPLE

In Maine-et-Loire, advocacy work carried out by a number of associations, including Secours Catholique, has led to changes in transport fares in the city of Angers to take account of family circumstances and the unique situation of asylum seekers. This new approach could be an inspiration to other local authorities!

In the Ain department, our team of volunteers in Oyonnax discovered that article L. 1113-1 of the Public Transport Code provides for a 50% fare reduction for anyone in the urban area whose income is below the ceiling for supplementary health insurance or state medical aid. The Haut-Bugey's elected representatives and technical staff have listened carefully to what we have to say and have worked to ensure that the law is implemented quickly and that people are able to access their rights.



STEVEN WASSENAAR / SCCF

coffee, simply chat or find out about your rights, or use the computer installed on board to take care of administrative formalities. Thanks to the France Relance call for projects at the end of 2020, 22 new Fraternibuses were able to set off in 2022, and other projects have been launched in the Sarthe, Rhône, Loire and Côtes-d'Armor regions.

services are offered at cost price, as part of a drive to raise awareness of safety issues. The funded projects will be carried out in 2023. ■

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SOLIDARAUTO GARAGES

As part of the agreement signed with the Solidarauto federation, the Secours Catholique – Caritas France board of directors decided to provide financial support for the development of solidarity garages. A financial committee was set up for this purpose. It met on 14 November 2022 to decide on the grant applications submitted by the garages, which had been submitted in advance to all the delegations involved in the projects.

Eight projects received funding ranging from €14,000 to €40,000, for a wide variety of initiatives such as setting up branches in rural areas, strengthening social support hubs, development of car loan solutions or fixed-term social rental, sustainability of investments in electric cars or the commissioning of mobile trucks to meet people and carry out small repairs, brake checks, oil changes, etc. These

• ON YOUR BIKE IN THE ORNE

For the Secours Catholique team in Athis-de-l'Orne, a town of 2,400 inhabitants located in Normandy, ecology is an important issue. So, a Bicycle Mobility workshop was set up in 2022, led by 6 of the team's 11 volunteers in premises made available by the town hall. In total, 30 bicycles donated by the inhabitants and the parish were repaired by the members of the team, then loaned or donated to people in vulnerable situations who need them. Repairs are carried out outside the premises, which facilitates exchanges with curious passers-by. The team is full of ideas to develop this workshop. For example, they plan to organize a day of bike rides on the theme of ecology. It has also forged partnerships, particularly with local missions in the surrounding municipalities, to enable young people to go to their lessons or work by bike. The team also plans to embark on an advocacy campaign to obtain the creation of bike lanes in the vicinity.

COMBATING FUEL POVERTY

PROGRESS ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCHEMES FOR VULNERABLE HOMEOWNERS

In 2022, two regulations issued as part of the French Climate and Resilience Act laid the foundations for the future Mon Accompagnateur Renov' scheme. An enhanced version will be launched in the second half of 2023 and should enable homeowners in vulnerable situations to benefit from appropriate technical, financial, and social support throughout the renovation process.

The experimental 1DigneToit programme, arising from the partnership between Secours Catholique – Caritas France, the Réseau Éco-Habitat and the National Housing Agency (ANAH), is no stranger to reinforcing public action, the Ministries of

Ecological Transition and Housing having cited it several times as a source of inspiration. This is a first victory, which will have to be evaluated in the light of the budget that will actually be devoted to financing support and renovations. The National Fuel Poverty network of Secours Catholique will monitor the local implementation of this scheme: deployment and co-financing by local authorities, effective use by the households cared for by our teams, considering landlords and their tenants, working with social services etc. Secours Catholique is also delighted with the deployment of fourteen Zero Energy Exclusion Zones, a pilot financed by the Energy Saving Certificates (CEE)¹ scheme and supported by the Stop Energy Exclusion collective of which we are founding members. This programme is inspired by campaigns such as 1DigneToit to remove obstacles to the renovation of housing for the poorest people.

NATIONAL MEETINGS ON FUEL POVERTY

On 29 and 30 September 2022, Secours Catholique-Caritas France brought together around fifty volunteers and employees from more than 30 delegations in Dourdan for a national meeting on energy poverty. Its objective was to provide information and allow exchanges between our delegations, who are increasingly getting involved in this issue, combining social justice and environmental impact.

The first day was devoted to the state of energy poverty in France, the actions and positioning of Secours Catholique on this subject and the partnerships to be forged locally to meet the challenges. On the second day, the participants were able to compare their analyses and experience solutions to support owners and tenants in a situation of energy poverty or facing unpaid energy bills, but also to contribute to the future dynamics of the Secours Catholique energy poverty network. These days also made it possible to prepare our participation in the second National Day against Energy Poverty, lobbying initiated by 23 national associations, including Secours Catholique, communities and companies engaged in the prevention of energy poverty, the fight against exclusion, and against global warming.

This took place on 24 November and was followed by a week of action throughout the country, during which several of our delegations opened their doors to the general public and their partners to discuss the challenges of the fight against energy poverty and publicise the actions taken. ■

“TAKING ACTION ON THIS ISSUE COMBINES SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.”

¹ A scheme imposed by the public authorities on energy suppliers, based on a three-year obligation to make energy savings in CEE.

PROMOTING ACCESS TO HOUSING



ELODIE PERRIOT / SCCF

LOBBYING AGAINST THE LAW ON ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF HOUSING

At the end of 2022, Secours Catholique – Caritas France lobbied against the bill 'to protect housing against illegal occupation', or 'anti-squatting' law, which the majority Renaissance party was bringing before Parliament. According to its authors, this bill was intended to protect small landlords from people occupying their homes, but in reality it would represent a rare regression in the right to housing for all homeless and poorly housed people, as well as a worrying criminalisation of poverty, without solving the housing crisis in any way (2.3 million households waiting for social housing, 6,000 unmet requests for emergency accommodation every night, including 2,000 children), which is likely to worsen in the years to come, particularly for the most vulnerable people, those living in shanty towns or in vulnerable administrative situations.

Faced with the upheaval that the vote on the text would cause for many individuals and families which

it supports, Secours Catholique has joined a coalition of major national associations, trade unions and social movements, as well as those involved in the justice system, to call for its withdrawal. The campaign continues in 2023, as the bill makes its way through parliament.

>>> IN BRIEF >>>

SEINE-SAINT-DENIS: A NEW ACCOMMODATION CENTRE

In Montreuil in May 2022, the real estate company Caritas Habitat, created in 2015 by Secours Catholique, handed over the keys of a new emergency accommodation centre dedicated to families leaving hotels to the Samu social de Paris teams. Following the acquisition of a real estate complex from the municipality, Caritas habitat undertook a major renovation of the building to create 16 autonomous housing units as well as common areas. ■

LAUNCH OF THE DAY CENTRE NETWORK

Day centres are one of the four sub-projects for which Secours Catholique – Caritas France received funding from the Ministry of Solidarity and Health under the France Relance 2020-2022 call for projects. This vast project has three components: setting up a national network, the creation of a map and the drafting of a set of guidelines and practices.

In 2022, the high point of this project was the national seminar held from 5 to 7 October. 70 people involved in day centres from 26 delegations and the national headquarters met in Paris to get to know each other, exchange ideas, help each other and lay the foundations for the national network of day centres.

The 70 Secours Catholique day centres, which are open unconditionally to people who are homeless or in situations of extreme exclusion, are all different in terms of territorial context, size and operation, but share common concerns about the participation of people, listening to them and supporting them, the organisation of responsibilities and decision-making, risk prevention and management.

These national days enabled the teams to get to know each other, share their practices and identify areas where they could work together to help each other: visits to enable learning between teams, setting up channels of communication and exchange, thinking about how people with mental health problems are cared for, management of tensions linked to overcrowding, etc. This work is continuing with the



ADVOCACY SUCCESS STORIES

• 14,000 EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION PLACES SECURED

Announced at the beginning of Emmanuel Macron's new five-year term, the 2023 finance bill forecasts the loss of 14,000 places in the emergency accommodation system. The lobbying which Secours Catholique – Caritas France took part in, with many associations and 43 elected officials from large cities, made it possible to maintain funding for 197,000 general accommodation places at the end of 2022. In this context, we participated in exchanges, in particular with the Minister of Housing and the Secretary of State for Children. We also supported a group of families who had been moved out of a hotel in Paris 13th arrondissement and co-signed, with the associations of the CAU and 23 local elected officials, a declaration demanding that no more children sleep on the street. This call was heard because, on 25 October 2022, the Minister of Housing announced commitments to this effect. We welcome these advocacy successes while remaining vigilant on their application and their continuity beyond 2023.

Internally, we continue to promote the use of a *Practical Accommodation Guide* which offers benchmarks for action for teams dealing with people without accommodation. In 2022, training courses were offered on this subject in Île-de-France, Grand Est, Loiret, Lille, Marseille and Toulouse.

development of a set of guidelines that will provide benchmarks for Secours Catholique's day centres and will define how they complement other existing initiatives. ■

DEVELOPING A SOCIAL ECONOMY BASED ON SOLIDARITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

TOWARDS A DIVERSIFICATION OF CHARITY SHOPS

Secours Catholique – Caritas France is continuing to transform its many clothing exchanges and shops into eco-solidarity boutiques, i.e., places where people can meet, socialise and reuse textiles. In 2022, the transformation of the 850 solidarity sales outlets continued, thanks to the following new tools offered

to the delegations: webinars, inter-boutique meetings and exchanges via the community of solidarity boutiques on our intranet. These tools encourage teamwork and enable projects to be developed in line with local needs. As a result, various types of shops are emerging, some of which are third-party premises, or showcases for Secours Catholique's activities, with exhibition areas within them.

That same year we started thinking about a regional

approach by networking textile partner structures across a given area (integration centres, recycling centres, resource centres, etc.), setting up mobile boutiques to reach out to isolated people, in residential institutions for the elderly (Ephad) or on student campuses, or pop-up boutiques to cover one-off needs linked to an event (back-to-school, Christmas, etc.). The Solidarity Reuse Fund, which will be rolled out in 2023 under the anti-waste law, could enable us to finance additional initiatives to continue and improve our actions combining solidarity and ecology, especially as the solidarity shops have seen their activity increase by 20% compared with 2021, a sure sign of the difficulties faced by vulnerable households in coping with the cost of living.

PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION THROUGH SALARIED ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Cités Coop, the activity and employment cooperative co-founded by Secours Catholique – Caritas France and Cités Caritas, aims to enable people to return to employment through salaried entrepreneurship, with the freedom to undertake a business without the financial risks, and with the benefit of support. On 28 November 2022, the organisation became a Société Coopérative d'Intérêt Collectif (SCIC). As Cités Coop has a strong social mission, its governance includes a founders committee, made up of Secours Catholique and Cités Caritas, which guarantees the continuity of the project and the proper consideration of the needs of supported entrepreneurs. ■

DEFENDING MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

HELPING TO WELCOME PEOPLE FLEEING THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Faced with the exodus of people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine at the beginning of 2022, European Union countries set up a special reception and protection system. In France, an inter-ministerial unit was set up, working with the main organisations involved. Presented as a component of the reception system, 'citizen accommodation' has given rise to numerous debates on the role, capacities, and skills of the various players. Against this backdrop, Secours Catholique – Caritas France, JRS-France, the Fédération de l'Entraide Protestante and the Pastorale des Migrants of the Conférence des Évêques de France (CEF) have joined forces to provide the best possible support for the mobilisation of citizens.

A joint project manager was recruited during the summer, with a remit to support local action, but also to create the conditions in the regions for synergy between government services, local authorities, operators and citizens' networks. Building on the rights granted to Ukrainian people (medical cover with no waiting period, unconditional accommodation, the right to work straight away, etc.), we have

also lobbied with a number of associations to ensure that all people seeking asylum in France receive the same treatment in future.

PREVENTING THE RISKS OF TRAFFICKING FOR PEOPLE FLEEING THE WAR IN UKRAINE

In March 2022, one month after the start of the war in Ukraine, it was estimated that nearly 4 million women and children were fleeing the bombs. Since wars and exoduses are the preferred breeding grounds for predators, Secours Catholique – Caritas France and the local Caritas network immediately called for vigilance on the part of members of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), volunteers, the general public and the public at risk, and asked governments to ensure that all child refugees were registered and received proper social support.

In collaboration with the French branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), our collective of anti-trafficking associations has developed a range of awareness-raising tools in Ukrainian, Russian, English and French to help volunteers and employees who meet migrants to raise their awareness of the risks of trafficking. As part of the inter-agency and association group set



CHRISTOPHE HARGOUËS / SCCF

up in response to the conflict in Ukraine, we asked for these tools for preventing and supporting victims of trafficking to be adapted and translated into languages accessible to people on different continents who are fleeing other conflicts, in Syria, Afghanistan or elsewhere.

RETHINKING FRENCH LANGUAGE LEARNING BASED ON LEARNERS' EXPERIENCES

As part of the Le Français pour Tous collective, which brings together Cimade, the Radya network, the Fédération des Centres Sociaux, Germae and Fasti, Secours Catholique – Caritas France, has for several years been advocating for learning French as a major contributor to social cohesion. The teams involved in language learning at Secours Catholique represent nearly 3,000 volunteers who support 20,000 migrants. At the beginning of 2021, keen to strengthen the impact of their advocacy work, the members of the steering committee decided to carry out action-orientated research involving learners, trainers and academics in a collective process of reflection on learning practices and policies.

In terms of action, the aim of this research is to bring about a direct change in learning practices in each of the eight regions implementing it. Launched at

the end of 2021, it took off in 2022, with one meeting every two months in each of the regions until 2024. In this way, we hope to define actions that will make learning French easier and more accessible, and then bring them to the attention of political decision-makers.

ADVOCACY FOR THE REGULARISATION OF UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

The issue of regularising the situation of undocumented migrants is one of Secours Catholique – Caritas France's advocacy priorities. The national migrants' team has drawn up a two-year action plan with the first objective, in 2022, of rallying our network in the context of the debates on the Asylum and Immigration Bill, which is due to be submitted to Parliament in 2023. Some forty delegations have invited members of parliament to meet migrants, to give them a first-hand experience of the realities of their lives, to encourage them to tackle the subject in a calm manner and to convince them of the need to get things moving.

At the same time, we relaunched the group of associations (Médecins du Monde, Cimade, Fédération des Acteurs de Solidarité, Emmaüs, Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail – CFDT – and

Confédération Générale du Travail – CGT) that signed an open letter to Emmanuel Macron in 2020, calling for the regularisation of undocumented migrants who had enabled the country to continue to function during the lockdowns. In 2022, the Committee acted by drawing up recommendations to broaden and facilitate access to residence and work for undocumented migrants and guarantee continuity of their rights in order to promote their integration. Finalised in December 2022, the joint text also raises the issue of effective access to prefectural services, which are currently overburdened due to the lack of resources dedicated to these services.

DÉMAT&PRÉCA FOR A PUBLIC SERVICE WITH A HUMAN FACE

Many members of Secours Catholique – Caritas France are very committed, through action and advocacy, to tackling the difficulties caused by the end of paper-based access to administrative procedures at the prefecture for foreign nationals. However, the closure of public reception points and digitalisation of procedures affect all public services and jeopardise access to rights for many people in vulnerable situations, who are left alone to deal with complex web interfaces and with no possibility of appeal when online procedures are unsuccessful. And yet, despite protests from associations and the recommendations of the French Human Rights Ombudsman, the authorities are pressing ahead with their plan to move the system online at breakneck speed. At the end of February 2022, taking advantage of the media attention generated by the ombudsman's report on the subject, the Démat&préca collective, which brings together Secours Catholique, the Abbé-Pierre foundation, the Fédération des Acteurs de Solidarité, the Union Nationale Interfédérale des Ouvres et Organismes Privés Sanitaires et Sociaux (Uniopss), ATD Quart Monde, Aides, the Fédération d'Entraide Protestante, etc., published a manifesto entitled: For a More Humane Public Service Open to its Citizens. The manifesto was signed by more than 300 associations, trade unions and local authorities.



ADVOCACY SUCCESS STORIES

• PROGRESS ON MAKING APPOINTMENTS AT THE PREFECTURE

On 4 June 2022, the Council of State issued two long-awaited decisions on the digitalisation of applications for residence permits. The first concerned the Digital Administration of Foreigners in France (ANEF), the teleservice for certain 'foreign' procedures. Secours Catholique – Caritas France, together with Cimade, the Groupe d'Information et de Soutien des Immigrés (Gisti), the Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, the Association pour le Droit des Étrangers and the Syndicat des Avocats de France, challenged the legality of this service, which does not provide for an alternative to the digital filing of the documents. The Council of State agreed with us in part, obliging the Ministry to provide an alternative solution when the filing of an application is made impossible 'for reasons relating to the design of this tool or its mode of operation'.

This is an implicit recognition of ANEF's shortcomings and the digital support systems put in place by the Ministry of the Interior. The second decision follows the administrative tribunals we instigated as part of our associative appeals against the 23 prefectures that require appointments to be made online. This is a victory for us as the Council of State considered that online appointment booking cannot be obligatory and that the prefectures who do not allow requests for physical appointments, or those by mail, are acting illegally.

NEW ACTION PLAN AGAINST RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AT THE BORDERS

Secours Catholique – Caritas France has a long history of defending the fundamental rights of exiles through the Coordination of Actions at Internal Borders (Cafi)¹. In 2022, Cafi decided to wait until it knew the new political configuration that would emerge from the elections before defining its advocacy priorities at various regional and national meetings. New objectives have been set, particularly in relation to the situation on the Franco-British coast (Calais, Grande-Synthe, Ouistreham) and on the French-Italian border (Briançon in particular). Internally, Secours Catholique has set up a 'coastal group' to enable delegations in border regions to work across the board on these issues. ■

¹ Collective that has brought together Médecins du Monde, Médecins sans Frontières, Cimade, Amnesty France and Secours Catholique – Caritas France since 2017.

THE RIGHT TO HOLIDAYS FOR ALL

ACCESS TO HOLIDAYS FOR ALL: ACTION AND ADVOCACY

As it does every year, in 2022 Secours Catholique-Caritas France enabled people living in difficult conditions to enjoy holidays like everyone else. Thanks to financial support from the Agence Nationale pour les Chèques-Vacances (ANCV) (394,000 Euros) and the Caisse d'Allocations Familiales (CAF), almost a thousand children benefited from staying in family holiday homes and nearly 3,000 people went to holiday villages.

Almost 400 children went on camps as part of our partnership with the Union Nationale des Centres Sportifs de Plein Air (UCPA), the Maison de Courcelles and the Berry-Tudy association. Despite being

enshrined in article 140 of the law against exclusion passed in 1998, the right to a holiday is still wishful thinking. Over 40% of French people do not go on holiday (a percentage that rises to 60% depending on income), in other words 3 million children!

Given inflation and increases in essential expenditure (energy, food, etc.) in 2022, it is likely that these figures will rise again in 2023, hence the importance of the lobbying done in collaboration with a group of associations in 2022 to alert public authorities and the various players involved in social action to the importance of the right to holidays in the fight against exclusion. ■



FAMILY HOLIDAYS

Fouad, Assma, Youcef and Nour were among the 4.4 million children who stay at home all summer because they can't afford to go away. In 2022, they spent a week in a bungalow on the shores of the Mediterranean. A dream come true! *"Holidays by the sea set our children free. When they go back to school, they won't be ashamed of not having done this or that. They'll have things to talk about,"* says Adil, 51, father of four, who arrived from Algiers in 2005. Sitting on the terrace of their bungalow, Adil and his wife Layla talk about their children, the meal to come and the hilarious quips from Kaamelott. The youngest, Nour, 15 months old, waddles from one to the other. Soon the three eldest, aged 7½, 6½ and 5½, return from the campsite swimming pool, dripping with water, sunshine and fresh happiness. Usually, during the holidays, they stay

at home, in L'Arbresle, about twenty kilometres from Lyon. Their housing estate is home to the workers from a spare parts factory, crammed together with others who, like them, no longer have a job or never had one. Every month, they have to pay the rent, water and electricity, clothe their children, buy food and nappies, etc. So, offering their children leisure activities or holidays... In the spring, faced with a water bill she couldn't pay, Layla knocked on the door of Secours Catholique. A short time later, Patrick, one of the volunteers, offered to help her go on holiday. He helped her put together the package: destination, campsite quote, cost assessment and identified possible assistance, such as that from the CAF, which covers part of the cost of renting the mobile home. Secours Catholique provides the rest. Layla didn't tell her children until the



ANTHONY MCALLEE / SDCF

association approved her application. She was too afraid they would be disappointed. ■

FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ADVOCACY AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING OF ANY HUMAN BEING

In April 2022, the Together against Human Trafficking collective coordinated by Secours Catholique – Caritas France published an advocacy document setting out the key points to be taken into account in public policy, so that the experience of war in Ukraine can benefit all migrants, whatever their age or nationality, particularly with regard to the fight against human trafficking in all its forms: developing a rights-based approach focused on exiles, providing information on the dangers of the Internet, supporting those who provide accommodation for exiles, raising awareness among hotel staff, providing tools for volunteers and professionals who come into contact with migrants, coordinating action, offering psychological support to migrants, informing them of their rights, protecting women and children in particular, combating all forms of exploitation of minors and providing information on the risks of surrogate motherhood.

HOPES TO TURN INTO REALITY IN FRANCE'S FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING, SLAVERY, FORCED LABOUR AND CHILD LABOUR

In 2021, Secours Catholique – Caritas France, coordinator of the Together against Human Trafficking collective, was delighted to have contributed to the development of a national strategy to accelerate the fight against child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery, which enabled France to attain the status of 'pioneer country' of the Alliance 8.7. In April 2022, Secours Catholique and Alliance 8.7 co-organised a videoconference as part of the French presidency of the European Union, bringing together numerous representatives, organisations and NGOs from the 'pioneer countries', ahead of the International Conference for the Eradication of Child Labour in Durban in May 2022.

Together with other stakeholders (international and French institutions, associations, trade unions, businesses), we have also helped to draw up an inventory

of the actions being taken to achieve target 8.7 in France and internationally. While the involvement of eight European ministers in this initiative, including the current Prime Minister of France, has raised a great deal of hope, at the end of 2022 there were three urgent priorities in France in the fight against this scourge: the creation of an inter-ministerial delegation to prevent and combat trafficking, a new national action plan to combat all forms of exploitation, and the launch of a national mechanism to identify and refer victims of trafficking, enabling all professionals in the justice, police, health and social sectors to have a unified approach. ■



ÉLODIE PERRIOT / SCCF

PRISONERS' RIGHTS

ADVOCATING FOR INTERNET ACCESS IN PRISON

Allowing controlled access to the Internet in prisons is one of the recommendations made by Secours Catholique – Caritas France and Emmaüs in their study on poverty in prisons published in 2021. In 2022, we took it a step further by contributing to the launch of a group bringing together the International Prison Observatory (OIP) and around ten other associations advocating for Internet access in prison. This advocacy is based on the fact that prisoners are required to demonstrate their ability to reintegrate into society by finding employment, completing administrative tasks on their own, and taking part in training courses – all of which are currently impossible without Internet access. On 28 September 2022, this came to fruition with an open letter to the Prime

Minister co-signed by over 600 magistrates, lawyers, social workers, relatives of prisoners, individuals who have experienced detention, and volunteers, and published in the media.

This letter had some encouraging results: a meeting at the Ministry of Justice's office, where we were assured that several trial runs are planned for 2023. During debates at the Senate on the 2023 budget bill, some senators referred to our advocacy and tabled an amendment to 'promote Internet access in prisons' with a budget increase of 1 million euros for this purpose. However, this amendment was rejected by the Ministry of Justice.

CONFERENCE ON THE MEANING OF PUNISHMENT FOR THE CHURCH

On the initiative of Secours Catholique – Caritas France, the Jean-Rodhain Foundation organised a conference on the meaning of punishment at the Catholic University of Lyon from 25 to 27 November 2022. Three former prisoners participated in the discussions alongside other experts, including academics, as experts in incarceration. Together, they laid the groundwork for a real change in perspective and paradigm by formulating a statement from the Church: *"For a sanction that rebuilds, against a penalty that breaks."* This might be the beginning of an encyclical that Secours Catholique – Caritas France is calling for.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JUSTICE

In July 2022, the committee of the National Conference on Justice presented its report to the President of the Republic. Organised in response to the alert about the lack of resources and personnel raised by nearly 5,000 magistrates, the Conference highlighted the deterioration of the judicial institution, the suffering of judicial personnel, and the misunderstanding on part of the litigants. Secours Catholique – Caritas France was heard by the Conference's steering committee president and participated in the discussions

>>> IN BRIEF >>

EUROPEAN PRISON-JUSTICE NETWORK ON THE ROAD IN TIRANA (ALBANIA)

Established in 2016, the Caritas Europe Prison-Justice network gathered in Tirana from 3 to 6 July 2022, to work on promoting the self-determination of people in prison. Recognised by Caritas Europa as a 'community of practice', the network receives logistical and financial support for these field visits, allowing for comparison of contexts (e.g., Caritas Germany with its 250 prison teams and digital information platform, and Lithuania with one of the highest detention rates in Europe despite having only eight prisons in the whole country...), as well as identifying similarities, struggles, methods, and practices. Caritas Lithuania is currently developing a project funded by the Ministry of Justice to establish consultative committees of prisoners through video conferencing due to the Covid pandemic, including one meeting with the Minister of Justice's participation. The network aims to capitalise on these experiences to gain recognition from the penitentiary administration. It is a pragmatic form of advocacy. ■

through a written contribution and the contribution of its network to experiments. We also took part in a meeting organised by the Director General of Prisons. Its goal? To seek solutions to prison overcrowding

and demand a measure also advocated by the National Conference on Justice: the inclusion of a prison regulation mechanism to be written in the law so that it can be imposed on magistrates. ■

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

LES URGENCES FRANCE CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY AND PREPARES FOR THE FUTURE

The overseas Urgences France department of Secours Catholique – Caritas France celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 2022. For three days in June, around thirty volunteer supervisors and former departmental participants gathered in Lourdes to retrace the service's history, assess the changes made over time, and prepare for the future. The Urgences team currently comprises 35 individuals divided into three levels of expertise: five volunteer leaders alongside Florence Bercovici, the department's head, and around thirty volunteers and employees trained in providing support and home visits to disaster victims.

Owing to industrial hazards and climate change, nowhere is safe from disasters such as floods, fires, tornadoes, and severe hailstorms, which are becoming more frequent. The Urgences department must prepare to be increasingly called upon to support delegations. The team's shared leadership includes one employee and four volunteers, aiming to develop training and support for Urgences co-ordinators and to assist delegations increasingly affected by disasters in their territories. Within the regional and delegation coordination division, the Urgences department has become more proactive, visible, and communicates more easily with the delegations and regions.

HAILSTORM IN PÉRIGORD AND FIRES IN GIRONDE

On the night of 20 – 21 June 2022, in the village of Vanxains, a few kilometres from Ribérac in Périgord Agenais, an unprecedented hailstorm caused significant damage to streets, houses, and completely destroyed surrounding crops. Following an assessment by the Urgences department, the delegation

decided to set up a support system for the people affected. In October and November, the Urgences department took charge of this operation in line with our post emergency procedures.

From premises set up in the affected municipalities, volunteers visited residents to provide a listening ear, moral support, assess any material needs to be addressed, and relay the concerns of residents to the authorities.

Of the 560 individuals visited by our 41 volunteers, 21 received one or more forms of material assistance totalling around 10,000

euros, and about twenty households were referred to the local team of Secours Catholique for continued support. Additionally, about fifteen situations received on-going support, particularly on the issue of rehousing.

Since this hailstorm crossed France from west to east, the Urgences department was in contact with all affected delegations to help determine the need for action and support for delegations on the ground. Other noteworthy events in 2022 mobilised the Urgences department (from initial contact to operational support), such as fires in Gironde (July), Storm Fiona in Martinique (September), one that hit Corsica (August), and tornadoes in Picardy in the autumn. ■

“NO COUNTRY IS SAFE FROM INCREASINGLY FREQUENT DISASTERS.”

FOCUS

A YEAR OF EMERGENCY IN UKRAINE

Against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine, Secours Catholique – Caritas France responded to the urgent calls of its partners who were dealing with an influx of refugees as well as populations facing significant humanitarian needs in Ukraine and neighbouring regions.

The humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine was twofold. By the end of 2022, 8 million people¹, half of them children, had fled the bombings and sought refuge in Poland, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, and Slovakia. Meanwhile, within the country, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance reached 18 million.

While the situation in neighbouring countries stabilised in later months, with a smaller and more

stable influx of refugees more in need of integration support in the host countries, the situation worsened within Ukraine from September. The intensified bombings on energy infrastructure caused widespread disruptions in electricity,

water, heating, and communication throughout the country, with these challenges going on for several days or even weeks, particularly in areas near the frontline, where access to healthcare was severely restricted. In the occupied areas that were reclaimed by Ukrainian forces in the autumn, the humanitarian needs of the population, who spent part of the winter

without electricity and means of communication, proved to be immense.

SUPPORTING CARITAS ON THE FRONTLINE OF THE CONFLICT

In 2022, Secours Catholique's strategy aimed to address humanitarian needs, including food, healthcare, hygiene, clothing, night shelters, cash, psychological support, support for displaced populations, and refugee assistance and family reunification. Within the Caritas network and under the coordination of Caritas Internationalis, we responded to urgent appeals from partners on the frontline: Caritas Poland with two projects amounting to 200,000 and 700,000 euros, Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Spes Ukraine, each receiving 500,000 euros, and an additional amount of nearly 100,000 euros for Caritas Spes to finance the rental of new premises for employees to work together in Kyiv and near to underground shelters. We also contributed to the establishment of a support and operational team, both in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, led by Caritas Europa, with the goal of handing over the responsibility to Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Ukraine Spes in 2023.

“THE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF THE POPULATION PROVED TO BE IMMENSE.”

1. Estimate as of 31 December 2022, by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



PHILIPP SPALEK

SUPPORT FOR OTHER PARTNERS

At the beginning of the war, we provided support of 150,000 euros to Triangle Génération Humanitaire, a French NGO operating in Ukraine since 2014, which collaborates with three civil society partners, including one in Donbas, to provide financial assistance to meet essential needs.

In early July 2022, the visit of Véronique Devise, President of Secours Catholique, and several members of the International Action and Advocacy Department allowed us not only to express solidarity with the populations and our partners but also to better understand the on-the-ground challenges. This led us to support two other NGOs:

- Voices of Children received 148,000 euros for the renovation and refurbishment of shelters in three schools (essential for resuming in-person classes), psychological support for children, and training for teachers and parents in the Chernihiv region (near the border and heavily bombed).
- TLU (Turbota pro Litnih v Ukraini) received 97,000 euros for their support to isolated and/or dependent elderly people in nine regions. The association works with volunteers who visit people at their homes, providing assistance with daily living and maintaining social ties. Given the current situation, they also

offer training to help the elderly respond to bombings, provide basic first aid, and protect themselves from the cold. They also distribute essential items (hygiene products, torches, thermoses, etc.).

STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

Mindful that the Ukrainian crisis will continue, Secours Catholique has opted for a long-term strategy. In 2023, our goal is to continue supporting local partners close to affected populations and addressing urgent humanitarian needs in Ukraine, while not forgetting partners who assist Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring countries. ■

PURSUING WORLDWIDE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

THE YEAR 2022 WILL BE REMEMBERED IN HISTORY for the beginning of the war in Ukraine and the shockwaves it unleashed upon global economies and balances. Secours Catholique – Caritas France immediately mobilised to support its partners in neighbouring countries facing an unprecedented influx of refugees, as well as those assisting populations left behind, who were left without electricity, food, or healthcare (see focus on pp. 38-39).

The year 2022 was also a wake-up call to the reality of climate change. At Secours Catholique, we have been aware of this reality for a long time. Our international partners, who are already dealing with climate migrations and witnessing the relentless activities of mining companies, especially in the Amazon basin, remind us of this every day. Therefore, in collaboration with these partners in 18 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, we are implementing the program of Just Ecological Transition, for which we have signed a partnership agreement with the French Development Agency (AFD). Now, more than ever, we have the means, resources, and tools to scale up our agroecology development projects in response to food insecurity, defence of land rights of indigenous communities against predatory systems, and to strengthen civil society's role in shaping the changes they aspire to.

Of course, we remain committed to our other priorities, such as protecting and defending the rights of migrants throughout their journey, promoting freedom, social justice, and peace.



ÉLODIE PERRIOT / SCOF

ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

AT THE FOSPA, DEFENDING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FROM A LOCAL-GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

In 2022, the FOSPA was able to meet again in person from 28 to 31 July in Belém, Brazil, thus resuming its real significance as a major gathering of social movements, communities, and indigenous peoples from the nine countries in the Amazon basin. Secours Catholique – Caritas France chose to participate with several Latin American partners, as well as partners from Africa, members of the French and international departments, and presidents and employees from delegations (Aude-Roussillon, French Guiana, and Berry). The aim was to compare and highlight common issues and struggles both here and overseas. Over four days, FOSPA offered thousands of participants hundreds of workshops and forums, organised by more than 120 organisations and unions from pan-Amazonian countries. Secours Catholique contributed by hosting four workshops on cross-cutting themes: environmental problems caused by mining, both in French Guiana and in the Orbiel Valley

(Occitanie), affected by pollution from former precious metal mines; defending food sovereignty and ensuring decent access to food, both in the Amazon and in France; preserving shared resources in two distant ecosystems (the Amazon and the Sahel) that are nonetheless engaged in interconnected struggles, and finally, discussing climate solutions based on land-based climate change mitigation policies.

The momentum generated during these events is meant to continue. It has generated ideas, created new connections, and provided Secours Catholique with an opportunity to raise awareness within its network about environmental issues. >>>

“COMPARING ANALYSES AND HIGHLIGHTING COMMON ISSUES AND STRUGGLES.”

FOCUS

PROMOTING A JUST ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

In 2022, Secours Catholique – Caritas France began implementing the programme proposed in the partnership agreement signed with the French Development Agency (AFD). Established in 18 countries, including France, the programme aims to strengthen citizen participation in territorial governance and the transformation of their development models, with the goal of achieving a just ecological transition. More details from Alice Bauchet, programme coordinator.

How was this programme developed?

Secours Catholique – Caritas France has long supported various international projects addressing the socio-environmental crisis. It is a fundamental commitment that resonates with the *Laudato si'* encyclical. The call for programmes from the AFD offered us the opportunity to structure this work, aligning projects and scaling them up, and conceptualising our vision of a just ecological transition as

Secours Catholique, combining our perspective with that of our partners.

The partnership agreement was signed a year ago, and the programme itself started on 1 October 2021, with the practical implementation of several field projects: the Farmer Field Schools method in the Sahel; land access for indigenous peoples in Bangladesh; access to water resources, and strengthening territorial governance for local populations... We then began networking with partners, starting with regional meetings in Latin America and the Sahel, to create common approaches.

Next, we held a stakeholder meeting, a major foundational event over a week from 27 June to 2 July

2022, with 90 participants from all countries. This allowed us to get to know each other better, lay the foundations for collective programme governance, and begin to consider our vision of a just ecological transition.

What is the added value of this programme's approach?

In addition to networking partners, we launched parallel capitalisation and research actions. We collaborate with a research-action institute at the Catholic University of Lyon, the International Centre for Studies on Local Development (Ciedel), which will train our partners in capitalisation methods and support them in training the communities they work with. This process encourages partners and communities to formulate the approaches they implement through their projects, helping them become aware of their actions and strengthen their ability to take action. We also launched three structuring programmes with the Interest Group for the Study of Globalisation and Development (Gemdev), a federation of research institutes working on globalisation and development. A scientific committee guides and orients the choices of scientific actions. In addition to our field and research partners, we invited external renowned researchers to benefit from their expertise and also to have intermediaries to promote our work.

“ PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES ARE INVITED TO DEFINE THE APPROACHES THEY ARE DEVELOPING. ”



XAVIER SCHWEBEL / SCOF

What are the expected results?

The overall goal of the programme is to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable populations to promote and design a just ecological transition. This is what we aim to achieve by implementing actions, systematising them, and promoting them to influence public policies. Traditional programmes are evaluated based on the number of beneficiaries, actions taken, etc. If we want to bring about systemic changes, we will also need to evaluate our actions based on the social change they bring. Therefore, through this programme, we are implementing a new way of evaluating our actions with a transformative vision.

France is one of the countries where the Partnership Agreement is being implemented. How?

In France, Secours Catholique launched an initiative to promote local social change (ACSL). Within the framework of the Partnership Agreement, we are combining this experiment with those carried out by partners in Togo, Armenia, and Brazil. A just ecological transition is one of our themes in France, even though it is not explicitly mentioned in our national plan. We have created a coordination committee that brings together teams from the French and international departments to define concrete proposals that we want to promote as Secours Catholique. ■

**“EVALUATE OUR ACTIONS
BASED ON THE SOCIAL CHANGE
THEY BRING.”**

LAND SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN ASIA

»» For several years, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has supported local partners' projects focusing on the protection of rights and agricultural practices of indigenous communities. Some common issues emerged, especially in the study conducted in 2020-2021 on the contribution of indigenous peoples to environmental protection. The multi-year partnership agreement signed with the French Development Agency (AFD) on the theme of a just ecological transition has allowed the development of a regional strategic approach to promote land security and sustainable natural resource management.

Two events were organised in this regard in 2022: a webinar in March, jointly conducted by the Asia and Eastern Europe divisions and International Advocacy, to review the participation of civil society organisations in the negotiation process and leaders' statements during the last United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26),

as well as our partners' interest in contributing to advocacy efforts on carbon markets and nature-based solutions. The other event in 2022 was a regional workshop held in October in Thailand with four Asian partners. Its aim was to create a shared culture around methods to support indigenous populations in securing and managing their lands, particularly through participatory mapping methods, and to approve priorities for the coming years. The collectively selected activities are as follows: training in community-managed monitoring tools, raising awareness of international issues related to biodiversity preservation, case studies on environmental services provided by communities, exchanging practices for collective management of common goods and sustainable livelihoods, and networking between indigenous leaders, researchers, and civil society organisations to advocate for land rights. ■

DEFENDING RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

ADVOCACY FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO VACCINES

In January 2022, while COVID-19 vaccines raised hopes of ending the pandemic, only 10% of the African population had received two doses of the vaccine, compared to 70% in the European Union. Seeing that vaccine and treatment inequalities primarily affected the poorest countries with limited access to healthcare systems, characterised by significant informal economies with little or no social protection in case of illness or loss of income, Secours Catholique – Caritas France, Caritas Europa, and Caritas Internationalis engaged in advocating for a temporary patent waiver.

As part of this advocacy, we conducted a survey with our international partners between March and April to assess the impacts and issues of the pandemic in the different regions where we work. Together with organisations like Global Health Action, AIDES,

CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Doctors of the World, and Oxfam France, we signed a joint statement published in *Le Journal du Dimanche* on 17 June, denouncing the superficial victory celebrated by the WHO and the European Union at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The agreement reached after months of negotiations in no way met the demands, led by India and South Africa and supported by around hundred countries, for automatic and widespread waivers to produce anti-COVID tools.

Our stance on a seemingly new topic for Secours Catholique is consistent with our mission of relaying the experiences of the most vulnerable people, whose daily access to fundamental rights we defend daily, and who have been particularly affected by this pandemic. We detailed this argument in an interactive tool for our network and a series of chronicles on Radio Chrétienne Francophone (RCF) for the general public.

COMBATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ON A NEW SCALE

Secours Catholique – Caritas France has been running a program to combat violence against women in the Great Lakes region for several years which was consolidated in 2020 by the publication of a survey of 1,800 women in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In 2022, a year of transition to the new phase of the programme, the program's activities were reinforced and consolidated, including the establishment of shelters and listening centres for women victims of violence or couples in conflict, and a new partner from Burundi was added. The aim is to scale up and develop a true community of practices in a triangle comprising the border regions of Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Burundi.

A collective workshop was organised with the support of a consultant in March 2022 to help partners formulate a common vision of the desired changes regarding violence against women and gender promotion. This work allowed them to redirect their

practices, which were previously more focused on palliative care for women, to work more on the root causes of violence and transform behaviours at all levels of society. This new three-year phase began in November. One person is to be recruited. She will be based in Kigali to coordinate the program and support partners in their fundraising efforts in their region.

A STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION

Secours Catholique – Caritas France, along with Caritas Internationalis, has advocated for the need to establish safe and regular pathways for environmental migrations since the negotiations on the Global Agreement on Migration. To fuel and underpin this advocacy and that of our partners, we started field research in January 2022. The study aims to analyse the needs of people migrating in the context of climate change and environmental degradation and define legal and policy responses to guarantee respect for their fundamental rights. It is conducted in three affected areas: Bangladesh, Honduras, and Senegal. After an initial meeting with the study partners at our Paris headquarters in September 2022, we worked on refining our methodological framework, developing and testing data collection tools (quantitative questionnaires, interview grids), and training our partners in their use. The challenge is to ensure that data is rigorously and consistently acquired at all research sites and that it addresses the questions posed in our advocacy actions. Data collection is set to conclude in early 2023, and the study is scheduled for publication in September 2023.

“A FIELD STUDY TO ANALYSE THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WHO MIGRATE.”

EXPANSION OF THE AFRICA-EUROPE NETWORK FOR HUMAN MOBILITY

For several years, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has been involved in a regional program for human mobility, bringing together Caritas organisations from Europe and Africa. This work has strengthened the capacities of organisations in



departure, transit, and destination countries and also ensured monitoring of legislative developments in transit and destination countries, as well as advocacy and research. In 2022, following consultations with program stakeholders in the previous year, the program entered a new phase called the Africa-Europe Network for Human Mobility (RAEMH), integrating 11 old and new organisations located in West Africa, North Africa, and Europe.

These 11 partners aim to strengthen their ties by sharing experiences and their knowledge on various aspects of human mobility, with the goal of better supporting people on the move throughout their migration journey through capacity building for teams on the ground. The programme expansion is not only geographical but also conceptual, as it addresses all forms of human mobility (sub-regional mobility, internal displacement, etc.), their consequences, and their causes. The mode of operation, management structures, and activities of this expanded network are deliberately more flexible.

SUPPORTING MIGRANT WORKERS IN RUSSIA IN THE CONTEXT OF WAR

Since 2016, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has supported a coordination project involving six NGOs defending migrant rights in departure countries such as Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and also in Russia, the destination country. This network allows us to support migrants and their families on legal issues and also to inform them of their rights and obligations regarding migration to better prepare them for departure.

The war in Ukraine significantly changed the project's context. Departure countries became destinations for people fleeing Russia as well as many migrants returning, especially dual nationals fearing conscription. The issue of conscription, either forced or obtained abusively during the administrative registration of new arrivals, is one of the main new challenges our partners face. The current nature of the issue and the maturity of the network prompted us to reinforce the project in terms of its legal framework, relevance and advocacy, with a view to finding new sources of funding and



new partners. Regional advocacy, at the Eurasian Economic Union and national levels, especially with the governments of departure countries, so that they protect their citizens' rights and explore possibilities for diversifying destination countries, such as South Korea, Turkey, and Germany, is one of the aspects of the project that has been strengthened since 2021. The six partners have gained expertise and recognition in this field, and the partnership with Secours Catholique has enabled them to reach new donors. Our ambition is to continue supporting their capacity building and opening the network to new partners, such as Tajikistan.

'TOGETHER FOR PEACE' IN A FAVOURABLE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

In August 2022, Colombian voters elected Gustavo Petro and Francia Marquez as president and vice president, respectively, both from a left-wing coalition that is attentive to the demands of human rights organisations. Secours Catholique – Caritas France was delighted to see that the new government's agenda included many demands that are consistent with those of the Together for Peace programme, led by a consortium of 23 French and Colombian civil society organisations, with us as the leader.

Although pressures and assassinations of social leaders by armed groups continued, 2022 saw a surge in planned activities in the programme's three territories. In the northern Cauca region and the southern Cauca valley, the programme supported dialogues between Afro-descendant, indigenous, and peasant communities, as well as community participation in consultations on the National Development Plan.

On the Pacific coast of Cauca, peace initiatives strengthened the leadership of women's organisations, young people and Afro-descendant community councils who support them.

Lastly, in the Bas-Atrato and Choco regions, supported activities allowed a group of women to produce a report on the violence experienced during the conflict and land dispossession. This report was submitted to one of the transitional justice bodies established under the peace agreement: the Special Jurisdiction for Peace.

With the first phase of the Together for Peace programme concluded in early 2023, the December 2022 general assembly focused on evaluating the financial situation, with regard to designing the new phase in what is now a very positive national climate.

SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY STAKEHOLDERS AND PEOPLES IN BRAZIL

The year 2022 was marked by Secours Catholique – Caritas France's support for the advocacy actions of civil society and the people of Brazil. As a member of the Solidarity Brazil coalition, we in France contributed to promoting the third alert barometer on the human rights situation in Brazil for the period 2019-2022. The report reveals an increase in violence, human rights violations, and inequalities during Jair Bolsonaro's presidency.

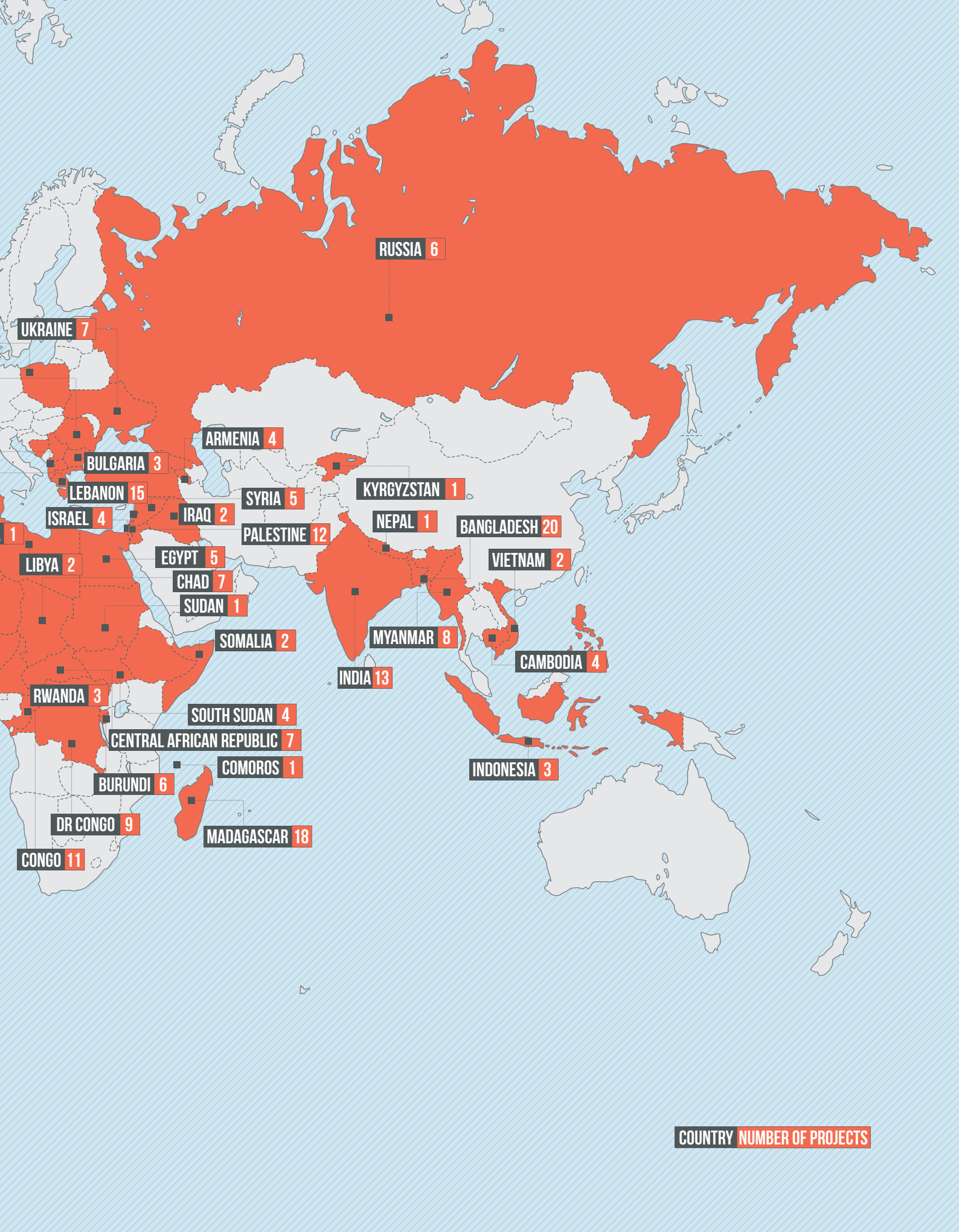
Secours Catholique also hosted a tour in France, accompanied by our partner, the Indigenous Missionary Council (Cimi), with two traditional Brazilian leaders from the Xokleng and Pataxó peoples, who came to Europe to denounce violence against them and the process of land expropriation. After testifying before the United Nations Human Rights Commission and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Switzerland, they met in Paris with the Deputy Director for South America and the Brazil Editor at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, as well as the France-Brazil Friendship Group of the Senate. ■

397 PROJECTS SUPPORTED WORLDWIDE



PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY REGION / INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA REGION	15
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION	8
ASIA REGION	5
EUROPE REGION	7
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION	4
INTERNATIONAL	20



COUNTRY NUMBER OF PROJECTS

BUILDING A STRONG CIVIL SOCIETY

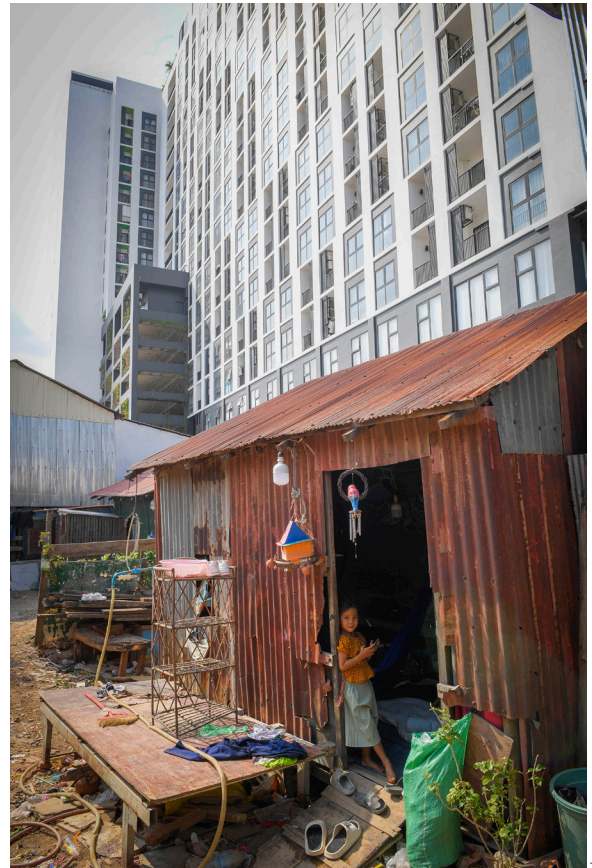
SUPPORTING DIALOGUE BETWEEN CHAD'S CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

The political situation in Chad has been explosive since the death of Idriss Déby in 2021, who had been in power for twenty-five years. The national debate that was supposed to take place in 2022 was boycotted by opposition parties. In October, demonstrations against the continued rule of the transitional president, General Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno, were brutally suppressed, leading the Bishop of Moundou to denounce it as a massacre. In this context, Secours Catholique – Caritas France visited Chad in November 2022 to express support for Caritas Chad and two other recognised civil society organisations.

The first organisation is CSAPR, a network of about a hundred organisations from all over the country, which organises political cafés and dialogue platforms to facilitate exchanges among different components of civil society aiming to alleviate tensions. The second organisation is the Centre for Studies and Research on Governance, Extractive Industries, and Sustainable Development (CERGIED), a prominent civil society organisation. At the end of 2022, Secours Catholique approved a project to help the main local organisations to promote good governance, to contribute to the fight against corruption, and protect human rights in the extractive industries sector (oil and gold). CERGIED takes a unique approach by bridging local, national, and international activities.

MOMENTUM IN ASIA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Although most of Secours Catholique – Caritas France's projects in Asia are in rural areas, three of our partners are also involved with the most vulnerable urban populations, therefore, the decision was made to launch a regional thematic project called Sustainable and Inclusive Cities, which aligns well with the multi-year partnership agreement on just ecological transition. During interviews in 2022, partners expressed interest in the regional dimension of this project given that urban issues are relatively



ÉLODIE PERRIOT / SCOF

recent, and sharing best practices is necessary. Given the context of climate change, the primary focus of the project is as follows: to build the empowerment of vulnerable urban populations through the action of partners on the ground, allowing them to be involved in and participate in the development of more inclusive and sustainable cities.

NEW CHANGE-ORIENTED APPROACH (COA) EXPERIMENT IN PALESTINE

Empowering individuals and groups through the development of collective action and shared governance is one of the priorities of Secours Catholique – Caritas France's national project. One way to achieve this is through the COA, which we intend to trial within each geographical area where we operate and in emergency projects. The COA involves a set

of tools and methods to plan, monitor, and evaluate actions to implement processes of social change. To do this, the local stakeholders concerned are invited to reflect upon their vision of an ideal common future and to define the changes that each of them can make to bring it about.

In 2022, after experimenting with COA in Togo in 2021, Palestine was chosen as the new location for this approach. We are working with our partner, the Palestinian Circus School, to transform a context of violence against children and school harassment. The project involves communities from the outset. From the very beginning, an important role was given to capitalising on the experiment, as a framework tool and a means of documenting and analysing the experiment.

REGIONAL APPROACH TO SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH SPORT

Secours Catholique – Caritas France has been working for many years at a national level on an approach to local social change, which is also being developed internationally. To assess the expertise and interest of our partners in the Middle East and North Africa on this topic, an analysis of their social change practices was conducted with results in 2022. This led to a comprehensive view of the interest in launching a regional social transformation project. Inspired by the research of the French Gymnastic Workers' Federation (FSGT) on emancipation through popular sports for all, this project addresses a common problem in the Middle East—significant socio-economic and political challenges coupled with discrimination against women, refugees, and people with disabilities.

Through the theme of access to sports, the project will enable partners to strengthen their local and community foundations and leadership practices for social change.

The goal will be to promote the emancipation and individual and collective empowerment of the marginalised populations they support and to create a momentum for local demands to access other economic, social, and cultural rights.

The project will take place in Egypt, Palestine (Gaza), Jordan, Lebanon, and France and will connect youth organisations with more experienced ones. Training courses and meetings in France

with FSGT committees and Secours Catholique delegations are planned to establish a global-local approach. ■

“PROMOTING THE EMANCIPATION AND INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE EMPOWERMENT OF MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES.”

DEALING WITH EMERGENCIES

IDENTIFYING AND SUPPORTING SIX LEBANESE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

In 2021, Secours Catholique – Caritas France decided to support local initiatives in Lebanon, created by citizens eager to act in response to the multifaceted crisis that was worsened by the explosion in the port of Beirut. In 2022, an exploratory mission by the

International Emergencies and Middle East divisions identified six local initiatives to support:

- two organisations working on environmental aspects, one providing financial and logistical assistance for people wishing to implement small community projects, and the other aiming to preserve and reforest a natural reserve for educational purposes;

- two other selected organisations working on education projects. One supports teachers in state schools damaged by the explosion, and the other, based in Tripoli, takes in children who have dropped out of school and provides lessons and extracurricular activities;
- the fifth organisation providing psychosocial support over the phone, directing people, depending on their financial means, to either psychologists or organisations like Médecins sans Frontières or Médecins du Monde for free support;
- the last one focused on revitalising civic engagement, especially among young people.

WHEN OUR PARTNERS' PROJECTS ARE FACED WITH CRISES

Secours Catholique – Caritas France ensures that emergency aid is provided to beneficiaries of projects run by our partners who are facing crises. This was the case in September 2022 in Southern Sudan, where attacks by armed groups led to major population displacements, and in Somalia, which is in the

throes of a serious food crisis, where we provided support to treat malnourished children.

INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCIES INTERACTIVE TOOL

Since it was founded, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has actively contributed, via its network of partners, to meeting the needs of people affected by major international humanitarian crises (war, natural disasters, etc.).

From the very first days of the war in Ukraine, and more than for any previous crisis, we were faced with numerous questions and incomprehension on the part of our national network about our intervention methods and timescales. It was an opportunity for us to demonstrate, in the shape of an interactive tool, how to build a response that is tailored to the needs of populations affected by crises. The aim is to put yourself in the shoes of a humanitarian project manager and make choices along the way to successfully complete a mission. ■

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONVERGENCE

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE CARIBBEAN

In line with the global-local strategy initiated in 2021, the delegations of the French Overseas Territories of Secours Catholique – Caritas France sought to strengthen ties with partners in neighbouring countries. Thus, two areas were created in 2022: one linking the delegations of Martinique, Guadeloupe and French Guiana with the countries of Latin

America and the Caribbean and the other in the Indian Ocean between the delegations of Mayotte

and Réunion and partners in the Comoros and Madagascar. Several meetings were held throughout the year between the leaders of the International Action and Advocacy Department and the presidents of the delegations involved to explore future projects in these regions. Collaboration in the Caribbean is already well underway, with the Guyana delegation collaborating with countries in the Amazon basin on common environmental advocacy. Among other possibilities, the delegations aim to establish a protocol between the overseas territories and the International Emergencies department to enable efficient intervention in neighbouring territories in the event of natural disasters. The overseas delegations also aim to establish connections with international partners to improve the reception of migrants from Haiti or the Comoros through a better understanding of the situations in these countries.

“A WELL-ESTABLISHED COLLABORATION ON COMMON ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY.”

TOOLKIT FOR RAISING AWARENESS OF CITIZENSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Secours Catholique – Caritas France's international activity is embedded in its DNA. This contributes to a better understanding of the links between poverty and vulnerability in France and around the world. Many regions or delegations of Secours Catholique actively engage in citizenship education and international solidarity, and many others wish to get involved. However, it is not always easy to find resources and ideas to act on alongside local projects while still addressing global challenges. To address this, in 2022, we created a digital toolkit named Everything is Connected, designed for any individual, team or delegation interested in this theme and wishing to know more, understand and take action. The toolkit includes existing internal and external resources for learning about and measuring the interdependence of global issues in a globalised world; direct access to digital links to understand how Secours Catholique is involved internationally on topics like migration, human rights, and the environment; and concrete action proposals and examples of initiatives from delegations engaged in international solidarity. This comprehensive toolkit was launched in March and will be actively used throughout 2023.

LEARNING MEETINGS IN BRITTANY, PAYS DE LA LOIRE, AND AT CEDRE

For four years, Secours Catholique has held several rounds of meetings between its local delegations in France and its partners from Southern countries, focusing on the theme of migration. The objective is for both sides to understand each other's experiences and exchange ideas to improve the reception of migrants and understand the complexity of migration paths. In 2022, the second cycle of visits in France concluded with visits from Caritas Senegal and Caritas Dakar in Brittany and Caritas Brazil to the Centre for Assistance for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (CEDRE) and the Pays de la Loire region. These learning meetings on the global phenomenon of migration have proven to be beneficial in opening up horizons and possibilities. We aim to expand these meetings to include other themes such as food and ecological transition.

LAUNCH OF A GENDER-BASED APPROACH AT THE INTERNATIONAL ACTION AND ADVOCACY DIRECTORATE

On 24 November 2022, Secours Catholique – Caritas France organised a seminar to initiate gender awareness within the International Action and Advocacy Directorate, in line with the ambition of its new management project. The first step aimed to establish a common understanding of key gender concepts and their significance for actors of social transformation but also to learn about the best practices and experiences of other stakeholders, to identify those already at work at Secours Catholique and to define needs and outlooks.

To work on this subject, we received support from the F3E learning network, feedback from other organisations (Sœur-Emmanuelle Association, Asmae, and Caritas Internationalis) and participation from members of other departments within Secours Catholique. This initial step revealed a genuine interest and appetite for the topic, and a collective determination to move forward in collaboration with other departments and

the network, in dialogue with our partners and allies. On 27 and 28 October 2022, as part of the 70th anniversary celebrations of Caritas Internationalis, Secours Catholique – Caritas France, in partnership with the Permanent Observatory Mission of the Holy See to UNESCO and under the patronage of UNESCO, organised a conference on the theme The Complete Face of Humanity: Women's Leadership for a Just Society. Véronique Devise, president of Secours Catholique, and Adélaïde Bertrand, secretary general, delivered speeches during the conference. ■

“LEARNING ENCOUNTERS
HELP TO OPEN UP NEW
HORIZONS.”





COUNTRY

KOSOVO: YOURJOB, A SPRINGBOARD FOR EMPLOYMENT

In Prizren, a small town in southern Kosovo, Donika Markaj, a careers advisor, meets with 22-year-old Festina. She has studied but, like 60% of young Kosovars aged 15 to 30, cannot find a job. The advisor introduces her to the YourJob project, a programme supported by Secours Catholique and implemented by Caritas in the Balkans, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Albania, and Kosovo. The objective is to integrate these young people, who are neither employed, nor in education, nor in training (NEETs), into the labour market. Since its launch in 2019, the project has conducted individual interviews with 2,400 young people, provided training on job application techniques to 600 individuals, and facilitated internships in companies for 200 young people. *"During the interviews, we try to truly understand what the young people want. We give them hope and motivation,"* explains Donika.

Thanks to the programme, Albatrit, 19, completed a five-month internship at a pizzeria, where he obtained a one-year contract. *"Now, at least, I have a secure job,"* he says. *"The internships are a good option,"* Donika remarks, *"the young people are paid during this period by YourJob. They acquire skills and are often employed afterwards."* Albana Morina, the manager of the pizzeria, adds, *"I recruited two pizza makers through YourJob. It makes hiring easier because they are prepared and genuinely ready to work."*

Similarly, Robert found a job as a receptionist in a hotel in Prizren, also after completing an internship. *"I studied to be a lawyer's assistant, but I couldn't find work. My brother went to work in Switzerland, but I want to stay in Kosovo."* One of YourJob's objectives is to ensure that young people, who are the future of the country, remain there. ■



AN ORGANISATION FIT TO MEET THE CHALLENGES

IN 2022, AFTER TWO YEARS OF A HEALTH CRISIS and in a context of significant social and environmental deterioration, Secours Catholique – Caritas France felt the time had come for a radical transformation. This transformation involves changes to its way of working to be more in line with the realities and challenges on the ground, as well as to its management to better integrate the diversity of stakeholders that enrich it and be fully consistent with its associative project. 'The knowledge of individuals and groups in vulnerable situations is recognised and shared to create new knowledge and practices': this is the first change that our national project is aiming for. Through experiments like the CAN (a consultative body with one-third of members having experience of poverty), we have already taken the first step towards ensuring that our decisions take account of this knowledge. The next step is to give more thought as to how our management should evolve. This was decided in June 2022 during our General Assembly, with the implementation targeted for 2025. This need for openness is also evident in our volunteering policy. We aim to engage more and more people in vulnerable situations as well as those with a vision for social transformation, whom we could support in line with our call to build a more fraternal, just, and sustainable world.



CHRISTOPHE HARGOUES / SOCF

CHALLENGES OF VOLUNTEERING AND ENGAGEMENT

ADAPTING TO THE NEW REALITY OF VOLUNTEERING

As all associations have experienced, volunteering has been changing over the last few years towards more short-term forms of engagement. Secours Catholique – Caritas France has also witnessed an increase in the movement of volunteers during the year, with 7,804 arrivals in 2020 rising to 9,218 in 2022, bringing the total number of volunteers to nearly 60,000 annually. While the association has not lost its appeal, it must adapt to the new reality of volunteer volatility. In response, we initiated a discussion in 2021 to develop a national policy on solidarity engagement, aiming to both make the most of new talent and empower individuals with experience of poverty through engagement.

So, three areas of work were identified: providing personalised pathways, from welcoming new arrivals to the transfer of departing members, through taking action; granting access to volunteering to as many

people as possible, including those in vulnerable situations and those with jobs; and creating space for new audiences on emerging topics, such as ecological transition, while empowering individuals who wish to implement their own projects. This work will be aligned with the priorities proposed by the Activity Steering Framework in 2023. ■

“WITH ALMOST 60,000 VOLUNTEERS, THE ASSOCIATION HAS NOT LOST ITS APPEAL.”

A NEW APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT AND MODES OF ACTION

DEPLOYING THE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

A minor revolution in the way Secours Catholique – Caritas France operates began in 2022 with the deployment of the Activity Steering Framework. The need to better reconcile the realities experienced in the delegations with the directions taken by the headquarters had been felt in recent years in order to adjust action priorities. As a result, the Activity Steering Framework was tested in several delegations in 2021 and then implemented across the entire network in 2022.

This involves listening to what our delegations have to say about their situation on the ground, their achievements, and the difficulties they encounter. It revolves around the production of reviews and forecasts, time spent with delegations or management to take stock of the year and look ahead to the next in terms of actions, needs, and ambitions. These reviews were conducted between May and June and were sent to headquarters during the summer. After consolidating the information gathered from the field, the process entered the phase of national dialogue, with several meetings in the regions, followed by a major national event: a meeting on 15 and 16 December in Angers, attended by 75 people, including 55 from our delegations and regions. This was a significant and unprecedented event where all actors of Secours Catholique came together to collectively decide on the association's activity priorities for the next two years. The chosen national priority for 2023-2024 is engagement and volunteering.

TOWARDS SHARED NATIONAL GOVERNANCE

The inclusion of the voices of individuals with experience of poverty and empowering them to take action are at the heart of Secours Catholique – Caritas France's national project, yet they are not yet sufficiently integrated into its governance practices. To address this, in 2021, we invited our delegation offices to experiment with shared experiences of

governance, the findings of which gave rise to a benchmark text which was approved by our board of directors in January 2022.

All that remained was to embark upon a similar process to transform our governance at national level. The decision was made at our General Assembly in June 2022 at La Cité Saint-Pierre, with a three-year timeline and the outline definition of our aspirations: broadening our membership base and creating a more representative General Assembly that reflects our diverse commitments; making our decision-making processes clearer and more participatory; and finally, giving ample space to debates and diversity of perspectives, experiences, and expertise.

Delegations are invited to organise open discussions on major questions raised by such an extension. What are the prerequisites for joining the association? What should be the composition of our General Assembly and Board of Directors? The effective implementation of the future governance is planned for 2025.

A SECOND TERM FOR THE CONSULTATIVE BODY (CAN)

Established in 2018, the CAN is a consultative body of Secours Catholique – Caritas France composed of individuals with equal representation (one-third each) according to their experience: those with experience of poverty, those involved in organisation and administrative roles, and those in leadership positions. During its first two-year renewable term, the CAN demonstrated that such diverse actors could make a significant contribution to the association's discussions and decisions. In 2022, when two-thirds of its members were due for re-election, we wanted to take the time for an individual and collective review of experiences. This capitalisation work concluded with a three-day session held in Nevers, resulting in adjustments. New members will now be offered more formal contracts specifying the duration, the role of the supervisor and mutual commitments. Outgoing members will be encouraged, where possible to continue to contribute on the ground, in



GAEL KERBAOL / SCCF

regions or delegations, or even at national level. The coordination and leadership team will be expanded. These proposals were validated during our board of directors meeting in September 2022, and the CAN is embarking on a new mandate with a new theme for discussion: 'How can Secours Catholique work towards an ecological shift that takes care of people in vulnerable situations?' The CAN serves as a genuine people's participation laboratory and has drawn interest from organisations such as ATD Quart Monde and the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (Cnam), which work on knowledge sharing methods. In 2022, we presented this experiment at a conference with two members of the CAN who have experience of poverty. Other exchanges are planned with a researcher from ATD Quart Monde.

RESOURCES TO BOOST INITIATIVES TO TACKLE THE CHALLENGES OF POVERTY

At the end of 2020, Secours Catholique – Caritas France and its delegations responded to the call for *France Relance* 2020-2022 projects. To maintain the momentum, Secours Catholique also launched an internal call for initiatives and set up a new body: the Projects Support Commission (CAP) to facilitate the mobilisation of skills and streamline project validation

procedures. In 2022, we took a further step to boost the projects and initiatives of our delegations.

We experimented on around fifteen projects with hiring on fixed-term contracts (CDD) for 12 to 18 months to assist volunteers in structuring the projects: designing them with individuals, conducting feasibility studies, set-up, organising recruitment and training for volunteers, and testing the project until it can be taken over by volunteers.

This experimental programme is expected to further strengthen the innovative capacities of our delegations to address poverty challenges. Since 2021, a total of 108 projects have benefited from this programme, for example, the establishment of a reception centre and solidarity store near Chartres where there was no existing Secours Catholique team.

In Metz, in collaboration with Caritas Habitat, we purchased a building where the Secours Catholique delegation headquarters will be located, and a daytime reception facility will be developed on the ground floor so that numerous activities can be organised, long-term support and empowering homeless people. ■

COMMUNICATION

In 2022, Secours Catholique – Caritas France was where it was least expected. We featured in the financial press at the launch of Kaori, the first association of responsible and solidarity-based savers, initiated by a charitable organisation, and on a podcast, for a series performed by three famous actors, with the aim of changing the perception of poverty. So, a counter-intuitive approach to make our advocacy more effective and which is reflected in our new website that is in keeping with current practices.

A WEBSITE BETTER ADAPTED TO NEW PRACTICES AND COMMITMENTS

In 2015, Secours Catholique revamped its national website to showcase our actions and missions, intending to engage with the general public. However, six years later, changes in Secours Catholique's political and editorial direction (increased focus on advocacy and specific social media publications), shifts in internet usage (majority access through mobile phones and tablets), and the emergence of new digital formats (short videos, podcasts, etc.) prompted the development of a new version of the national website, which was launched in 2022.

The new site features the following characteristics: a more creative and dynamic design, in line with the national corporate identity; an editorial policy highlighting 'people's voices' that invite people to

follow us, while incorporating new content types such as podcasts, comics, and 'Words from' segments...

Technical adaptations were also made to enable us to upload volunteering advertisements from our

delegations' websites, to link with social media, and for Secours Catholique workers to connect with the Isidor intranet.

“A FANTASTIC MODERN BOOST TO ITS IMAGE.”

CAMPAIGN FOR RESPONSIBLE AND SOLIDARITY-BASED SAVING



In 2022, Secours Catholique – Caritas France gave its image a tremendous modern makeover by creating an initiative in a field that was least expected: finance. Launched on 15 February, Kaori was the first association of responsible and solidarity savers initiated by a major charitable organisation. Through the Kaori Vie life insurance contract, savers gain access to socially responsible savings products, carefully selected based on strict conditions established by Secours Catholique. Adhering to the principles of socially responsible investment (SRI), these savings products are chosen for their financial performance and alignment with our values, social requirements, governance, and environmental standards. In a world where finance seems ever more disconnected from reality and the real economy, we demonstrate that finance can serve humanity, the common good, environmental protection, and fundamental social rights. This launch generated significant visibility for Secours Catholique in the financial media and introduced us to a younger, educated audience that is sensitive to social and environmental issues.

FRATÉ! A PODCAST FICTION THAT REFLECTS REALITY



The podcast, a short audio format that you can listen to when and where you want, is one of the new ways of communicating with a young working population. Secours Catholique – Caritas France took advantage of this in 2022 for a campaign to change the way people look at the poorest, to counter remaining, and even hardening prejudices, against the

millions of people who have to make have to make impossible choices every day between paying the rent and putting food on the table. Three famous actors, Zabou Breitman, Mélanie Bernier and Manu Payet, brought their talents to this project, playing the role of a family in financial difficulties who find that at l'Esquif, the Secours Catholique reception centre, there is not only the help they need, but also the opportunity to do themselves some good by helping out. This series of eight 15-minute episodes has found its audience: people looking for good stories and opportunities to regain confidence in humanity. Three episodes, a news feature, complete the series with true stories, some of which inspired the series; an opportunity to immerse yourself in the realities that Secours Catholique deals with on a daily basis.

Communication material was deployed nationwide to launch the series: visuals of the actors, videos, the making of the studio recording, all to be shared via *Fraté!*, a dedicated Instagram account. ■

PUBLICATIONS

MANIFESTO FOR UNIVERSAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION



Eleven years after the first Manifesto for Banking Services for Vulnerable People, Secours Catholique – Caritas France and its partners Emmaüs France, APF France-Handicap, UFC Que Choisir, Familles Rurales and the Confédération Syndicale des Familles, are drawing up a new report on the state of

financial inclusion in France. Access to accounts and means of payment, credit, savings, preventing over-indebtedness, limiting bank charges...

For the most vulnerable people, much remains to be done. The 16 recommendations that complement these findings point the way towards universal financial inclusion.

FOR METROPOLITAN AREAS AND CONURBATIONS WITH LOW EMISSIONS AND HIGH ACCESSIBILITY

For Secours Catholique – Caritas France, the low-emission mobility zones (ZFE-m) are an opportunity to build metropolitan areas (and then conurbations) with low emissions and high accessibility, thanks to the development of alternative, shared, supportive and environmentally-friendly forms of mobility that enable all citizens to access all services in the area, regardless of their place of residence or resources.

With this in mind, we are putting forward nine proposals to the public authorities (the State, regional and departmental councils, inter-municipalities), socio-economic players (conventional businesses and the social and solidarity economy) and solidarity players, to include those overlooked by the ecological transition in the construction and ownership of the ZFE-m.

STATISTICAL REPORT ON POVERTY IN FRANCE



Secours Catholique publishes an annual statistical report entitled The State of Poverty in France. This year, in the relevant section of the report, our work seeks to identify the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the socio-economic situation and living conditions of the most vulnerable households by calculating their disposable income after deducting essential expenses such as electricity or rent. The study stems from a project conducted in partnership with researchers from IRD and the University of Paris-Saclay. The data were collected from a sample of 8,700 households assisted by Secours Catholique before and during the health crisis.

PAROLES DE CHÔMEURS

The white paper *Paroles de Chômeurs* follows a survey conducted between February and June 2021 by the 20 member associations of the collective 'For the

Words of the Unemployed', with individuals experiencing unemployment. The responses from the 270 participants in the survey highlight the weaknesses of the current system of support for job seekers, confirm the sometimes inaccurate public perception of unemployment, and emphasise the desires, ideas, and abilities of those without employment.

L'APOSTROPHE



The 11th issue of *L'Apostrophe* – our journal written by people living in or having experienced insecurity – invites us to sit down to table with, as the main course, the topic of transforming our food systems. For the contributors to this issue, the urgent need for everyone to have access to adequate food should not be dealt with in

a hurry. It calls for a new approach that restores meaning to the act of eating. This act helps to build social connections and our humanity. ■

DONATIONS AND FINANCE

In a context marked by concerns arising from the war in Ukraine, a scorching summer that reminded us of the climate emergency, and end-of-year inflation, donations played a significant role. By the end of 2022, Secours Catholique – Caritas France recorded the collection of €76 million, an 11% increase compared to 2021.

DEEP-SEATED GENEROSITY IS CONFIRMED

The trust placed in Secours Catholique's efforts to address the needs for connection and justice among the poorest during the health crisis remained unwavering in 2022. Despite apprehensions about uncertainties stemming from the war, the scorching summer, and inflation impacting energy and food costs, our donors were always there. Many responded generously to the Ukraine emergency, contributing over €6 million at that time. Their support continued throughout the year to address urgent social issues. Consequently, we raised €70 million in non-emergency funds by 31 December, a

2% increase from 2021, and a total collection of €76 million. This loyalty confirms a genuine adherence to our values and our commitment to the most vulnerable throughout the entire country, an expertise that is increasingly visible in the media.

NEW DONOR PROFILES

Since lockdown, the image of Secours Catholique has resonated more with younger donors, who are attuned to our causes, such as fair environmental change but also responsible, engaged saving, with the creation of Kaori, a savers' association offering



VINCENT BOISOT / SCCF

a life insurance product: Kaori.Vie. Street collection campaigns conducted throughout the year, both in Île-de-France, in other regions and overseas, have also proven successful among the youngest. Finally, collection efforts have expanded significantly in the regions due to the work of our communication and resource development network, enhancing the visibility of our missions by presenting and promoting them to diverse audiences who know little or nothing about our work.

BEQUESTS EXCEEDING FORECASTS

Slightly below the results of 2021, which was an exceptional year, 2022 nonetheless exceeded our expectations in terms of bequests (€41 million), which are still a crucial resource for Secours Catholique.

GRANTS ON THE INCREASE

The value of grants received in 2022 reached €12 million, €2 million more than the previous year, a result driven by international grants obtained in support of Ukraine. These funds finance our support for partners in the field in responding to project calls and overseeing their implementation with funding organisations.

A GREAT EVENING OF FRATERNITY

For the second time, in 2022, Secours Catholique organised an extraordinary evening of fraternity, showcasing innovative projects from our 72 delegations. This provided donors with the opportunity to witness the diversity of actions carried out by these delegations, with people to address the various aspects of poverty: family support, combating isolation, access to decent food, and assisting people experiencing homelessness. The evening took place at the Madeleine Theatre, attended by our president, Véronique Devisé, and over a hundred donors, whose generosity once again demonstrated their commitment to our missions. ■

THE CARITAS FRANCE NETWORK



The Caritas France Network was created by Secours Catholique – Caritas France to unite the vastly diverse organisations it has helped to create, or which share its values, aims and principles for action that are all committed to fighting poverty for and with the most vulnerable in France and throughout the world, driven by a shared Christian belief and the determination to organise their in-house solidarity to support the spirit of innovation that is characteristic of them.

By cooperating and combining the resources and skills of its members in the regions, it aims to promote all-round support and empowerment for people living in insecurity or exclusion. In the spirit of promoting Christian charity it is also committed to encouraging solidarity and fraternity with the aim of having an in-depth impact on the causes of poverty. www.reseaucaritasfrance.org

CITÉS CARITAS

Formed on 10 May 1989 by Secours Catholique – Caritas France, Cités Caritas is a not-for-profit association under the law of 1901 which has been working for over 30 years to promote the inclusion of people in a vulnerable situation, those excluded from society or the disabled.

Through its activities (medico-social support, social housing, housing for asylum seekers, refugees and disabled people, housing support, adapted housing, adapted working, obtaining employment and integration through work, childcare, vocational training) Cités Caritas is helping to build an inclusive society that welcomes vulnerable people and sees their capacity for action and their participation as a source of wealth and life. Cités Caritas is active throughout France, developing its activities in a spirit of innovation and seeking to respond to new social needs. Through its 148 programmes, 1,048 professionals and 225 volunteers, the association supported over 19,486 people in 2021.

www.acsc.asso.fr

FONCIÈRE CARITAS HABITAT

Established in 2015, Caritas habitat is a social housing property company which aims to develop real low-cost housing that can then be used by non-profit organisations to fulfil their mission of supporting the most vulnerable with housing, accommodation and reception. As part of the social and solidarity economy, from the outset, it draws on personal and institutional solidarity-based savings to invest in property purchases: the construction of new social housing, renovation or redevelopment of housing stock.

These assets enable organisations that specialise in supporting poorly housed or homeless individuals, the excluded or disabled, to continue their projects. These organisations can be members of the Caritas France network (including Cités Caritas), or not.

After an initial launch, involving a series of acquisitions, Caritas habitat is now seeking new investment partners who, alongside its founding partners, will enable it to continue its work on behalf of the most disadvantaged.

www.caritashabitat.org

FONCIÈRE CHÊNELET

Foncière Chênelet was set up in 2009 to respond to the major social housing issues faced by people on the lowest incomes in rural or suburban communities by offering them high-quality eco-friendly housing. As a certified social housing contractor, Foncière Chênelet builds high-quality, low-rent social housing, the majority of which is in rural communities.

www.fonciere-chenelet.org

RÉSEAU ÉCO-HABITAT

The Éco Habitat Network was set up as an experimental initiative in 2014 by the delegations of Secours Catholique in Picardy, on the basis of their awareness that many home-owning families in particularly vulnerable situations do not use the public sector schemes available to improve the energy performance of their homes, thereby reducing their energy consumption. The mission of the Éco Habitat Network is to network local stakeholders in home energy improvement (local authorities, businesses and volunteers) to help households on very low incomes carry out major upgrades that are 90% funded.

www.reseau-ecohabitat.fr

COMITÉ CHRÉTIEN DE SOLIDARITÉ AVEC LES CHÔMEURS

Established over thirty years ago, the Comité Chrétien de Solidarité avec les Chômeurs (CCSC) aims to maintain focus on the consequences of unemployment. By raising awareness in Christian communities and in society as a whole and by combating indifference through the voice of people living with unemployment, the CCSC invites everyone to take action so that these people can regain full citizenship. With the support of Secours Catholique – Caritas France, the CCSC has launched a new version of its newsletter, *Vaincre le Chômage*.

www.ccsfrance.com

FÉDÉRATION SOLIDARAUTO

Solidarauto is the name of the network of community garages set up by Secours Catholique – Caritas France delegations in a number of French regions in order to provide people on the lowest incomes with the personal mobility and to facilitate their integration into the world of work and society through second-hand vehicle sales, maintenance, repair and rental.

Since 2017, the Solidarauto federation – a network of community garages, an association under the law of 1901, has brought together garages licenced under the Solidarauto brand and supports people with plans for a community garage who wish to open a garage under a Solidarauto licence, in part thanks to the sponsorship of the project by one of its members and the partnership of a local Secours Catholique – Caritas France group. At the end of 2022, the federation brought together eight Solidarauto garages in France.

www.solidarauto.org

THE CARITAS FRANCE FOUNDATION

Founded by Secours Catholique – Caritas France in 2009, the Caritas France Foundation is France's first and only umbrella foundation focused on combating poverty. Its core mission is to encourage the development of philanthropy and combat social exclusion via its member foundations, which currently total more than 100. It gives individuals, families and groups of friends the opportunity to set up their own foundations and ensures their smooth running by supporting the founders (choice of projects, the involvement of friends and family, etc). Its second mission is to raise funds in support of projects run by Secours Catholique – Caritas France, by the Caritas Network in France and internationally, or by other partners. In 2022, over two-thirds of the funds raised were redistributed to the Caritas France network and projects elsewhere in the world. The Caritas France Foundation has supported around 1,000 projects in this way since its creation. Lastly, the foundation also supports research and development. It presents an annual award to a young social sciences researcher at the Institut de France symposium.

www.fondationcaritasfrance.org

THE JEAN-RODHAIN FOUNDATION

The Jean-Rodhain Foundation is named after the founder of Secours Catholique – Caritas France. Recognised as a non-profit organisation on 1 July 1981, it honours Jean Rodhain's concern for theological and spiritual reflection on charity, by endeavouring to promote fundamental research to underpin and support the Church's charitable work. By exploring the new faces of charity to demonstrate its social and spiritual benefits, the foundation encourages the cross-fertilisation of experience and knowledge. With a special focus on the voice of the most impoverished and that of people involved with the diaconia, it establishes partnerships and encourages dialogue between theologians, solidarity activists and vulnerable people. To fulfil its mission, it sponsors teaching and research on charity in seven French theology faculties (Jean-Rodhain chairs in Angers, Lille, Lyon, Paris Institut catholique, Paris Centre Sèvres, Strasbourg and Toulouse). It organises interdisciplinary symposia on themes linked to contemporary expressions of charity and /or challenging charity's capacity to respond and innovate. It provides financial support for academic

work (theses, research seminars, etc.) on charity related themes, with particular emphasis on work rooted in the voice of the people involved. It funds the publication of research work on charity related themes to promote its distribution amongst other researchers and those involved with solidarity and the diaconia. Finally it supports initiatives aiming to develop a theology based on the voice of the poor, and those aimed at developing a theology based on the word of people involved in diaconia.

www.fondationjeanrodhain.org

www.servonslafraternite.net

THE CARITAS ALSACE CHARITY FEDERATION

Founded in 1903 by Msgr Paul Müller-Simonis to “improve the organisation of Catholic charity work in Alsace”, the Caritas Alsace Charity Federation currently comprises 2,000 volunteers and 800 employees and is structured round two main areas of activity: its charitable work carried out by Caritas Alsace, and its facilities and services working in the fields of child protection, disability, the elderly and integration in the broadest sense. On the eve of its one hundred and twentieth anniversary, its new roadmap reflects a desire to open up to civil society, to modernise its operations, to make sustainable development an integral factor in its choices and to develop a new communications strategy. The federation also carries out the work of Secours Catholique – Caritas France in Alsace, working under the name of Caritas Alsace, Secours Catholique network.

www.federation-de-charite.org

UNION DIACONALE DU VAR

Created in 1983, the Union Diaconale du Var is a social and solidarity based economic union made up of 18 associations with a variety of aims (integration, family, accommodation, health, street emergencies) that fight against social exclusion, work together to promote human development and respect for all and take part in the Church's diaconal work in the Var by pooling their skills and know-how thanks to a general secretariat that supports its activities.

www.udv-asso.fr

GOVERNANCE AND CONTROL AT SECOURS CATHOLIQUE – CARITAS FRANCE

AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of Secours Catholique – Caritas France has 151 members, including 144 active members – qualified administrators, presidents and vice-presidents from delegations, and one treasurer per region – and 34 honorary members. The age limit is 75 years old. 56% of the active members are men, 44% are women.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS comprises 21 members, all voluntary; 12 are presidents or vice-presidents from delegations, nine are qualified individuals. They each have a three-year term of office, renewable twice. The board meets 11 times a year. The committee is made up of a president, two vice-presidents, a treasurer and a secretary. The general chaplain and the secretary general attend committee and board meetings, without voting rights.

BUREAU

President:

Véronique Devise

Vice-presidents:

Anne Duthilleul, Hervé Bonamy

Treasurer:

Bernard Alet

Secretary:

Régine Galmiche

OTHER MEMBERS

Emmanuelle d'Achon – Pascal Bourgue – Gilles Cagnard – Denise Chalaye – Laurent Courcol – Marie-Laure Denès – Jean-François Desclaux – Marie-Annick Joly – Vincent Léonard – Chantal Nicol – Hervé Masurel – Bertrand Parmentier – Daniel Paul

Secretary General:

Adélaïde Bertrand

Chaplain General:

Père Hervé Perrot

Honorary Presidents:

François Soulage, Joël Thoraval, Véronique Fayet

LINKS WITH THE FRENCH CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS (CEF)

- ▶ Delegation Presidents and Vice-Presidents are approved by the Board of Directors, subject to the agreement of the diocesan bishop concerned. Administrators, as qualified individual members are co-opted by the Board of Directors, subject to the agreement of the Permanent Council of the French Conference of Bishops and elected by the General Assembly.
- ▶ The National President is elected by the Board of Directors from among those candidates previously approved by the Permanent Council of the French Conference of Bishops.
- ▶ The Chaplain General is appointed by the Permanent Council of the French Conference of Bishops.

- ▶ The Executive Officer is elected by the Board of Directors from among a list of candidates approved by the Permanent Council of the French Conference of Bishops.
- ▶ The General Secretariat of the French Conference of Bishops and the National President, Executive Officer and Chaplain General of Secours Catholique – Caritas France meet regularly.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

These committees offer advice and recommendations on the day-to-day running and plans of the association.

- ▶ Strategy Committee
- ▶ France pre-Board of Directors Committee
- ▶ International pre-Board of Directors Committee
- ▶ Resources Committee
- ▶ Audit Committee
- ▶ Appointments Committee
- ▶ Advocacy Committee
- ▶ National Coordination Committee
- ▶ Treasury Committee
- ▶ Shared Governance Supervisory Committee

IDENTITY

LE SECOURS CATHOLIQUE – CARITAS FRANCE

Le Secours Catholique – Caritas France is a branch of the Catholic Church in France, a member of the Caritas Internationalis confederation and a recognised non-profit organisation.

THE MISSION OF SECOURS CATHOLIQUE – CARITAS FRANCE

Founded on the Gospel, the mission of Secours Catholique – Caritas France is to offer love and awareness of solidarity in France and around the world. Secours Catholique invites everyone to engage with and support others and experience the joy of fraternity. Its members work to increase everyone's ability to act so that all people can live in dignity. The association fights against the causes of poverty, inequality and exclusion and proposes alternatives that serve the common good.

ACTIONS

In France, 1,027,500 people were supported in 2,400 centres. Internationally, 415 operations were carried out in 2022, in 52 countries or regions, in association with the Caritas Internationalis network (162 Caritas groups in 200 countries). Within one year, 3.2 million people (including 600,000 in relation to the Ukrainian crisis) benefited from international

aid from Secours Catholique – Caritas France.

ORGANISATION

- ▶ At 31 December 2022 there were 72 delegations, divided into 3,500 local teams in mainland France and French overseas territories, covering the entire country.
- ▶ Network of 59,700 volunteers and 925 employees across the country.
- ▶ Three central facilities: La Cité Saint-Pierre in Lourdes, La Maison d'Abraham in Jerusalem, Le Cedre in Paris.

TRANSPARENCY AND CONTROL

The 2022 annual accounts, including the accounts on allocation of funds, were certified by our auditors, Ernst and Young, then submitted for approval at the AGM on 14 June 2023. They are available on the website: www.secours-catholique.org or 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, carries out checks on 10 delegations every year. Along with the internal audit department, a total of one third of delegations are checked every year.



The Give with Confidence Charter Committee

is a non-profit organisation that carries out checks on fundraising activity that targets public generosity. It devises ethical rules, issues the Don en Confiance label to non-profit organisations that apply, and carries out on-going and independent checks on their commitments. They are based on the principles of respect for donors, transparency, and the quest for efficiency, integrity and impartiality in three areas: governance, management and communication. On 23 March 2021, Secours Catholique – Caritas France saw its Give with Confidence label renewed for a further three years.

WE THANK OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN 2022

- ADP
- AFNIC
- Agence du don en nature
- Agence Française de Développement
- Agence de l'Eau Loire-Bretagne
- Agence de l'Eau Rhône Méditerranée Corse
- Agence de l'Eau Seine-Normandie
- Axa Atout Coeur
- CAF du Loiret
- CARGO SA
- CGR Cinémas
- COFAQmc
- COMAT
- European Commission (Directorate General for International Partnerships)
- Communauté Urbaine Le Havre Seine Métropole
- Ile De France regional council
- Pays de la Loire regional council
- Southern region
- DDETS du Loiret
- Charitable donations
- Eau du Grand-Lyon
- EDF
- European Climate Foundation

- Fondation Crédit Agricole solidarité et développement
- Fondation Crédit Agricole du Languedoc
- Fondation Crédit Agricole Nord de France
- Fondation Groupe EDF
- Fondation Caritas France

Foundations under the Caritas France umbrella

- Fondation Avenir solidaire
- Fondation Espérance de fraternité
- Fondation Franck-Giroud
- Fondation Graines de futurs
- Fondation Gratitude
- Fondation François-Monique-et-Pascal-Bilger
- Fondation Le Manteau de saint Martin
- Fondation Pro Bono
- Fondation Pro Femmes
- Fondation Tolot
- Fondation Xamafra
- Fondation Castorama
- Fondation Denis-et-Jean-Verspieren
- Fondation de France

Foundations under the Fondation de France umbrella organisation

- Fondation Afnic
- Fondation Daniel-et-Nina-Carasso
- Fondation Guy-Nicolas
- Fondation Hardy
- Fondation JM-Bruneau
- Fonds Meryem
- Fondation General Mills

Foundations under the King Baudouin Foundation umbrella organisation

- McMillan Stewart Foundation
- Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities

Foundations under the Roi Baudouin

Foundation umbrella organisation

- Fondation Peters
- Fondation Notre-Dame

Foundations under the Fondation Notre-Dame umbrella organisation

- Fondation Isabelle-et-Hubert d'Ornano
- Fondation H
- Fondation Cesarini
- Fondation Macif
- Fondation Orange
- Fondation Redevo
- Fondation Sainte-Geneviève
- Fondation Saint-Gobain
- Fondation Saint-Irénée
- Fondation Sancta Devota
- Fondation Somfy – Les Petites Pierres
- Fondation Suez
- Fondation Vinci pour les cités

- Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial (FFEM)

- Fonds Derver au sein du Fonds de dotation transatlantique
- Fonds de dotation Antigone
- Fonds de dotation Jeune et innovant
- Fonds de dotation gratitude
- Fonds Saint-Christophe
- Garnier-Thiebaut
- Groupe Atlantic
- Jean Lutz SA
- Journée mondiale de prière des femmes
- K-Line
- L'Agence nationale pour les Chèques-Vacances
- Le Havre Seine Métropole
- La Poste
- Le Petit Futé
- Les Centres E.Leclerc
- Maisons du Monde Foundation
- Métropole Lyon
- Metz Mécènes Solidaires
- Ministère de la Culture
- Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères
- Moneta
- Ouest-France
- Sud-Ouest
- Sygmatel
- Symta Pièces
- Toufflin Matériel de Travaux Public
- Veuve Clicquot
- Vinci Immobilier Promotion



As part of the Recovery Plan (France Relance)

- Direction Générale de la Cohésion Sociale
- Direction Régionale de l'Economie, de l'Emploi, du Travail et des Solidarités d'Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

- Direction Régionale de l'Economie, de l'Emploi, du Travail et des Solidarités de Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
- Direction Départementale des Territoires et de la Mer des Bouches-du-Rhône
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- Direction Départementale de l'Emploi, du Travail et des Solidarités de Loire-Atlantique
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- Direction Départementale de l'Emploi, du Travail et des Solidarités et de la Protection des Populations de Savoie
- Direction Départementale de la Protection des Populations du Var
- Direction Départementale de l'Emploi, du Travail et des Solidarités du Vaucluse
- Direction Générale de la Cohésion et des Populations de Guyane
- Direction de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement de la Réunion
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- Direction Régionale de l'Economie, de l'Emploi, du Travail et des Solidarités de Bretagne
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- Direction Régionale de l'Economie, de l'Emploi, du Travail et des Solidarités des Hauts de France
- Direction Régionale Interdépartementale de l'Economie, de l'Emploi, du Travail et des Solidarités d'Île-de-France
- Ville de Poitiers

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ENSEMBLE, CONSTRUIRE UN MONDE JUSTE ET FRATERNEL

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July 2023

SECOURS CATHOLIQUE — CARITAS FRANCE IN FIGURES



€337M

IN FUNDS INCLUDING 82% DEDICATED TO SOCIAL PROJECTS

2022 IN FRANCE



1,027,500
PEOPLE SUPPORTED IN FRANCE



59,700
VOLUNTEERS



5,000
CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS
SUPPORTED WITH SCHOOLING



2,400
RECEPTION CENTRES



215,000
FAMILIES SUPPORTED



3,000
PEOPLE HELPED GETTING
INTO WORK



1,300
CHILDREN WENT
ON HOLIDAY



852
CURRENT MICRO-LOANS
INCLUDING 309 NEW ONES

2022 WORLDWIDE



3.2 MILLION
PEOPLE RECEIVED INTERNATIONAL AID FROM
SECOURS CATHOLIQUE — CARITAS FRANCE



415
PROJECTS IN 52
COUNTRIES OR REGIONS



45
EMERGENCY PROGRAMMES

