



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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

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BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF 16 JUNE 2026

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ECOLOGY AND POVERTY: ONE AND THE SAME STRUGGLE

The year 2025 marks the tenth anniversary of Pope Francis's call to care for "our common home". Environmental concerns were already a feature of Secours Catholique – Caritas France's work and thinking at that time and are now more relevant than ever. They are reflected in our long-standing commitment to fighting energy poverty, ensuring access to sustainable and affordable mobility, and guaranteeing decent, high-quality food for all. They are reflected in our eco-centres and our textile reuse charity shops. And they are reflected in the major CoRe (Resilient Communities) programme, carried out since 2022 in 18 countries, including France, to define and implement a shared vision of what a just ecological transition would look like.

"Just", because there is a profound injustice in the fact that the poorest – those who pollute the least – should bear the heaviest burden of the consequences of climate change. We formalised and documented this insight in 2025 by giving a voice to more than 150 people who had experienced an extreme weather event in France and around the world. The new forms of poverty and insecurity generated by these disasters underpin the recommendations of our *Climate and Poverty* report, a summary of which was presented at COP30 before its full publication in 2026.

"Just", because it is deeply unfair that solutions to climate change are often designed without considering

"THE CRY OF THE EARTH AND THE CRY OF THE POOR CAN NO LONGER BE CONTAINED. THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO RESPOND TO THIS CRY."

the most disadvantaged residents (for example, low-emission zones [ZFE], which exclude people who cannot afford a new or electric vehicle), or even to their detriment—when multinational companies use Indigenous community land for afforestation projects intended to offset their carbon footprint.

As we mourn his passing this year, we see on the ground the concrete reality of what Pope Francis taught us in *Laudato si'*: the fight against poverty can no longer be separated from the fight for the environment, and the fight for the environment cannot be waged without the poorest. This is the essence of the reference text *Towards a Just and Fraternal Ecology: Secours Catholique's Vision and Commitment*, adopted at our 2025 General Assembly. This document was drafted on the basis of scientific and ecclesial writings, existing materials on the subject, and the work carried out by our international partners and our delegations working on this topic. But it also drew on the reflections of the National Animation Council (CAN), whose members with lived experience of poverty issued an appeal that we have taken to heart.

The idea for this reference text emerged in 2023, when we launched our ecological revolution (Rev'E) for a more just and fraternal world. It is both a culmination and a beginning, as it will serve as a compass for our action and advocacy, particularly during upcoming electoral milestones. Ecology and poverty are one and the same struggle—the struggle dictated to us by the people we support, and one we want to carry out alongside them. And to bring as many people as possible on board, we invite our networks and partners to take up an awareness-raising tool designed and tested in 2025: *The Ecology–Poverty Odyssey!* ■

Didier Duriez
National President



Adélaïde Bertrand
Secretary General



François Odinet
Chaplain General



THEY ARE SECOURS CATHOLIQUE

“MARISOL

“IF THE AMAZON STILL EXISTS,
IT’S THANKS TO US”



SEBASTIEN LE CLEZIO / SCOF

A rare female voice in the Indigenous struggle in Peru, Marisol Garcia Apaguenio fights to protect the land of her ancestors.

“In 2018, I was appointed to lead a federation of Kichwa Indigenous communities living in the Lower Huallagua region, in northern Peru. With the support of the Amazonian Centre for Anthropology (CAAAP), we provide training in collective action to groups of Kichwa women. We help them organise themselves and defend their rights and their land together.

In 2021, TotalEnergies reached an agreement with the Peruvian authorities to purchase 85 million dollars' worth of carbon stored by the trees of the Cordillera Azul National Park. The park lies on our ancestral lands. If the Amazon rainforest still exists in this part of Peru, it is because we have cared for it for centuries.” ■

“PHILIPPE

“BEING A FAMILY DESPITE DETENTION”



XAVIER SCHWELB / SCOF

Philippe, 68, is a volunteer and the coordinator of Le Bungalow, a Secours Catholique centre for families of people in prison in La Roche-sur-Yon.

“One day, I was asked

to visit someone incarcerated at the Nantes remand centre. There, I came across a social worker who said she didn't understand why we needed to welcome and support the families of prisoners. She also said she didn't really believe in the reintegration of people who are incarcerated. Her words stayed with me. I decided to get involved. That was twenty-five years ago.

I joined the team at Le Bungalow, a Secours Catholique centre for relatives of prisoners in La Roche-sur-Yon (Vendée). At the time, I was a stay-at-home father raising my three children. Becoming a volunteer was also an opportunity to take up an activity again and do something useful with my time.” ■

“ROBERT

“SEEING WOMEN AND CHILDREN ON THE
STREET HAS BECOME NORMAL”



ANTHONY MICALLEF / SCOF

Former coordinator of Secours Catholique's street outreach team in Marseille, Robert is dedicated to supporting people experiencing homelessness.

“I joined Secours Catholique and the mobile team ten years ago, encouraged by a friend who was himself a volunteer. At the time, I was working as the manager of a call centre. I saw many employees – especially students and young workers – struggling to find housing, but I didn't really know much about homelessness.

On the ground, you're on the frontline witnessing the worsening of the housing and emergency-shelter crisis. Ten years ago, it was unthinkable for a pregnant woman to be left sleeping outside. Red lines have been crossed. Seeing a woman and children on the street has become normal.” ■

“ BRIGITTE

“I WANT TO EASE THE SUFFERING OF MIGRANTS IN CALAIS”



VINCENT BOISOT / SCCF

Since retiring, Brigitte has been a volunteer at Secours Catholique's day centre in Calais, which offers a moment of respite to migrants trying to reach the United Kingdom.

"The fate of migrants living along the Calais coastline moves me deeply: they are in such distress. I am inspired by this passage from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew: 'You were hungry and I gave you food.' It means that I recognise you as a brother, as a human being. Even though I have doubts about my faith, I believe in humanity. And seeing the dehumanisation suffered by exiled people in Calais pushed me to get involved.

When I used to go shopping in town, I would see them. You can't pretend not to see – they are there. They are simply human beings who need a smile, a coffee, and practical help along their journey." ■

“ HASSAN

“A WAY TO FIND MY PLACE IN SOCIETY”



ÉLODIE PÉRIOT / SCCF

Hassan, 29, is a volunteer with Secours Catholique in Mayotte. He coordinates the Dzoumogné team, which focuses on providing literacy classes.

"I'm from Grande Comore, where I completed all my

studies. I came to Mayotte seven years ago for health-network work, and I stayed. I took training courses – the Bafa (certificate of aptitude for youth work) and another one to run leisure centres. But because I'm undocumented, I'm stuck.

I try to get by, finding small jobs here and there, tutoring. I used to do tutoring in my village, and I also trained people to prepare for the Delf (French-language studies diploma). That's what I offered when I came to Caritas. It became like a refuge for me. And helping others feels good – it allows me to find a place in society." ■

“ FATHER ALOYSIUS

“I KNOW IT'S DANGEROUS, BUT I MUST DO IT”



VINCENT BOISOT / SCCF

As Myanmar sinks deeper into civil war, Father Aloysius, former director of KMSS Loikaw – a Secours Catholique partner – is mobilising to support the most vulnerable.

"At KMSS, the Burmese Caritas, we have always wanted to prioritise the poorest, those who are marginalised and exploited. But since the war began in 2021, we face a major challenge: whom should we prioritise? Because all civilians are affected and are living through unimaginable trauma.

I understood the horror in May 2021, when elderly people, women, and children had taken refuge in a church in the hills above Loikaw – a church that was bombed. It is impossible to know where the conflict will flare up from one day to the next. I need to know what civilians are experiencing, so I travel around the diocese. They need to talk and to feel heard. I know it's dangerous, but I must do it." ■

LOOKING BACK AT 2025

13 FEBRUARY


CHRISTOPHE HARGOUES / SCCF

Secours Catholique – Caritas France, alongside 39 other members of the Collective of Housing Associations (formerly CAU), files two legal actions against the French State for 'failure to assist people living in inadequate housing'.

20-24 APRIL

An educational visit from one of Secours Catholique's Brazilian partners as part of the "Together, Living Well and Eating Well" programme.



VINCENT BOISOT / SCCF

AND ALSO...

JANUARY 14. Nationwide rollout of the new visual identity charter for Secours Catholique's work. **FEBRUARY** 4. Celebration of the International Day of Human Fraternity as part of the "4 February" collective, led and coordinated by Secours Catholique. 26. Secours Catholique renews the agreement binding it to the Agency for Community Service and Professional Integration of People under Judicial Supervision (Atigip). **MARCH** 28. An earthquake affects thousands of people in Myanmar. Secours Catholique immediately provides support to the national Caritas present on the ground. **APRIL** 21-26. The French Bishops' Conference (CEF) and several charitable movements, including Secours Catholique, meet Christian communities in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria to convey a shared message of hope and justice. In Jerusalem, they are hosted at the Maison d'Abraham, Secours Catholique's reception centre. 21. Death of Pope Francis. **MAY** 8. Election of Pope Leo XIV, who immediately advocates for a disarmed and disarming peace. 12-21. The community of Secours Catholique's Cité Saint-Pierre joins the international *Laudato Si'* movement to mark the tenth anniversary of Pope Francis's encyclical. **JUNE** 17. Secours Catholique's general assembly adopts the reference text entitled "*For a Just and Fraternal Ecology: Secours Catholique's Vision and Commitment*". The new statutes of the association, aimed at opening membership to those involved in its work, are also approved. **JULY** 1. Advocacy victory for Secours Catholique and its partners who are granted the ruling that donations made by relatives to benefit recipients are not to be

ELODIE PERRIOT / SCCF



19 JUNE

Secours Catholique publishes a critical analysis of the 'Mayotte debout' plan, in which it puts forward proposals to ensure the plan's success.



17 NOVEMBER

Release of Secours Catholique's report on the state of poverty in France, including an analysis of the changes observed by our association in the profile of the people it has welcomed over the thirty years since these annual reports began.

VINCENT BOISOT / SCCF



2 DECEMBER

The constitutive general assembly takes place, which formalises the creation of the Federation of Family Houses, of which Secours Catholique is one of the founding members.

counted in the calculation of Revenu de Solidarité Active (RSA). 7. INSEE publishes its annual analysis of changes in the poverty rate in France in 2023. The unprecedented one-point increase (from 14.4% to 15.4%) confirms what Secours Catholique has observed, yet it provokes very little reaction from the political sphere. **AUGUST** 1. Celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Cité Saint-Pierre in Lourdes. **SEPTEMBER** 11-12. At the end of the four-year first phase of the CoRe programme, Secours Catholique organises a symposium presenting the findings of fieldwork carried out by its research partners under the aegis of the Scientific Interest Group for the Study of Globalisation and Development (Gemdev). **OCTOBER** 9. Publication of the apostolic exhortation *Dilexi te* ("I have loved you"), which further strengthens the foundations of Secours Catholique's mission. 22. Secours Catholique and its partners file an appeal before the Conseil d'État against the 'Sanctions' decree, which completes the coercive component of the full-employment law. **NOVEMBER** 10-22. A delegation from Secours Catholique and its partners attends COP30 in Belém, Brazil, and presents a synthesis of its 'Climate-Poverty' report. 25-28. The fourth cycle of Secours Catholique's CAN is held in Lourdes, with the participation of a partner from Benin. **DECEMBER** 11. Secours Catholique and its advocacy partners are successful at the National Assembly, where a law on emergency provisional reception for unaccompanied minors (MNA) is passed at first reading.

WEAVING SOCIAL BONDS AND BRINGING SPIRITUALITY TO LIFE

RECOGNISING THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION of each person is a fundamental human need, beyond material needs, as Pope Francis reminded us. It is also a lever in the fight against poverty and in affirming the human dignity of every individual. This is the distinctive feature of Secours Catholique – Caritas France's social mission, enabling it to respond to the profound need for meaning that is increasingly felt in a world that has become so harsh for the most vulnerable and the most excluded.

In 2025, many Secours Catholique delegations chose to embrace the call of the Jubilee of Hope to strengthen ties between groups, associations, and people experiencing hardship, of all faiths and convictions. The initiatives were rich and inventive – whether carried out with the Saint-Laurent network during the 70th anniversary of the Cité Saint-Pierre, dedicated to welcoming the poorest pilgrims in Lourdes; through creative workshops on 4 February, the World Day of Human Fraternity; or within the “walkers of hope” groups: volunteers and people supported by the organisation who choose to spend several days together, united by a shared purpose born in a day centre, a solidarity café, a family home...



SEBASTIEN LE CLÉZIO / SCCF

COMBATING ISOLATION AND REBUILDING SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS STANDING ALONGSIDE PEOPLE FACING EXTREME EXCLUSION

Secours Catholique – Caritas France's day centres now count 83 spaces (including three opened in 2025 in Soissons, Marseille and Saint-Leu [Réunion], and one reopened in Tarbes), located across France, where the fraternal encounter at the heart of the association's mission is fully lived. In 2025, they were run by 3,255 volunteers – many of whom have personal experience of hardship – and were visited each week by an average of 16,000 people. This number continues to rise due to increasingly restrictive conditions for accessing emergency shelter, housing, residency rights, and social support, leaving more and more people without stable accommodation or resources.

Depending on the centre, people may come for breakfast, a meal, a shower, or simply to spend a moment with others – something most of them do regularly. Little by little, they build fraternal bonds

with the volunteers, strengthening their capacity to act and planting the seeds of individual and collective transformation.

“WALKERS OF HOPE” SETTING OUT TO BREAK ISOLATION IN PICARDY

For several years now, groups of “*Walkers of Hope*” have been forming within Secours Catholique – Caritas France delegations, driven by a shared desire to experience mutual support and human interaction while walking together. These groups, which bring together people facing hardship and volunteers, meet regularly to train before setting off for five to ten days on the Camino de Santiago routes or on more local trails – always with the same aim: to form a group, get moving again, regain self-confidence, and weave connections across different beliefs and generations.



VINCENT BOISOT / SCCF

In 2025, the Picardy group organised a 40-km walk from Château-Thierry to Soissons to meet isolated people and strengthen volunteer networks in areas with little local presence. Beyond the usual objectives of the 'Walks of Hope', this event aimed not only to 'reach out', but also to revitalise the delegation's network of volunteers in areas where there is no local team and where the presence of voluntary organisations is very limited.

A FRATERNAL CHRISTMAS ACROSS FRANCE

One is never as alone as on Christmas Eve – and many people facing severe hardship are. This is why Secours Catholique – Caritas France invites its network to celebrate 24 December with volunteers, partners, and anyone supported by the organisation who wishes to join, whatever their faith or convictions, since Christmas is above all the celebration of fraternity. Many delegations took part in this great "*Frater Noël*", gathering around a good meal, a hot chocolate, a gift exchange, or a visit to people in their homes... These simple, festive events allowed hundreds of families to experience the true meaning Secours Catholique wishes to give this moment: overcoming loneliness and isolation and

rediscovering the warmth and joy of being together. With wonderful results...

In Lens, in the Pas-de-Calais, the volunteer team invited Father Christmas to distribute gifts during an afternoon snack. "The children are happy, and so am I – it feels good," says Sandrine, who came with her two boys and her little girl. "The group decided to organise a snack and share a moment of conviviality and love," explains Vanessa, one of the association's facilitators. "No matter where we come from, the important thing is being together."

In Saint-Nicolas, near Granville, around fifty people shared a solidarity meal organised by Secours Catholique and the parish, with support from local shopkeepers. "Generally, someone who comes one year comes back the next," smiles Jean-Paul, wearing a Christmas hat. "It means that families or isolated people – sometimes disabled or ill – don't find themselves alone on those days." "I was alone yesterday for Christmas Eve, so I came today. It does me a lot of good to see people," says Pascal.

In Arras, in the Pas-de-Calais, a bus brought around forty guests to the *maison du temps libre* for a lunch followed by a gift-giving. "I was alone, so I said yes. It lifts people's spirits, because unfortunately we're among the forgotten ones," says Kévin. "It's been eight, maybe nine Christmases that I spent completely alone," explains Daniel. "So when you've spent all those years by yourself, a moment like this really warms the heart."

CREATION OF A FEDERATION OF FAMILY HOUSES

Throughout 2025, Secours Catholique – Caritas France worked with its partners to finalise the arrangements for the creation of, its participation in, and its commitment to the Federation of Family Houses, whose establishment was officially confirmed on 2 December during the constitutive General Assembly. The Federation is composed of three colleges: the college of active members, namely the 24 Family Houses already in existence; the college of ex officio members, made up of the three national associations behind the development of the network and the Federation (Secours Catholique, Apprentis d'Auteuil, and the Salvation Army Foundation); and the college of partner or associate member organisations, among which ATD Quart-Monde.

The three founding members commit to supporting the development of the network by opening one to two new Family Houses per year, with the aim of reaching 40 houses by 2030. A new network coordination team is being set up, with a general delegate appointed at the first meeting of the Board of Directors, who will form a small team of coordinators based at the Federation's headquarters at 106 rue du Bac in Paris.

HOUSES THAT HELP FAMILIES FLOURISH

During this year of finalising the creation of the Federation, the Family Houses themselves were very active.

In Saint-Brieuc, at parents' request, swimming lessons were organised at the municipal pool for around ten people, who now look forward to summer swimming opportunities with greater confidence and enjoyment.

In Villeurbanne, as part of its parents' popular university, members of the Family House reflected on their relationship with screens. This work resulted in an interactive "forum theatre" performance to bring the issue to life on stage.

In Le Havre, the Family House was strongly involved in *Octobre Rose* in collaboration with the local women's centre, taking part in walks and bake sales to support breast-cancer research.

In Chambéry, the Family House and the Secours Catholique delegation explored the notion of fraternity – more difficult to grasp than liberty or equality – seeking answers from a wide range of people (a police officer, a priest, an imam, a teacher, a social worker...). The results were presented as an exhibition, workshop, and "fraternity mural" on 5 December, during the Family House's fifth anniversary celebration, attended by nearly 200 institutional and associative partners.

In Vaulx-en-Velin, parents from the Family House wanted to counter media accusations of "neglectful parents". Supported by a theatre troupe, they explored the prejudices that rural residents have about city dwellers, and vice versa.

The resulting performance was staged in several villages in the Drôme – a "tour" that was filmed for a documentary. Another highly original project in 2025 was the documentary series *ASE toi-même!* Born from a meeting between child-protection professionals (ASE) and parents from the Vaulx-en-Velin Family House, it is available as a podcast. Three ten-minute episodes recount painful childhood journeys, mutual perceptions, fears, misunderstandings, questions – and also an opportunity to listen and be shaken up by what emerges, everything that had previously gone unseen. ■

“A YEAR RICH IN
MOBILISATION AND MEANINGFUL
ACTION ACROSS THE FAMILY
HOUSES NETWORK.”

ENABLING PARTICIPATION AND GIVING VOICE TO THE POOREST

L'APOSTROPHE IN SEARCH OF LOVE

For its 14th issue, *L'Apostrophe* – Secours Catholique – Caritas France's magazine written by people with lived experience of poverty – invited a group from Côtes-d'Armor in Brittany to reflect on the theme "*Love in question(s)*" during a writing workshop. The answers offered by participants to this vast question of love, in turn, challenge the way society looks at the poorest.

"The real poverty is not only material; real poverty is the lack of love," confides Béatrice. Speaking about the support offered to people in precarious situations, Daniel observes: "When I go to a Secours Catholique day centre, the volunteers come to see me and talk to me – they surely do it out of love; but it's another kind of love, it's fraternity, which helps break loneliness. But my heart is still lacking – I would love to be able to hold someone in my arms and press them to my heart."

This issue's authors also explore the idea of poverty of the heart, defined by one of them as: "Real poverty of the heart is the absence of sharing, the refusal to give – that simple act which elevates the soul." Before concluding: "The greatest poverty is the one that extinguishes the soul and steals our humanity."

A NEW CYCLE BEGINS FOR CAN

In 2025, the third cycle of Secours Catholique – Caritas France's CAN came to an end. After exploring "shared governance" and then the "advocacy style" the organisation should adopt, its members – bringing together a wide diversity of experiences (poverty, community organising, administration, leadership) – turned their attention to what a "just ecological transition" would look like.

Their work resulted in a collection of verbatim testimonies entitled "*Le cri du CAN*"; – a contribution to the development of an educational game on climate issues, "*L'Odyssée écologie-pauvreté*" and input that helped shape the reference text adopted at Secours Catholique's 2025 General Assembly. This took place in June 2025.

At the end of the year, a new, fourth cycle of the CAN began. Its new members will work on the theme of "accompaniment" – unconditional accompaniment, as claimed by Secours Catholique, running counter to the idea of meritocracy that dominates society and fuels the stigmatisation of the most vulnerable. It is an idea the association must examine, even at the risk of being challenged in its own practices. ■

KEEPING SPIRITUALITY ALIVE

PASSING ON THE FLAME OF THE JUBILEE OF HOPE

In 2025, the Catholic Church celebrated its Jubilee, placed under the symbol of hope by Pope Francis. Secours Catholique – Caritas France and the Saint-Laurent network offered a full animation pathway to their networks to support groups and individuals in a process of sharing and encounter around the flame of hope – a symbol of peace, solidarity, and fraternity. The animation kit created for the occasion included: seven adaptable proposals depending on the participants (transmission of the Bethlehem light, fraternal

visits, Gospel sharing and testimonies), a range of practical materials (quiz, texts to share, making lanterns and flame-objects), as well as inspiring resources drawn from testimonies of partners in the Holy Land.

The aim was to respond to the Jubilee's call by strengthening ties between groups, associations, and people experiencing hardship, and to bear witness to a living hope around every one of us.



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“THE POOR, PILGRIMS OF HOPE. WORDS AND COLOURS”

On 16 November 2025, the World Day of the Poor, the Saint-Laurent network released *“The Poor, Pilgrims of Hope. Words and Colours”*, a collection of testimonies born from the meditation and writing work of around thirty Christian groups brought together through the network. Most contributors live in situations of deep poverty or social exclusion, and their reflections on trust, resilience, and hope reveal a profound human insight – a distinctive relationship to hope that opens new ways of hearing and interpreting the Word of God.

Complementing these texts, mandalas created during an artistic residency in 2025 add a vivid palette of colour to the strength of the words, offering a visual echo to the spiritual depth expressed throughout the collection.

TWO “VISITATIONS” OF THE SAINT-LAURENT NETWORK IN LOURDES

Since its creation in 2005, the Saint-Laurent network has brought together more than a hundred Christian groups who, within the Church, share a path of fraternity and faith with and from people experiencing deep poverty and social exclusion.

In this Jubilee year, two fraternal and spiritual “visitations,” centred on the theme of hope, brought together more than 450 people for two five-day gatherings, in July and August, at the Cité Saint-Pierre in Lourdes. Organised by the Saint-Laurent network and Secours Catholique – Caritas France, these gatherings – held every two years – pursue several aims: listening to the words and faith testimonies of the poorest; connecting those who are committed to living fraternity with the poorest within Christian communities; and doing so in a spirit of celebration, mutual support, renewal, and shared learning.

THEOLOGICAL SESSIONS WITH PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HARDSHIP

For the eighteenth time in 2025, the Espace Bernadette-de-Nevers welcomed 80 members of the Saint-Laurent network for a pastoral theology session. This initiative invites parishioners and theologians to listen to how people in the Saint-Laurent network express the way the Gospel resonates within them – and to allow themselves to be challenged and shifted by their life experience and by the expression of their faith.

In 2025, similar sessions were also held in Strasbourg and in Belgium, each bringing together 60 to 80 participants from various Saint-Laurent groups, including those from Toulouse, Brittany, and beyond.

“SEVENTY YEARS AFTER ITS CREATION, THE CITÉ SAINT-PIERRE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE AND BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER.”

CITÉ SAINT-PIERRE: SEVENTY YEARS OF WELCOMING THE MOST VULNERABLE IN LOURDES

The Cité Saint-Pierre was founded in 1955 from the strong conviction of Monsignor Jean Rodhain, founder of Secours Catholique – Caritas France: to enable people living in deep poverty to experience the Lourdes pilgrimage with dignity. On 1

August 2025, to mark the 70th anniversary of this place of fraternal welcome, an open-air Mass was celebrated in front of the “Cathedral of Greenery”, presided by Father François Odinet, chaplain-general of Secours Catholique, in the presence of Father Michel

Daubanes, rector of the Lourdes sanctuary, and Father Jean-François Penhouet, chaplain of the Cité Saint-Pierre. Members of the Saint-Laurent network – itself born during the Cité’s 50th anniversary – attended in large numbers for the celebrations and the festive evening. It was a powerful reminder that, seventy years on, the Cité Saint-Pierre still inspires and gathers people.

Throughout this anniversary year, many retreats and moments of sharing took place:

JEAN-RODHAIN SESSION, 3-6 FEBRUARY

Created fifteen years ago at the initiative of Luc Dubrulle, priest of the Diocese of Lille and leading specialist on Jean Rodhain, these sessions aim to transmit the founder’s intuitions, pedagogy, and practical approach to charity.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT, 24-30 MARCH

For the second consecutive year, Secours Catholique invited its delegations – employees, volunteers, and people supported by the organisation – to take part in an Ignatian-inspired spiritual retreat.

LAUDATO SI’ WEEK, 12-21 MAY 2025

The Cité Saint-Pierre community joined the international *Laudato Si’* movement to mark the tenth anniversary of Pope Francis’s encyclical. The programme included activities led by each team at the Cité: workshop on making eco-friendly household products – hike to the summit of the Béout – seasonal, locally sourced meals – visits to local

initiatives such as the Vic-en-Bigorre recycling centre – and a conference by Arnaud Favart, priest of the Mission de France and delegate for rural ministry at the French Bishops’ Conference, on the theme: “*Can ecology foster dialogue between people, with nature, and with God?*”

RESUMPTION OF BIBLICAL SESSIONS IN JERUSALEM

Traditionally held two to four times a year at Secours Catholique’s Maison d’Abraham, these sessions had been suspended during the Covid crisis and postponed again due to the war. Finally, in December 2025, they were able to resume, with a group of employees and volunteers – fewer than usual, but whose presence, in such difficult times and places, carried a strong symbolic weight for both Palestinians and Israelis, grateful not to be left in isolation.

TWELFTH AND FINAL HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE OF THE SAINT-LAURENT NETWORK

In 2025, Secours Catholique – Caritas France concluded a cycle of pilgrimages to the Holy Land begun shortly before the Covid crisis, intended for Saint-Laurent network groups. The final pilgrimage took place from 25 April to 3 May with 29 participants from five network groups: Caritas Alsace, Bartimée (Toulouse), Lazare (Nantes, Lille, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Lyon, Sarrians) and Massabielle (Marseille). Forty days before departure, participants gathered at the Sarrians bastide for the first true step of their pilgrimage – ready, despite the precarious situations many face, to carry hope among themselves and all the way to the Holy Land and the Maison d’Abraham, where they were welcomed.

RETURNING TO THE SOURCES OF THE CHURCH’S SOCIAL TEACHING

The Church’s social teaching is one of the key foundations of Secours Catholique – Caritas France’s major texts: its statutes, ethical charter, organisational project, and the document “*Responsibilities and Powers*”, which defines leadership selection and internal organisation. The mission entrusted to Secours Catholique by the Church of France in 2023 states clearly that “the Church’s social doctrine is the compass of Secours Catholique”. To help delegations deepen this teaching, understand its history and relevance, and see how it illuminates the association’s actions, in 2025 Secours

Catholique launched a one-day training module, "Discovering Catholic Social Teaching", open to all. Created by the Gironde delegation, Ceras, and the national Spiritual Animation and Diakonia department, the training proved useful. In 2025 several sessions were held in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Périgord-Agenais, and Hérault. ■

STRENGTHENING FRATERNAL AND INTER-RELIGIOUS BONDS

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN FRATERNITY – 4 FEBRUARY

Since 2022, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has chosen to celebrate 4 February, declared the *International Day of Human Fraternity* by the United Nations General Assembly at the initiative of Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar. This commitment takes shape through 1) the facilitation and coordination of the "4 February" collective, which brings together organisations committed to amplifying the message of fraternity on this day; 2) contributions to the "Fraternity Barometer" (content, analysis, dissemination) and to the work of the "Fraternity Lab" (see next section); 3) ensuring coherence among initiatives led by various actors (associations, civil society, education sector, businesses, local authorities, public institutions, political actors); 4) the joyful and determined implementation of the association's project for a "fraternal revolution".

In 2025, an activity pack was created for Secours Catholique teams wishing to organise, experience, and observe this day.

At national level, the highlight of the celebration took place at the *Arche de la Fraternité* in La Défense, designated as the annual gathering point for the collective and for all those who, like Secours Catholique, believe that fraternity concerns everyone.

Across the network, more and more delegations observed the day. In Orléans, intercultural and inter-religious moments of sharing were held for the second consecutive year around snacks, a meal, and even a friendly indoor football match. In Grenoble, a march once again brought together around 300 people of all backgrounds, convictions,

and faiths, united under a single banner: "Fraternity", accompanied by a quotation from Pastor Martin Luther King: "*We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.*" A similar march was held for the first time in Bourgoin-Jallieu, in Isère.

PARTICIPATION IN THE 7TH EDITION OF THE "FRATERNITY BAROMETER"

Since 2018, the Fraternity Lab has published an annual Fraternity Barometer, based on data collected by the French polling institute IFOP, measuring the state of diversity, social cohesion, and mutual engagement among people in France. Secours Catholique – Caritas France (along with members of the 4 February collective) contributed to this survey, whose results and analyses – produced by the Fraternity Lab and by the associations and movements of the collective – are unveiled each year on 4 February.

While certain trends are clearly taking root in society (a growing sense of loneliness, particularly among young people; increasing mistrust of others, especially foreigners), the 2025 Barometer also reveals a persistent and genuine aspiration to act fraternally, to venture into encounters with those who are different from oneself. Positive perceptions of diversity are once again on the rise, and when respondents are asked what could foster greater fraternity in France, concrete and accessible avenues for action begin to emerge.

In 2025, Secours Catholique – Caritas France was part of the steering team for the publication and contributed to the creation and launch of the Fraternity Lab association. It reflected on the MNA's view of how people in France relate to fraternity.

CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS IN LOURDES UNDER THE BANNER OF "ENSEMBLE AVEC MARIE"

From 18 to 21 October 2025, Christians and Muslims gathered in Lourdes to share an experience of encounter, prayer, reflection, fraternity, and meditation around the figure of Mary – a model of faith in

God both in the Gospel and in the Qur'an. Organised by the association *Ensemble avec Marie*, of which Secours Catholique – Caritas France is a member, this gathering invited participants to reflect, to recharge spiritually, to share, to get to know one another, and to walk together on a path of hope.

Around one hundred participants were welcomed for the weekend at the Cité Saint-Pierre. The event was the subject of a 45-minute radio report by Véronique Gaymard for her programme *Religions du monde* on RFI (Radio France Internationale). ■

KEEPING CREATIVITY ALIVE



SEBASTIEN LE CLEZIO / SCCF

FOURTH EDITION OF THE ESTIVALES, THE NATIONAL CULTURE-CREATIVITY GATHERINGS

Just as human beings have a vital need to eat, receive care, find housing, or dress themselves, they also need to feel connected to others, to deepen their understanding of the world around them, and to encounter works of art and of the mind in order to enrich their own sensitivity and their personal way of expressing themselves, of becoming authors of

their own lives, of unfolding their potential. Secours Catholique – Caritas France has long been convinced of this and encourages its delegations, through the actions they carry out, to make culture accessible to those who feel furthest from it.

With the aim of multiplying creative and cultural opportunities – sources of personal fulfilment and social cohesion – Culture-Creativity gatherings are organised every two years. The fourth edition of the

Estivales was held from 13 to 18 July 2025 at the Cité Saint-Pierre in Lourdes, on the theme of movement. Bringing together around one hundred people experiencing hardship and volunteers from about fifteen delegations, these gatherings fulfil several objectives. First, to allow each participant to experience personal transformation and to discover the powerful emancipatory and re-mobilising potential of artistic practice. But also – through a pathway entitled “*Dare to Animate*” – to encourage volunteers, including those with lived experience of poverty, to embark on cultural and creative activities, or to deepen their approach to leading them.

Over six days, through a variety of workshops, participants were able to share their practices, compare them with those of others, discover new ones, train in facilitation, and give free rein to their creativity. Two professional artists – a visual artist and a dancer – contributed to the programme, opening participants to new pedagogical possibilities.

This edition of the *Estivales* held particular significance, as it also aimed to develop ideas to ensure that Secours Catholique's 80th anniversary in 2026 becomes a true celebration within the delegations.

TWO NEW ARTISTIC RESIDENCIES

Secours Catholique – Caritas France began offering artistic residencies in 2021, convinced that taking time to nurture the creativity of people supported by the organisation is also a powerful lever in the fight against isolation and poverty. Two new residencies were organised in 2025.

The first, held from 7 to 10 February in Biviers, brought together around twenty participants accompanied by four musicians, who explored songwriting and musical composition. The second, from 12 to 16 May at the Maison du Sappel in Ain, welcomed a group of around thirty members of the Saint-Laurent network and introduced them to the art of the mandala. Their creations illustrated the book “The Poor, Pilgrims of Hope. Words and Colours”. ■

>>> IN BRIEF

A TRUCK CALLED *SOURIRE*

For the past two years, a truck in Secours Catholique colours has been travelling through the north-east of the Gard, between Laudun-l'Ardoise, Tresques, Saint-Victor-la-Coste and Bagnols-sur-Cèze, its home base. Two to three times a week, it offers quality clothing for sale at prices between 2 and 5 euros.

“The idea emerged during the first lockdown, when it became clear that many people were struggling to get around,” explains Corinne, who leads this initiative, aptly named ‘*A Smile Dresses You*’. “So, we decided to bring the shop to them.”

CREATING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN NEIGHBOURS

The working-class neighbourhood of Porte d'Orléans, in northern Paris, had long been an area with no community organisations. Established for many years in a nearby district, Secours Catholique decided to reach out to these modest-income residents by running a street café. It then joined with other associations to lead the creation of a new space at the foot of residential buildings, named “*Tisseur de liens*” (“Weaver of bonds”). Inaugurated in May 2025, the venue received accreditation as a *Social Living Space* (*Espace de vie sociale*) from the Family Allowance Fund (CAF).

HOME VISITS FOR SOCIAL CONNECTION

In Vitré, around fifteen volunteers have taken on the mission of visiting people who feel lonely, in their own homes. “The social needs assessment revealed how significant loneliness is in our area,” explains André, Secours Catholique's representative on the municipal social action centre. “And in fact, the people we meet for material needs very often express a sense of isolation.” This is how the idea for these visits emerged. They take place once a week or every fortnight, with a phone call between visits to maintain contact.

A TELEPHONE SERVICE TO ADDRESS ISOLATION

Ouessant, the westernmost island off the coast of Brittany, now has its own Secours Catholique branch, which offers a daily telephone helpline ensuring callers' anonymity. “The basic idea is to break the solitude of certain residents who don't dare speak up, because news travels fast on the island. So, after a phone call, we go and spend a friendly moment with them, bringing presence and a sense of safety,” explains Daniel, one of the volunteers. The team has already been able to repair a roof after a storm and support a woman facing domestic abuse.





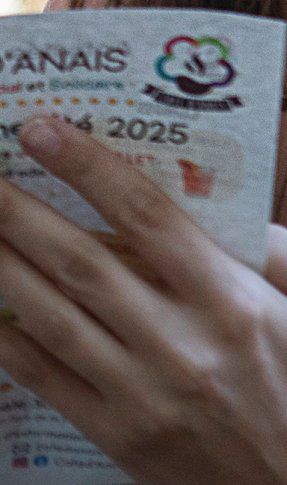
REGION

IN NÎMES, A CREATIVE SOLIDARITY CAFÉ TO REBUILD SOCIAL TIES

At Café Anais (*Associations nîmoises d'action et d'intervention sociale*, of which Secours Catholique is a member), no one is required to make a purchase in order to be welcomed. In this space in the heart of Nîmes, people can attend a French class, take part in a knitting or writing workshop, or watch a film screening. They can also pick up second-hand clothing or hygiene kits... or simply enjoy a coffee, tea, or lemonade at the counter.

"The café is open to everyone – people experiencing hardship or not, students, retirees..." explains the project coordinator. "We want to break social and symbolic barriers so that residents can meet, talk, and step out of isolation."

Nothing stops the volunteer team at Café Anais in its commitment to fostering social inclusion. Every Saturday morning, they pedal their cargo tricycle to Place Saint-Charles, the gateway to a priority neighbourhood where poverty levels are high. It's an effective way to build a bridge between this disadvantaged area and a rather affluent city centre. Bernadette, 73, is delighted to see the tricycle arrive in her neighbourhood: "I spend my days alone at home. No one comes to visit me. With this street café, at least I have a bit of company." ■



CHRISTOPHE HARGUES / SCCF



SCAN THIS CODE TO READ
THE FULL REPORT ON THE
SECOURS CATHOLIQUE
WEBSITE

FIGHTING POVERTY THROUGH ACCESS TO RIGHTS FOR ALL

THROUGH ITS SUPPORT FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE – everywhere, in villages, towns, and their suburbs – Secours Catholique – Caritas France has a unique and compassionate understanding of poverty in France. Since 1995, it has documented this reality in a statistical report, the thirtieth edition of which was published in 2025. This retrospective edition presents three decades of poverty in France, based on the analysis of 2.7 million households encountered.

The overwhelming worsening of poverty levels – particularly among women, children, and foreign nationals – reflects a society that is becoming harsher toward its most vulnerable members. For indeed, “enforcement”, sanctions, and denial of rights do not set people back in motion; they deepen their difficulties. The times are merciless, but Secours Catholique neither gives up nor lets down its guard. Together with its partners, it does not hesitate to take legal action whenever the State fails in its obligations: to ensure decent shelter, even for the most vulnerable; to issue residence permits that have been legitimately obtained; to apply proportionate sanctions; and to avoid leaving minors on the streets.

There have been important victories, supported by institutions that safeguard fundamental rights, such as the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights. And Secours Catholique remains firmly committed to acting as a (re)awakener of confidence – confidence in oneself, in others, and in a just and fraternal society.



ANTHONY MICALLEF / SDCF

RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN DEMOCRATIC LIFE

MOBILISATION AHEAD OF THE 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

For thirty years, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has mobilised – and mobilised its local teams – around municipal elections. This electoral moment is a valuable opportunity to make both the association's proposals and the voices of people experiencing precarity heard, with a genuine hope of impact at this political level, where elected officials are closer to local realities and more accessible.

From summer 2025 onwards, Secours Catholique offered its delegations a range of tools.

First, general tools to remind teams of key election dates and to outline the main themes and proposals to be carried forward in the name of the association. Then, specific resources corresponding to three possible levels of involvement, depending on each team's motivation and capacity.

Awareness-raising and encouraging voting. This first level enables delegations to at least discuss

the municipal elections internally and to explain the responsibilities of mayors, so that the reasons for Secours Catholique's engagement in local politics are clearly understood. Various tools were provided: technical sheets on the powers of municipalities and inter-municipal bodies, posters to display in welcome centres to spark discussion, and even a quiz to use within teams or with people supported by the organisation.

Fostering dialogue. Based on the realities of poverty observed locally – and recalling past advocacy achievements – this level aims to create the conditions for imagining and formulating concrete proposals ahead of the municipal elections. It is also a process to be initiated with partners and other local actors, in order to set an entire ecosystem in motion.

Advocacy and mobilisation. For delegations wishing to encourage collective action and initiate real social change at the local level, Secours Catholique has designed facilitation tools to help



GAEL KERBAOL / SCSF

them approach and invite elected officials and candidates to engage in dialogue, to ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable are heard, and to put forward concrete proposals. To avoid multiplying separate actions – and instead

anchor them within a coherent, shared advocacy approach – delegations are encouraged to rely on documents such as the State of Poverty 2025 report, which traces thirty years of analysis of the countless situations of poverty encountered daily across France. They are also invited to draw on the report *The Climate Crisis as Experienced by Those Who Live It*, which demonstrates how, in France as elsewhere, the most vulnerable are the first to be affected by the consequences of climate change, despite having the smallest environmental footprint.

SPARKING A MOVEMENT OF CONFIDENCE (RE)AWAKENERS

In an increasingly polarised political and social climate – where hateful discourse is becoming normalised, where mistrust erodes the foundations of fraternity, where attitudes toward the poorest and toward foreigners are hardening, and where dialogue is seizing up – Secours Catholique – Caritas France launched, in February 2025, a network-wide initiative entitled “(Re)Awakeners of Confidence”.

This initiative is a challenge the association sets for itself: to help restore trust between people, whatever their differences in viewpoints or life experience – the same trust that is lived daily between volunteers and the people they accompany in all the association's welcome centres.

A booklet was distributed to delegations, offering various facilitation ideas to be combined with other key mobilisation moments throughout the year. ■

FIGHTING FOR ACCESS TO SOCIAL RIGHTS

EVOLVING FROM AID COMMISSIONS TO AID-AND-RIGHTS COMMISSIONS

Within Secours Catholique – Caritas France, aid commissions – present in every delegation – are spaces for discussion and discernment regarding the granting of significant financial assistance or small boosts for people facing heightened difficulties or unexpected needs. Their scope, functioning, composition, and organisation vary from one delegation to another, and sometimes even from one territory to the next.

In 2025, a team made up of delegation members and staff from the national headquarters worked for

several months not to standardise practices – which are rooted in local histories, territories, and needs – but to identify the good practices worth retaining and to define the necessary developments.

The guidance note resulting from this work offers a shared definition of what is expected from these commissions. In particular, it emphasises that their mission should not be limited to granting aid – even though such aid remains essential in these times of rising precarity – but that they should also be attentive, aware, and trained in matters relating to support toward access to rights, in close collaboration with local teams. Far too many people still struggle to



SEBASTIEN LE CLÉZIO / SCOF

complete procedures for accessing social rights and to obtain the benefits to which they are entitled.

The rate of non-take-up of certain benefits – as well as suspensions or breaks in rights – remains high for multiple reasons, and the response cannot simply be to refer people to social workers. The working group therefore proposed renaming these commissions *Aid and Rights Commissions* (CAD).

This guidance note completes a set of four documents produced in recent years, which includes: a document defining the place of the aid policy within Secours Catholique; another outlining the role and expectations of “welcome, listening and support” centres; and a third designed to help delegations draft their own aid policy.

CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE NATIONAL FAMILY ALLOWANCE FUND (CNAF)

As a member of several coalitions of associations – including Alerte, Access to Rights, and Pacte du pouvoir d’agir (a French NGO focused on empowerment and community organisation) – Secours Catholique – Caritas France multiplies opportunities to report to the National Family Allowance Fund (CNAF) the dysfunctions and situations of non-take-up observed by its teams in the field. This long-standing dialogue is bearing fruit: in September 2024, the CNAF launched an internal audit across nine CAF offices and several departments, with the aim of verifying the proper application of rules governing the suspension of rights, detailing prevention and support

mechanisms, and examining how national guidance is implemented locally.

Published in 2025, the audit results confirmed the existence of numerous dysfunctions. The CNAF acknowledged that improvements were needed, particularly in its written communication with beneficiaries. It emerged that notifications are not issued consistently from one CAF to another, nor depending on whether they are generated manually or automatically. They are also often incomplete: no indication of the type of supporting document required, nor that providing it is necessary to avoid suspension of rights – which leads to repeated interruptions.

The CNAF has committed to presenting an action plan to harmonise and correct its practices. It also created an ethics committee on the use of algorithms that target certain categories of beneficiaries – for example, single-parent families, who are monitored far more often than others. Secours Catholique has a representative on this ethics committee: a volunteer from a welcome-listening-support team in the Loiret, who brings both strong technical expertise and solid field experience.

ENDING THE INCLUSION OF GIFTS FROM RELATIVES IN RSA CALCULATIONS

This may seem like a minor advocacy victory – but it is not. Until recently, when an RSA recipient received financial help from a relative (except for support falling under legal maintenance obligations or alimony), that amount was counted as household income, leading to a reduction in the RSA payment. Secours Catholique – Caritas France and its partners had long called for these family gifts to be excluded from RSA calculations. Since 1 July 2025, this is now the case – and it is a welcome change. The previous practice was particularly unfair, both for beneficiaries and for their relatives who simply wanted to give them a helping hand. ■

“GIFTS FROM RELATIVES
IN RSA CALCULATIONS: AN
UNFAIR PRACTICE FINALLY
ENDED.”



ÉLODIE PÉRIOT / SCSF

INTERVIEW WITH

MATHILDE NUGUE, HEAD OF THE POVERTY AND TERRITORIES ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT.

THIRTY YEARS OF
INSIGHT INTO POVERTY:
A CALL FOR COLLECTIVE
ACTION

In 2025, Secours Catholique published its 30th statistical report on poverty in France – an opportunity to look back over three decades of data and observe how situations have evolved: a growing proportion of women and families, and more people living with long-term illness or disability. Here's what the data reveals

It has been thirty years since Secours Catholique began publishing a statistical report on poverty in France. What prompted this initiative?

Mathilde Nugue: In 1995, for the first time, Secours Catholique chose to publish what its volunteers were observing daily, at a moment when poverty was at the forefront of public concern. Declared a "national cause" by the government in 1994, poverty was recognised as a phenomenon requiring collective action. With the publication of its first report, Secours Catholique sought to contribute to the draft law on combating exclusion, alongside other civil-society actors.

Year after year, this report – based on the lived experiences of people welcomed by the association – has become a true barometer of poverty in all its forms, aimed at society and public authorities. For the 2025 edition, we analysed the situation of more than 2.7 million households welcomed over the past thirty

years, in order to document how poverty has evolved over time and in response to public policies.

What conclusions emerge from analysing the data collected over all these years?

Mathilde Nugue: The data tells the story of an almost continuous impoverishment of the households we welcome – mainly women and children. We were surprised to find that there were already many single mothers thirty years ago. We also see a dramatic rise in extreme poverty among foreign nationals deprived of rights, an increase in people with poor health, and, since 2017, a rise in the number of working poor.

We closely examined the situation of newly arrived foreign nationals coming to our welcome centres and established a clear correlation between their countries of origin and the list of countries considered "at risk" by the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA). The foreign nationals we welcome often come from regions marked by conflict or severe instability threatening their safety or lives – a reality we have observed for nearly thirty years. Yet over the past fifteen years, foreign nationals have increasingly lacked stable residence permits, whether their asylum claims have been rejected or are still pending, due to progressively stricter conditions for accessing rights and residency. This largely explains the alarming rise in

households with no income whatsoever: 26% in 2025, compared with 10.1% thirty years ago.

Many French households are also among these 26% – people who do not access the rights and benefits to which they are entitled.

Finally, by combining several health-related indicators (benefit receipt, disability, illness), we observe a troubling trend: people falling into vulnerable situations because of health problems – sometimes work-related – or disability. Once again, the reduction in associated social benefits and the difficulty of accessing them make daily life even more precarious.

What should we take from these observations?

Mathilde Nugue: First, that no one is poor by choice or by preference. And second, that instability is not inevitable.

In 1994, the fight against exclusion was declared a "national cause", paving the way for major legislative advances and improving the situation of households during the first fifteen years we observed. Then, from the mid-2000s onwards, growing stigmatisation of people in vulnerable situations led to a series of activation policies that tightened access to social rights. Today, people must work more to receive unemployment benefits or a pension. Access to the RSA is now conditional on completing fifteen hours of weekly activity.

The result: in 2025, INSEE announced a record poverty rate for 2024 – the highest in nearly thirty years – at 15.4%. That represents nearly 10 million people living below the poverty line, set at €1,316 per month for a single person. And this announcement was met with near-indifference, reflecting how society's view of the poorest has hardened.

The text written at our request by two groups of people experiencing vulnerability – one in Isère and the other in Tarn-et-Garonne – illustrates this shift in attitudes and the contempt people feel weighing on them.

This is the core purpose of the report: to invite society to better understand the realities lived by households, to move beyond preconceived ideas, and to act together. It is a genuine call for a collective awakening. Because fighting poverty is a matter of collective and political choice. ■

1994-2024: EVOLVING PROFILES

Overall, the diversity of situations encountered makes it impossible to draw a single "typical profile" of the people welcomed thirty years apart.

However, we can outline 4 types.

IN 1994, SECOURS CATHOLIQUE VOLUNTEERS MOST OFTEN MET:

- ▶ Women living alone, with or without children, whose careers were fragmented by precarious work (involuntary part-time, short contracts), seeking listening, advice, support, and food aid.
- ▶ Households facing unemployment and reaching the end of their benefits, requesting administrative support and food aid as they struggled to find work.
- ▶ Single men of foreign nationality, living in urban areas, requesting clothing.
- ▶ People living alone, moving from one short-term job to another (seasonal work, temping) or working part-time, seeking a sympathetic ear and support.

IN 2024, THE FOUR MOST FREQUENTLY ENCOUNTERED SITUATIONS HAVE SHIFTED:

- ▶ Single mothers in precarious employment, living in social housing, now experiencing extreme poverty, requesting food aid and clothing to meet their children's needs.
- ▶ Foreign families with children (couples or single mothers), requesting administrative support due to increasingly restrictive access to prefectures.
- ▶ Women over 50 living alone, often with a health problem or disability, living in rural areas, worn down by difficult jobs, seeking a sympathetic ear and support to break social isolation.
- ▶ Single people, often young, moving between short-term jobs (seasonal work, temping) and part-time work, requesting food aid while waiting through long CAF processing times for benefit payments.

FIGHTING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AND ENSURING ACCESS TO A DECENT INCOME

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FULL-EMPLOYMENT LAW

Committed for many years to the right for everyone to have adequate means of existence, Secours Catholique – Caritas France took a stand as early as 2023 against the spirit of the so-called full-employment law, which undermines the unconditional nature of this right.

In 2025, the law entered a new phase with the publication, on 30 May, of the decree specifying the sanctions applied to people registered with France Travail from the very first “failure” (non-compliance with the engagement contract, missing an appointment, etc.). These sanctions range from a 30% to 100% suspension of unemployment benefits or RSA. This decree completes the coercive component of the full-employment law, which now requires all people registered with France Travail to “earn” their RSA or unemployment benefits through a minimum of fifteen hours of compulsory weekly activities.

By allowing a 100% suspension of income at the first sanction level, a red line has been crossed – one that replaces trust with suspicion, support with constraint, and the security needed to rebuild one’s life with the threat of losing all income.

Numerous studies show the ineffectiveness of such sanctions, which are even counterproductive: instead of re-motivating people, they discourage them, push them to abandon their rights, and make them disappear from the system – and therefore from any possibility of support. Another harmful effect: out of fear of losing their income, people may feel forced to accept any job, even extremely precarious. While the goal of full employment is laudable, Secours Catholique reminds us that full employment “at any cost” cannot be a societal project.

LEGAL ACTION BEFORE THE CONSEIL D’ÉTAT FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THE “SANCTIONS” DECREE

Faced with unprecedented tightening of social policies and the deterioration of dialogue with public authorities – who no longer seem to heed studies, reports, testimonies, or proposals – sixteen

associations and trade unions took the historic decision, at the initiative of Secours Catholique, to file an appeal before the Conseil d’État, requesting the repeal of the decree of 30 May 2025.

Twelve legal arguments were put forward, including: violation of the right to adequate means of existence; disproportionate sanctions relative to the alleged failure; increased risk of non-take-up and exclusion; risk of pushing people further away from stable employment; stronger discrimination against people with limited digital access; and the lack of resources for supporting users – a concern raised by France Travail staff and social workers, represented by their unions in this appeal.

Due to budget cuts and deteriorating working conditions, integration professionals report a loss of meaning in their work and a weakening of their support missions, particularly because of the widespread increase of checks. France Travail has set a target of 1.5 million checks in 2027, compared with 500,000 two years ago.

Filed at the end of July, the appeal was presented at a press conference in October, attended by all sixteen co-claimant organisations. The initiative received wide media coverage.

A RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE IMPACT OF THE FIFTEEN-HOUR WEEKLY ACTIVITY REQUIREMENT

Wishing to document and objectively assess the impact of the fifteen-hour weekly activity requirement – both on the people concerned and on the social workers and France Travail staff who support them – Secours Catholique – Caritas France responded in 2025 to a call for research projects from the DREES (Directorate for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics), which reports to the Ministry of Solidarity and the Ministry of Labour.

The proposal was submitted jointly with partner organisation Aequitaz and two researchers: labour sociologist Maud Simonet and American political scientist John Krinsky. The project received €150,000 in funding over two years.

As part of this research, which will run until 2027,



VINCENT BOISOT / SCCF

Secours Catholique will use the participatory *Carrefour des savoirs* method, developed with Aequitaz, which draws on the knowledge and experience of people directly affected.

REPORTS FROM THE COUR DES COMPTES (COURT OF AUDIT) AND THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL CONFIRM THE VALUE OF TZCLD

By the end of 2025, the 83 *Territoires zéro chômeur de longue durée* (TZCLD) authorised in France – including three in the overseas territories – employed 4,191 people, whether or not they had previously experienced long-term unemployment. These jobs were created within *entreprises à but d'emploi* (EBE), 94 of which were officially accredited. In addition, 54 emerging projects had been registered and mapped as of late October.

Also during autumn 2025, two reports – one from the Cour des comptes and one from the Scientific Council – confirmed the “remarkable” impact of the scheme in enabling people to return to work. They did, however, highlight one caveat: the fragility of the economic model. Indeed, these initiatives have a cost – but, as Secours Catholique – Caritas France reminds us, there is no price too high for helping

people whom the public employment service is unable to reach to regain access to work. The Cour des comptes echoes this in its report: society must accept that such an approach comes with a cost.

In 2025, the central focus of Secours Catholique's advocacy – together with its partners – was to ensure that the 2026 programming law would allocate the resources needed to sustain and expand TZCLD. The proven success of the scheme relies on the mobilisation of local actors and on the trust built with the people involved.

From the outset, Secours Catholique has been deeply engaged in the TZCLD initiative. The association also took part in consultations for a draft law tabled in autumn 2025, aimed at securing long-term access to employment for people who are very far removed from the labour market. To ensure that the concept of a “right to employment” – implicit in the draft law – would be fully recognised, Secours Catholique contributed actively to discussions throughout the year, insisting that the ambition should not be reduced to a mere “right to integration”.

The association also remains vigilant in ensuring that funding is sufficient to support the smallest

and most disadvantaged territories in developing their projects.

ACCORDERIES: A REMARKABLE NETWORK IN CRISIS

"The Accorderie has become my second home." Few words capture better what an accorderie represents for people experiencing insecurity and often deep social isolation.

The first Accorderie was launched more than ten years ago, with the support of Secours Catholique – Caritas France and the Macif Foundation (Mutual Insurance Society for French Traders and Industrialists and for Managers and Employees in Industry and Commerce), based on the age-old principle of bartering. People exchange services – hairdressing, sewing, computer or bicycle repair, and more – which are remunerated in *time-currency*, where every hour has the same value regardless of the service offered. This allows people to showcase their skills, access services they could not otherwise afford, and above all, reconnect socially, join a community and regain confidence.

The idea has flourished: today, there are 50 welcome sites (30 accorderies and 24 branches) across France, in rural, urban, and suburban areas. Organised as a network, the Accorderies counted 12,226 registered members in 2025, 25% of whom live on less than €10,000 per year, and recorded 61,467 exchanges, representing 134,550 hours.

Despite these strong results, the network faced a difficult year in 2025 due to the end of *France Relance* funding, introduced after the Covid crisis. Secours Catholique advocates for the long-term continuation of this scheme, which has clearly demonstrated its effectiveness in combating poverty and strengthening people's power to act, in close connection with many Secours Catholique delegations.

LOBBYING THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANQUE DE FRANCE

Secours Catholique – Caritas France is a member of the *Observatoire de l'inclusion bancaire* (OIB), whose mission is to ensure that financially vulnerable people are protected, supported, and informed about the mechanisms available to them, and to prevent over-indebtedness.

In 2025, as part of the publication of the OIB's report on banking practices observed in 2024, representatives of Secours Catholique – including national president Didier Duriez and the head of financial inclusion – met with the Governor of the Banque de France. Their aim was to draw attention to the persistent difficulties faced by people in financial insecurity. Although they represent only 1% of bank customers, they should be considered a priority group. ■

ESTABLISHING A RIGHT TO ACCESS SUSTAINABLE AND GOOD QUALITY FOOD

CAMPAIGNING AROUND THE REPORT "THE UNFAIR PRICE OF FOOD"

As part of its "*Living and Eating Well Together*" programme, Secours Catholique – Caritas France launched in 2023 an in-depth study of the current food-pricing system, which fails to reflect the real costs borne by society and the planet: health problems, environmental damage, and the exclusion of part of the population. Conducted with the economic analysis laboratory BASIC, two groups of people directly concerned, and in partnership with Civam (centres for rural and agricultural initiatives), Solidarité Paysans, and the French Diabetes

Federation, the report – "*The Unfair Price of Food: What Costs for Society and the Planet?*" – received wide national recognition.

Six months after its publication, Secours Catholique and its partners organised a four-day gathering in Lyon in April 2025. The event brought together around thirty delegations, elected officials, and numerous partners from the social, environmental, and farming sectors, as well as a Brazilian partner of Secours Catholique and representatives from Caritas Spain. This major event marked the first step in a nationwide mobilisation ahead of the 2026 municipal elections. Secours Catholique coordinated a group of around



STEVEN WASSENAAR / SCCF

fifteen associations and, in September, published a platform of ten recommendations for candidates. Since then, Secours Catholique delegations and their local partners have organised around one hundred events to promote sustainable local food systems that reconcile decent incomes for farmers, quality food, consumer purchasing power, and environmental protection.

Secours Catholique and Action Against Hunger also produced a short documentary film, *Renverser la table*, accompanied by an educational kit designed to support awareness-raising events on these issues.

CARAV'ALIM GATHERING IN NANTES

Launched in 2024 by Secours Catholique – Caritas France and several organisations – including the National Union of Social and Solidarity Grocery Groups (Ugess), Action Against Hunger (ACF), the French Federation of Social Centres, the Civism network, and Aequitaz – the Carav'alim popular-education movement truly took off in 2025. Its ambition: to bring together organisations, local groups, and collectives around the goal of ensuring that everyone has access to chosen, sustainable food.

On 15 and 16 October 2025, to mark World Food Day,

the caravan stopped in Nantes. It was an opportunity to amplify voices from across the country advocating for food justice and promoting the collective initiatives emerging to make it a reality – weaving connections between territories, sharing practices, strengthening movements, and building strong political will around these issues.

This broad movement is coordinated nationally by a group of national associations, including Secours Catholique, and locally by around seventy groups and collectives – among them many Secours Catholique delegations engaged on these topics. Designed to act as a “loudspeaker for food injustice”, the movement encourages and generates all kinds of creative projects: videos, podcasts, posters, theatre performances... all of which testify to its vitality.

TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A “RIGHT TO CHOSEN, SUSTAINABLE FOOD”

Since its launch in 2021, the Secours Catholique – Caritas France programme has aimed to contribute to deep, structural changes in food systems. Mission accomplished: the notion of a “right to chosen, accessible and sustainable food” has now reached the national agenda. The National Consultative

Commission on Human Rights has taken up the issue and invited the association to participate in its work ahead of an opinion to be issued in 2026.

Late 2025 also saw the launch of a European Citizens' Initiative to collect the one million signatures required for the European Commission to formally address the recognition of this right at EU level.

REFERENCE GUIDE FOR FOOD-RELATED PROJECTS IN DELEGATIONS

From the outset, the *Ensemble bien vivre, bien manger* programme supported all projects promoting dignified access to sustainable, quality food – such as solidarity fresh-produce baskets and social grocery stores. In 2025, the network included 91 projects across 44 delegations, supported since 2023 by the *Mieux manger pour tous* fund. Completed in 2025, this funding was renewed for 2026 and 2027.

To support delegations wishing to evolve their practices or launch new initiatives, a comprehensive guide – “*Everything You Need to Know About Dignified Access to Sustainable, Quality Food*” – was published. This reference document, compiling existing actions, research, and resources, serves as a true “bible” for dignified access to quality food for the people supported by the association.

ACTIVITY BOOKLET ON THE MEANING OF MEALS

At the beginning of 2025, Secours Catholique – Caritas France published a facilitation booklet for delegations wishing to explore the spiritual dimension of food. Centred on the theme of the *meaning of meals*, the booklet offers selected biblical texts presented by theologians, alongside texts written by people experiencing poverty. It was later adapted by the Catholic Children's Action movement to engage younger audiences in this reflection.

That same year, 2025, Secours Catholique launched a research project with the Loyola faculties in Paris on the meaning of meals and what “eating well” truly signifies. ■

COMMITTING TO A JUST ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

SEVERAL MOBILISATION TOOLS DEVELOPED AS PART OF THE REVE INITIATIVE

As part of its internal *Révolution écologique* (RevE) process launched in 2023, Secours Catholique – Caritas France finalised three complementary tools in 2025.

1) A Reference Text: “For a Just and Fraternal Ecology: Secours Catholique’s Vision and Commitment”. Presented and adopted at the Secours Catholique General Assembly in June 2025, this foundational text was drafted using scientific and religious writings, existing materials on the subject, and the work carried out by the CAN between 2023 and 2025, as well as contributions from international partners and delegations already engaged on ecological issues. Its purpose is to serve

as a compass guiding the association's reflection and action on this wide-ranging issue.

2) A Public Awareness Tool: “Ecology-Poverty Odyssey”. Inspired by the Climate Mural, this educational game was developed by Secours Catholique with members of its network, people accompanied by the association, volunteers, and several partners: ADEME (the ecological transition agency), the Federation of Social Centres, ATD Fourth World, Scouts and Guides of France, and France Nature Environnement.

Successfully trialled throughout 2025 by 300 people across Secours Catholique's networks and partner organisations, the game aims to help as many people as possible understand the links between ecological challenges and poverty. The final version will be used



CHRISTOPHE HARGOUES / SCCF

from early 2026 to run workshops exploring these connections and identifying actions that could be implemented locally.

3) The Climate–Poverty report Produced jointly by Secours Catholique's France and International departments, this report documents the impact of climate change on the daily lives of the most vulnerable. More than 150 people who experienced extreme climate events (heatwaves, droughts, floods, cyclones...) in mainland France, the overseas territories, Brazil, Madagascar, and Tunisia describe how these disasters generated new forms of poverty or instability.

A series of recommendations accompanies the testimonies, offering guidance to help people and territories adapt to climate change.

A summary version of the report was used as an advocacy tool at COP30 in November 2025, where several representatives from the Guiana delegation, the Indigenous communities it supports, Caritas Brazil, and Secours Catholique took part (see p. 52).

ROLLING OUT A MODEL TO COMBAT ENERGY POVERTY

The agreement between the Éco Habitat network, the National Housing Agency (Anah), and Secours Catholique – Caritas France to carry out the energy renovation of nearly 200 "thermal sieves" ended in early 2025. The results confirmed the initial intuition: when homeowners in precarious situations are supported by volunteers, when renovation is financially backed by the State, and when the work is carried out by accredited *Accompagnateur Rénov* professionals, it is possible to reconcile environmental goals, household purchasing power, comfort, and even health.

In June 2025, however, the government decided to suspend the *Ma Prime Rénov* scheme until September, when it was reinstated – but with the maximum grant reduced from €70,000 to €40,000. Despite this setback, the spread of the worthy model supported by Secours Catholique has not lost momentum. Associations such as *Solidar'toit* in Poitou and *Chauffe Toit* in Maine-et-Loire were co-created following the Éco Habitat model, and several delegations – for example in Haute-Loire – are supporting people renovating their homes,

>>> IN BRIEF

A RESOURCE CENTRE FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

A new day centre for unaccompanied minors (MNA) has opened in Marseille, run jointly by the association Yes We Camp and Secours Catholique. From Tuesday to Friday, it offers legal and educational support as well as manual workshops (welding, DIY) and artistic activities. "The aim is to provide a resource space for young people left to fend for themselves, who have filed an appeal to have their minority recognised and thus receive support from the region," explains Kristel Guyon, the centre's coordinator.

FLOODS: POST-EMERGENCY SUPPORT

On 17 October 2025, the stream running through Limony, in Ardèche, turned into a torrent that swept through part of the village, causing severe damage. Volunteers from Secours Catholique's Urgences France team visited residents. "Our mission was to reach out to them and ask how they were coping," says Emmanuelle Pernot, a staff member. Volunteers noted material needs and offered those who required it long-term listening and support, provided by the local Secours Catholique team.

THE JOY OF LEARNING

In Villers-Cotterêts, volunteers welcome around ten children from Year 1 to Year 6 every Wednesday afternoon in rooms at the presbytery. The first hour is dedicated to homework help and reviewing lessons done in class. This is followed by half an hour of board games, crosswords or drawing. "This time is important for socialisation," explains Marie-France, a volunteer. "The children build relationships and then meet again in the playground, even if they're not in the same class." An annual outing and a performance for parents also help strengthen group cohesion.

ENCOURAGING ORAL EXPRESSION

For a year now, a group of 8- to 9-year-olds has been working to overcome difficulties in communicating by taking part in an oral-expression workshop set up by Secours Catholique in Aix-en-Provence. Held every Wednesday morning, it complements the homework-help programme. Improvisation, word games, riddles, reading aloud... "A bit like the Montessori approach, we want to give them the pleasure of learning freely," says Nicole, a former speech therapist and co-founder of the workshop.

working directly with local tradespeople and seeking alternative funding from partners such as Leroy Merlin and Engie.

The association is also continuing its advocacy with the State, calling for investment in a genuine public policy for energy renovation – one capable of delivering strong social and environmental impact.

ADVOCACY VICTORY: AUTOMATIC ENERGY CHEQUES RESTORED

The automatic distribution of the energy cheque was finally reinstated in the 2025 Finance Act, preventing a major setback in access to support for low-income households. When automatic delivery was removed (because the administration could no longer update the list of eligible households following the abolition of the housing tax), non-take-up skyrocketed on the online portal for new beneficiaries: in December 2025, only 169,000 cheques were requested and 106,000 used, out of 1 million expected.

Thanks to mobilisation by Secours Catholique and other organisations, this essential aid will once again be distributed automatically – sparing households unnecessary administrative hurdles.

RENEWAL OF THE REFASHION AGREEMENT

In 2025, Secours Catholique – Caritas France signed an amendment with the eco-organisation Refashion, extending by one year the three-year agreement binding them, which is due for full renewal in 2027. This funding supports a national coordination role for the textile reuse sector and strengthens the association's position as a major actor in the field.

Indeed, 62 of Secours Catholique's 72 delegations have developed textile-reuse activities, now involving more than 8,000 volunteers across around 750 shops, with an exemplary reuse rate: 45% of the roughly 4,000 tonnes of textiles collected each year. Part of the Refashion grant finances various projects in solidarity shops: educational training, convivial sewing or upcycling workshops, improvements to sales and reception areas, and the creation of new structures. By the end of the year, 260 shops had been equipped to ensure traceability of incoming and outgoing textile flows – a step forward in building a just and fraternal ecological transition, while preserving the primary role of these shops: offering welcoming, friendly, community-based spaces.

TEXTILE REUSE: A SECTOR THAT MUST BE DEFENDED

For several years now, the sorting and recycling sector for used textiles has struggled to find outlets – particularly for export – putting at risk a territorial network that is nonetheless essential.

Faced with this situation, Secours Catholique – Caritas France and its partners (Emmaüs, ESS France, the National Network of Recycling and Reuse Centres) contributed actively to the reform announced in May 2025 by the Ministry of Ecology, putting forward several proposals: supporting textile-reuse structures such as charity shops;

simplifying local collection processes; helping to build a sustainable channel for managing unsold items from solidarity shops; and ensuring the preservation of the sector's charity-based jobs.

The 'fast fashion' law passed in June 2025 is a first step in the right direction, as it aims to limit the import of ultra-cheap, short-lived items that flood the French market. Another advocacy victory is worth noting: from 1 January 2026, surplus textiles from charity shops will be collected free of charge across the entire country. ■

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE MOBILITY



XAVIER SCHWÉBEL / SCCF

ADVOCACY FOR A LONG-TERM VISION OF MOBILITY ACROSS ALL TERRITORIES

In 2025, the State launched a national consultation on transport funding – an initiative welcomed by Secours Catholique – Caritas France and its partners, who have long called for genuine long-term investment to ensure accessible and environmentally friendly mobility everywhere in the country. In its 2024 report *"Rural territories: mobility paused"*, Secours Catholique demonstrated how mobility challenges – particularly in rural areas – create major inequalities in access to rights and employment.

Advocacy efforts carried out jointly with the Climate Action Network continue, aiming to influence the State's transport-funding strategy so that it combines access to mobility with respect for planetary limits. Meanwhile, Secours Catholique delegations continue to design solidarity-based mobility solutions for the people they support (see the report from the Tarn in the following pages). ■

“ENSURING ACCESSIBLE
AND ENVIRONMENTALLY
FRIENDLY MOBILITY ACROSS
ALL TERRITORIES.”





CHRISTOPHE HARGOUËS / SCCF



REGION

IN THE TARN, SHARED CARS TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF TRANSPORT

Mobitarn is a response to transport related insecurity, devised by a Secours Catholique team in the Tarn. The principle is simple: offer a vehicle for rent for one month, renewable, at an affordable rate, to people who have no transport solution. This service is a "last-resort solution" for people in insecure situations living in a "territory designed and built for cars," explains Pauline Samain, project facilitator at Secours Catholique. "A large part of the outskirts of Albi has no public transport and is therefore only accessible by car," she adds. People without a car are effectively "excluded".

"This emergency solution saved me. I was in a mess," says Jessie, a former beneficiary. With Covid, her work as a proofreader slowed down. "I lost my biggest contracts." Debts piled up. To keep her head above water, she took on temporary home-help assignments. But her old car broke down. "I had to react urgently." She rented a small city car – "four hundred euros a month." Impossible to sustain with her low income. She eventually met the Mobitarn team, who provided her with a vehicle.

Today, Jessie owns her own car, purchased thanks to a microcredit guaranteed by Secours Catholique. "We support people until they regain autonomy," explains Thierry, a volunteer. "We help them find long-term solutions so they can take back control of their lives." ■



SCAN THIS CODE TO READ
THE FULL REPORT ON THE
SECOURS CATHOLIQUE
WEBSITE.

FIGHTING HOMELESSNESS AND POOR HOUSING



CHRISTOPHE HARGOUES / SCOF

NATIONWIDE MOBILISATION: “SUMMER OF THE POORLY HOUSED”

Contrary to what one might imagine, summer is not easier for people living on the streets: they face rising temperatures and the closure of many day centres. Nor is it favourable for people in poor housing, as public authorities regularly carry out evictions and clearances of informal living spaces – actions that are more likely to go unnoticed when many people are away on holiday.

To prevent summer 2025 from repeating the pattern of previous years, Secours Catholique – Caritas France invited its network to launch a campaign as early as June against poor housing, thereby amplifying the legal action initiated by Secours Catholique and its partners to denounce the State's inaction toward people seeking emergency shelter and those living in inadequate housing (see next page).

Several delegations joined the mobilisation, supported by a modular communication kit. Depending on volunteer availability, they contacted local media – especially during heatwave peaks – offering content or ideas for reports; communicated on Instagram and Facebook by posting key figures, quotes from people living on the street, videos of centres that remained open, or interviews explaining the heightened difficulties faced by people during the summer period.

TAKING LEGAL ACTION TO ENSURE THE RIGHT TO DECENT HOUSING FOR ALL IS UPHELD

In 2025 in France, at least 6,000 people – including 2,000 children – slept on the streets every night due to the lack of emergency accommodation. More than 100,000 households recognised as DALO-priority (Enforceable Right to Housing), often for several years, had still not been allocated social housing.

Faced with this persistent and worsening situation, after numerous appeals to public authorities that went unanswered, Secours Catholique – Caritas France, together with 39 other members of the Collective of Housing Associations, resolved to file two legal actions against the French State for “failure to assist people living in inadequate housing.” This took place on 13 February 2025.

The first action concerns the State’s systemic and persistent failure to respect the right to emergency accommodation, which is based on three principles that are no longer upheld: 1) Unconditional reception, with social distress as the sole criterion for access to emergency shelter. 2) The right to dignified reception and social support. 3) Continuity of care, meaning a prohibition on returning people to the street without a suitable alternative course of action.

The second action concerns the DALO. The exponential increase in the number of priority households left without a solution stems from a broader public policy that reduces the number of affordable and available homes for these households and the State’s failure to use the mechanisms provided by law, such as: automatic allocation of housing to eligible households when social landlords or entities holding reserved housing allocations fail to meet their obligations; developing rental intermediation programmes in the private sector to increase available housing; implementing support measures to secure access to housing for these households.

Secours Catholique and its partners hope that the courts will also recognise the harm suffered by associations supporting homeless or poorly housed people, and will order corrective measures such as: Relaunching the production of social housing – at least 150,000 units per year, including 60,000 very-low-rent units, compared with only 86,000 financed in 2024; enforcing legal priority criteria in the allocation of social housing; strengthening the emergency accommodation stock.

FORCING PREFECTS TO ENFORCE SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATION LAW

In Île-de-France, Secours Catholique – Caritas France delegations and their partners also turned to legal action to combat discrimination against the poorest households in social housing allocation. Although 25% of housing allocated outside priority neighbourhoods must go to the poorest

quarter of applicants, only 13.8% did so in 2024 at regional level.

In September 2025, actions for abuse of power were filed against the regional prefects to compel them – as the law requires – to provide substitutes for failing social landlords in allocating housing to the poorest households.

This approach has already borne fruit: the prefects of Paris, Hauts-de-Seine and Val-d’Oise have decided to use their substitution powers to ensure fairer allocation of housing.

ACTION IN LILLE

On 26 March 2025, the Nord–Lille delegation of Secours Catholique and its partners achieved a double impact in favour of equitable and dignified access to housing. During a press conference gathering around sixty civil-society actors, journalists, and people experiencing poor housing, in the morning, they presented an advocacy report highlighting the difficulties exiled people face in accessing accommodation. In the afternoon, they launched the “Failure to assist people living in inadequate housing” campaign and outlined its stakes for improving access to shelter and housing for the most disadvantaged households.

FOR DECENT CONDITIONS IN EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION

In 2025, at least 4,000 people – including 2,000 children, 500 of whom were under three years old – were left without accommodation after calling the 115 emergency number¹. These alarming figures conceal an even more concerning reality: thousands of families housed in emergency accommodation that is often unsuitable.

Ahead of both the drafting of the 2026 Finance Bill and the upcoming municipal and presidential elections, Secours Catholique – Caritas France, together with partners such as the Paris Samu Social and UNICEF France, published a position paper to raise awareness about the unsuitable reception and support conditions experienced by families.

The document comprises two sections. The first sets out recommendations addressing the seven main challenges specific to accommodating families with children: the need for privacy; differentiated spaces for parents and children; and

¹ According to the 2025 report on poor housing in France by the Foundation for Housing for the Disadvantaged, and the 2025 Children on the Street barometer by UNICEF France.

collective areas adapted for play or socio-educational activities; as well as specific support needs relating to health, schooling, perinatal care, parenting support, and the right of children to be heard. This last point is the focus of the second part of the document, which gives a voice to those directly concerned: fifteen adolescents aged 11 to 16, housed in an emergency accommodation centre (CHU) or in a hotel. Brought together for two half-day sessions, they were able to share observations and recommendations based on their own experiences and those of their families.

In Essonne, the Secours Catholique delegation supported Chemin d'avenir, a collective of women and mothers housed with their children in social hotels via the 115 emergency system, in a project to first put their advocacy and lived experience into words, and then onto the stage with the support of the theatre-school company *Le Théâtre du fil*.



CHRISTOPHE HARGOUES / SCSF

SURVEY ON ACCESS TO HOUSING IN ÎLE-DE-FRANCE CCAS

The right to an official address through a municipal social action centre (CCAS) is guaranteed to any person without stable housing, regardless of their living situation or administrative status, provided they can demonstrate a link with a municipality. Essential for accessing other civil, civic, and social rights, this right is nevertheless only partially respected by CCAS, particularly in Île-de-France. In 2024, Secours Catholique – Caritas France, as part of the Collectif Domiciliation Île-de-France, decided to substantiate the concerns raised by its teams in the field by conducting a survey of CCAS in 106 of the largest cities across the region's eight départements.

Published in March 2025, the results confirmed the collective's intuition: many municipalities filter applications by applying restrictive and illegal criteria for residency. Access to information about this mandatory public service also proves difficult. A review of municipal websites shows that information on residency services is often incomplete or entirely absent. Responses given to surveyors by CCAS staff reveal that they are poorly trained on the issue, or have received instructions reflecting a desire by certain elected officials to exclude the most vulnerable from their territory.

The harm caused by these discriminatory practices is severe. And, as the collective points out in its recommendations, municipalities are not the only ones responsible. The State also fails to fulfil its role, both by insufficiently funding CCAS and by failing to enforce this right at departmental level through Prefects, who oversee housing schemes. Delegation teams involved in the survey used its findings to engage with elected officials and Prefects. The survey also enabled local-level mobilisation and even a regional day dedicated to housing, held on 15 October at the Centre for Assistance to Asylum Seekers and Refugees (Cedre), bringing together partner organisations, researchers, and institutional representatives.

STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK OF DAY CENTRES

Volunteers in day centres, overwhelmed by increasingly difficult situations, expressed the need to redefine the shared mission of these spaces of fraternity. After eight months of collaborative work, a reference document outlining the main missions of day centres and volunteers was published in 2024.

This work connected teams across France, strengthened throughout 2025 by regional meetings in Île-de-France, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Centre, Grand Est, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, and Méditerranée. These meetings allowed teams to share good practices, support each other, visit one another, discuss new challenges, and break the isolation felt especially by rural day centres.

A national team dedicated to street outreach and extreme exclusion was created. It includes volunteers and staff from across France and aims to promote the reference document, support the network, and organise webinars on topics such as managing aggression and violence, and encouraging everyone to participate in running a day centre. A reference document for street outreach is planned for 2026. ■

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

HOLIDAYS AS A MEANS OF EMPOWERING PEOPLE

At Secours Catholique, holiday projects concern both children and adults, for individual or collective stays, thanks to the diversity of existing actions and partnerships. Everyone involved in these projects observes the same thing: holiday initiatives enable holistic support for families. They make it possible to address access to rights, parenting support, health, mobility, and more – helping to remove barriers to departure.

Holiday stays therefore have multidimensional impacts. They offer a joyful break that helps rebuild self-esteem and the capacity to act. Secours Catholique is fully aligned with its mission to fight poverty when it defends the right to holidays and builds partnerships to enable as many people as possible to go away under conditions adapted to their situations and needs.

In 2025, the €455,000 grant received from the National Agency for Holiday Vouchers (ANCV) enabled 2,300 people to take part in individual or group stays. A further 200 people left thanks to two recent partnerships: the *Je pars, tu pars, il part* foundation, which takes up holiday accommodation from tourism professionals and offers it at extremely low prices; the *Parents vacances* association, which

makes available the homes owned by socially responsible individuals to families supported by trusted partners such as Secours Catholique.

In addition, 400 children went away through *Accueil familial de vacances*, one of Secours Catholique's longstanding activities, and 230 teenagers through the national partnership with the National Union of Outdoor Sports Centres (UCPA) and the Berry-Tudy association. Slightly fewer than 100 children



benefited from locally developed partnerships enabling holiday departures. In total, more than 3,200 adults and children were able to go on holiday in 2025.

A COLLECTIVE CALL NOT TO CLOSE THE DOOR ON CHILDREN'S HOLIDAYS

When the 2026 Finance Bill and Social Security Funding Bill were announced, Secours Catholique – Caritas France joined more than 45 organisations in signing an open letter to the Prime Minister, calling for children's and their families' holidays not to be treated as an area for cost-cutting.

Two measures that have been announced effectively represent a historic setback for the right to



GAËL KERBAOL / SCCF

holidays: firstly, the 8 per cent tax on the budget for social and cultural activities organised by social and economic committees (CSEs), which are presented as salary supplements, whereas these are in fact social support schemes for families; and secondly, the complete abolition of the budget allocated to the 'Colos apprenantes' scheme (holiday camps and scouting trips), which was still set at €36.8M for the year 2025.

While the advocacy campaign succeeded in reversing this initial measure, the government has, however, gone ahead with cutting the budget for the 'Colos apprenantes' scheme. "In a country where mental health has been designated a major national cause for 2025, how can we understand that the State could contribute to the closure of spaces that contribute to the well-being and development of young people?" wondered the signatories of the letter. Yet while more than 400,000 children were able to benefit from this scheme and go on holiday, by 2024, Secours Catholique had adopted a more nuanced view of the 'Colos apprenantes' scheme. Faced with the end of this scheme, Secours Catholique is calling for the 'Pass colo' scheme to be strengthened and for the age groups it supports to

be broadened, so as not to lose sight of the benefits of children going on holiday.

HOLIDAYS ALL YEAR ROUND AT VILLA KER COËT

Ker Coët villa is an ideal setting for taking part in the 'Partir en vacances' educational programme run by Secours Catholique – Caritas France. Received from a philanthropic family, this lovely house in Pornichet, in the Loire-Atlantique region, just 350 metres from the beach, has continued since 2024 to serve as a holiday home open to everyone, particularly those most in need. It provides 250m² of floor space, accommodating 15 people in six self-contained flats, each with its own bathroom and kitchenette, and offering access to communal areas: a reception area, a living room with kitchen, a small lounge, a games room, and a large landscaped garden.

The holidays on offer range from one night to one week, depending on the season. They take place in groups made up of delegations from Secours Catholique and other partner associations and organisations. On site, a team of volunteers, supported by staff from the Loire-Atlantique regional office, works hard before and during the stays to ensure the visiting groups' needs are met.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OCEANOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

Launched in 2024, the partnership between Secours Catholique – Caritas France and the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco continued in 2025 with the organisation of a stay for five families supported by the Aix-en-Provence-Arles delegation, as part of the 'Oceano for All – family' scheme. The aim is twofold. Firstly, to enable children to discover the sea and its underwater flora and fauna, and to raise their awareness of the need to protect the ocean by demonstrating how, even when living in a town

or in the countryside, their consumption habits and waste management can affect the oceans. And, of course, to enable children and their parents to enjoy a stay in the exceptional and legendary setting of Monaco. The museum covers the costs of accommodation, meals and on-site activities, both within the museum and at sea. Another trip is planned for 2026. ■

UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

TEAMS AND VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH PEOPLE FROM OVERSEAS

Nowadays, due to their highly vulnerable circumstances – which are very often linked to barriers to accessing the law – more than half of the people receiving support at Secours Catholique – Caritas France's centres are foreign nationals (52.7 per cent in 2024, and as high as 54 per cent if children are included). This is a reality that can be observed throughout France, regardless of the type of activity, except in very rural areas – unless these are home to an accommodation centre for asylum seekers, in which case it is rare for the local team not to be in contact with it.

In addition, there are 196 reception centres, run by 896 volunteers, which specialise in immigration law, alongside 518 French language learning centres staffed by 3,351 volunteers who are specifically involved in this task.

ADVOCACY AGAINST THE DIGITAL FRENCH LANGUAGE COURSES IMPOSED BY THE OFII

Since 1 July 2025, the majority of French language courses required by the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) for foreign nationals have been delivered via a digital platform where exercises are marked by artificial intelligence. But this solution leaves out all those who do not have a computer, an internet connection, digital skills, the ability to learn independently, or simply a suitable space in which to take these courses.



In the face of this unprecedented deterioration in public services for the reception and integration of foreign nationals, at a time when the asylum and immigration law is tightening the French language requirements for obtaining a long-term residence permit or naturalisation, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has launched a major campaign and filed two legal challenges against these new language learning requirements, which violate the legal principles of equality, continuity, accessibility and adaptability of public services. The first appeal was lodged to request the immediate suspension of remote French lessons, and the second, on the same grounds, to ensure that face-to-face lessons, taught by qualified teachers, are reinstated for all pupils. The press gave extensive coverage to this legal action during the summer of 2025. On 11 July, the daily newspaper *La Croix* published an opinion piece by Didier Duriez, president of Secours Catholique, under

the headline 'Do we really want to entrust the integration of foreigners to robots?', following which he was invited to appear on TV5 Monde on 1 September. On 8 September, International Literacy Day, Secours Catholique branches came up with a range of ideas to promote this initiative. In Lens, for example, the local team organised mock DELF B2 exams for the general public to give them an idea of the standards required for this exam.

OPINION PIECE IN *LE MONDE* CONDEMNING THE 'ONE IN, ONE OUT' AGREEMENT

On 10 July 2025 in London, Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced a scheme that the British press dubbed 'One in, one out'.

Presented as the creation of a 'legal and safe route', this agreement in reality reduces individual human journeys to a mere accounting exercise.

In fact, for every person returned to France after attempting to cross the English Channel, another person, selected by the United Kingdom, is allowed to enter the country on a visa. In short, a controlled exchange

system that represents a fundamental departure from the spirit of the right to asylum and international conventions. This is what numerous organisations, including Secours Catholique – Caritas France, have denounced in a joint opinion piece published in *Le Monde*. In it, they emphasise that the only safe path is one that respects the dignity and fundamental rights of all people, in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

ADVOCACY AND LITIGATION REGARDING ACCESS TO PREFECTURES AND OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

The difficulties in obtaining a residence permit, linked to the move towards online procedures, have become so widespread in recent years that they have become the leading reason for cases being referred to the Ombudsman. Every day at its reception centres, Secours Catholique – Caritas France observes how barriers to accessing the counter and abnormally long response times keep undocumented migrants in an irregular situation and result in the loss of rights for those applying to renew their residence permits. These had far-reaching consequences,

as revealed by the 2024 survey carried out by the Federation of Solidarity Organisations (FAS): 45 per cent of those affected had lost their right to work as a result of the platform's malfunctions.

In light of these situations, Secours Catholique and nine partner organisations have lodged an appeal with the Council of State on the grounds of 'negligent failure to act' on the part of the Digital Administration for Foreign Nationals in France (Anef). This initiative was publicised on social media in 2025 in a video in which the leaders of the nine organisations spoke out about the serious shortcomings they had observed and their grave consequences for individuals and for the companies that employ them.

SETBACKS AND A VICTORY IN THE EFFORT TO PROVIDE SHELTER FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Following several condemnations of France by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which had gone unheeded, Secours Catholique – Caritas France and its partners brought the matter before the Council of State to compel the French authorities to bring their practices regarding unaccompanied minors into line with the requirements of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The aim was to require the public authorities to bring French regulations concerning the temporary emergency reception and age assessment phase into line with the CRC. In its ruling handed down on 15 July 2025, the Council of State took no account of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, merely pointing out that safeguards exist under French law, while it is clear that these provisions have proved largely ineffective in protecting the thousands of children and adolescents left without protection and living on the streets for several months. The campaigning by Secours Catholique and its partners has nevertheless led to an initial victory. On 11 December 2025, in the National Assembly, MPs decided to prioritise the best interests of the child over the management of migration flows. To avoid the risk of putting an unaccompanied child back on the streets, the bill adopted at first reading stipulates that emergency temporary accommodation must be maintained where a young person, assessed as having reached the age of majority, brings the matter before the juvenile court judge, until the judicial authorities have reached a final decision. It also reiterates that school attendance is compulsory and therefore requires these young people in shelters to attend school. Finally, it prohibits a degrading and inappropriate practice used to

“THE ONLY WAY FORWARD IS ONE THAT RESPECTS THE DIGNITY AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF EVERYONE.”



ANTHONY MCALLEE / SDCF

determine a child's age: bone, dental or puberty development tests. If this bill were to be passed definitively, it would represent a major step forward in ensuring that the rights of unaccompanied children are finally respected. Its adoption at first reading is a first step that should be welcomed. Secours Catholique and its partners will continue their advocacy until it is definitively adopted, to ensure that unaccompanied children are no longer sent back onto the streets.

WORKING WITH THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The reception of unaccompanied minors is one of the key areas of focus for Secours Catholique – Caritas France, which has long been drawing attention to serious breaches of the principles that should guide their care, given their extreme vulnerability. In 2025, the association therefore supported the research and drafting of the opinion that the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (CNCDH) should report on this sensitive issue. Members of the committee's working group went to meet these young people, notably in Calais and Angers, at various informal settlements and reception centres run by

Secours Catholique and other organisations, in order to gather their accounts of the difficulties they face (such as finding food or securing a place in which to stay), given that they are treated as adults until their minority is proven. They also met with representatives of the departmental councils to gain an institutional insight into the arrangements for supporting these young people and the resources allocated to them. In the opinion adopted on Thursday 12 June 2025, the National Human Rights Commission (CNCDH) confirms and condemns the French authorities' failure to fulfil their obligations towards unaccompanied minors and sets out a series of recommendations.

DEALING WITH DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES ON THE REFUGEE ROUTE

In June 2025, the Caritas organisations that are members of the Africa-Europe Network for Human Mobility met in Rabat to discuss an issue of growing concern within the Caritas network: disappearances and deaths along migration routes. Practitioners from the eleven countries shared their experiences and sought to initiate joint projects. For his part, the Cardinal Archbishop of Algiers spoke about the experience

of Algeria's dioceses regarding these issues, which are all too often in the news.

On behalf of Secours Catholique – Caritas France, a volunteer and a programme coordinator from Calais came to share their experiences of working with bereaved refugees stranded at the French-British border, and to learn from the approaches of the other participants. In light of the exponential increase in tragedies along migration routes, a decision has been taken to equip those working on the ground and to continue the exchange of best practice by organising an international webinar on bereavement, disappearance and support for the migrants affected.

ADVOCACY SUCCESSSES

In Calais, obstructing acts of solidarity has been ruled unlawful.

In early March 2025, the Douai Administrative Court of Appeal ruled that the orders of 30 September 2020, 16 November 2020 and 14 December 2020, issued by the Prefect of Pas-de-Calais, were unlawful. These orders prohibited the distribution of food and drink by organisations not authorised by the State in certain areas of Calais. Following an appeal lodged by the SC-CF and its partners, the Lille Administrative Court had already handed down a similar ruling in October 2022, but the Minister for the Interior, Gérald

Darmanin, had decided at the time to appeal against that ruling. The judges of the Court of Appeal therefore upheld the judgment of the court of first instance and ruled that these prefectural orders were unlawful, as they were disproportionate to the objectives sought, given that the risks cited by the prefecture were unfounded (disturbance of the peace, unsanitary conditions and risk of an epidemic).

The Isère Prefecture is obliged to meet the deadlines for registering asylum applications.

Since August 2024, the waiting times for appointments at the single point of contact for asylum applications to register asylum claims at the Isère Prefecture have continued to increase (13 days in October 2024, 32 days in December, 48 days in February 2025, 56 days in May). According to the Prefect, these delays are the result of an organisational decision taken by the Prefecture in August 2024. Following a joint referral by several organisations, in which the SC-CF was involved, the judge presiding over interim relief proceedings at the Grenoble Administrative Court ordered the Isère Prefecture to put in place the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the time limits for registering asylum applications (no later than three working days after the asylum application has been submitted to the relevant administrative authority). ■

THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

IDENTIFYING, GUIDING AND SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

To mark the European Day Against Trafficking in Human Beings, the 'Together Against Human Trafficking' collective – established and coordinated by Secours Catholique – Caritas France – launched an online training module entitled 'Identifying, guiding and supporting victims of exploitation and human trafficking'. Aimed at volunteers and staff of the charity and its partners, this e-learning course raises awareness of the issue of human trafficking so that participants can identify potential victims and provide them with appropriate support. It was produced in conjunction with

the 'Portraits parlants' workshops, which brought together eight victims or survivors of human trafficking in 2025. Their testimonies and their creative works, which feature in this 30-minute e-learning module, have been compiled in a booklet, while their own words have been included in a podcast explaining their commitment to this work to prevent further victims.

The training module is also available in English, so that foreign nationals directly affected can take part. It has even been adapted for Moldova and Romania, for the benefit of partners hosting Ukrainian refugees in those countries. ■

DEFENDING THE RIGHTS AND PROMOTING THE EMPOWERMENT OF PRISONERS



VINCENT BOISOT / SCCF

JUBILEE CELEBRATION FOR PRISONERS

As part of the Jubilee for Prisoners on 14 December 2025, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has joined forces with the Catholic Prison Chaplaincy and the Church of France to foster spiritual communion beyond physical and mental barriers.

The estimated 884 Prison-Justice volunteers from Secours Catholique and the teams working in the vicinity of prisons were invited to take part in this day with three objectives in mind: to share a common spiritual approach, to overcome prejudices against prisoners, and to encourage engagement with those serving time and their families through practical initiatives during the Christmas period – a time that is often difficult for prisoners, who are separated from their loved ones and isolated.

Two documents have been key to this initiative in support of prisoners:

- ▶ **The Jubilee Booklet**, distributed by Catholic chaplains to all prisoners in France whom they support, to guide them through a five-stage journey leading up to the final celebration on 14 December. Secours Catholique has taken up this initiative with its teams of volunteers, expanded to include those from parishes and other partner organisations, to undertake these same stages outside the prison walls and engage in dialogue with prisoners through the Jubilee;
- ▶ **The advocacy statement by the French bishops**, published in the run-up to the Jubilee for Prisoners, to draw attention to prison overcrowding. This has indeed reached an all-time high in France, leading to a deterioration in care standards, an increase in violence and idleness, and a loss of meaning in the work of prison officers. This powerful statement has been widely circulated by Secours Catholique through its networks.

PLACEMENT OF INDIVIDUALS SENTENCED TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

In recent years, more than half of the Secours Catholique – Caritas France branches (49 out of 72) have taken in people sentenced to community service. As a staunch advocate for the expansion of non-custodial sanctions, Secours Catholique has been involved in this programme since its inception in 1984.

On February 26, 2025, the association renewed its agreement with the Agency for Community Service and the Professional Integration of Individuals Under

Judicial Supervision (ATIGIP). An opportunity to strengthen ties – both nationally and locally – with ATIGIP staff, regional coordinators responsible for identifying organisations that can accommodate people, and for working with teams to determine the types of permanent

and long-term positions that can be offered – for example, in public reception or outreach activities, as well as administrative work (reception, secretarial duties, data entry, communications) or hands-on tasks, such as helping volunteers renovate a space. In 2025, these opportunities were expanded to include activities related to the just ecological transition initiative launched by Secours Catholique: creating and maintaining community gardens and organic vegetable gardens, beekeeping, workshops on recycling, waste management, and waste reduction, making eco-friendly products, as well as activities to raise awareness about environmental issues.

In that same year, 2025, Secours Catholique and ATIGIP worked on drafting a joint booklet intended for their respective staff and networks, which is scheduled for release in 2026.

ADVOCACY FOR THE RESUMPTION OF SOCIALISATION ACTIVITIES IN PRISONS

On February 17, 2025, Minister of Justice Gérald Darmanin ordered the suspension of all prison activities not related to education, the French language, or sports, following a controversy over facial treatments provided to inmates at the Toulouse-Seysses Detention Centre. This decision

meant the suspension of all activities carried out by the Prison-Justice teams of Secours Catholique – Caritas France, including board game workshops and socio-cultural activities such as theatre – activities that are recognised for their beneficial effects on inmates in terms of reintegration: the development of interpersonal skills, self-esteem, and the ability to take action. On February 19, Secours Catholique joined an inter-organisational coalition initiated by the International Prison Observatory (OIP) and signed a press release calling on the minister to reverse his decision and to reflect on the purpose of punishment and on improving prison conditions. The teams were gradually able to resume their activities in good faith with prison administration.

MOVING TOWARDS A DRAFT LAW TO LIMIT PRISON OVERCROWDING

Since 2022, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has been participating in a working group on prison regulation established by the General Inspectorate of Places of Detention and Deprivation of Liberty. On July 2, 2025, the group was received at the National Assembly to present its work and highlight the serious negative effects of prison overcrowding on inmates and on the work of correctional officers. This advocacy paid off, as Florent Boudier, chairman of the National Assembly's Law Commission and a member of the National Assembly, then announced his commitment to a bill aimed at "immediately" reducing the number of inmates in prisons. ■

“SOCIO-CULTURAL WORKSHOPS HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS ON INMATES.”

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

FROM AN EMERGENCY TO A GENUINE PLAN FOR SOCIAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE IN MAYOTTE

In December 2024, when Cyclone Chido struck the island of Mayotte, it highlighted the extreme tensions prevailing in this department – the poorest in France (three-quarters of the population lives below the national poverty line), the youngest, the most densely populated, and the most unequal in terms of income, employment rates, etc., depending on whether one is a native of a foreign country, Mayotte, or mainland France. Despite the proliferation of “plans”, public services remain in a state of neglect: there is a chronic shortage of schools and healthcare workers, access to water is difficult with cuts four times a week, and there is widespread substandard housing – 40% of homes are made of corrugated metal, 30% are not connected to the water supply, and 10% have no electricity. The extent of the damage caused by the cyclone also served as a reminder of how the poorest are the most severely affected by climate change – and how ill-prepared the government is to protect its citizens.

Starting in the first half of 2025, France announced its intention to take responsibility by launching the “Mayotte Debout” plan, which includes emergency and long-term legislative proposals, in addition to various existing plans for food sovereignty, sustainable agriculture, and housing.

Active on the island since 2002, Secours Catholique – Caritas France naturally played its part in the emergency response to the disaster (see p. 75). But it also sought to highlight its understanding of the social and humanitarian challenges observed by its teams on the ground through a critical analysis of the “Mayotte Debout” plan and by making recommendations to ensure its success.

This project brought together staff from the Action and Advocacy Division, members of the Mayotte delegation’s executive committee, and partners from other organisations active in Mayotte. It was published in June 2025, six months after the disaster, just as the bill was introduced in the National Assembly and sent to members of parliament. It consists of two parts. The first part addresses the urgent measures that still need to be taken to address the difficulties in accessing water and housing for all the island’s



ÉLODIE PÉRIOT / SCOF

residents – not just those with valid legal status. And a second section that presents a vision for Mayotte’s future in terms of social justice, addressing the needs and aspirations of its residents, and empowering them to take action. There are also proposals to take decisive action in the fight against climate change so that it does not exacerbate already deep-seated inequalities. Secours Catholique also points out that if government action is limited (as is to be feared) to combating immigration and demolishing informal settlements, it will only succeed in further stigmatising a large segment of the population and will fail to address the real structural issues. This plan is an opportunity not to be missed to guarantee access to fundamental rights (water, food, housing, education, security, etc.) for all residents of Mayotte, regardless of their status, and to use the challenges of reconstruction as an opportunity to reinvent sustainable models that combine economic, social, and climate development, drawing on civil society actors and the knowledge of all residents. ■

AROUND THE WORLD, IN PURSUIT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BY ANNOUNCING A DRASTIC CUT in funding for international aid (United States Agency for International Development [USAID]) in early 2025, the U.S. government signalled the end of an era – one in which international aid to the most vulnerable was taken for granted. While some international organisations were suddenly forced to halt their operations, Secours Catholique – Caritas France continued to fulfil its commitments through the local partners it supports and thanks to the diversity of its funding sources. The association was also able to celebrate the effectiveness of its strategic direction. To pool expertise and resources – as in the CoRe program – by fostering synergies among stakeholders across continents to implement a shared vision of a just ecological transition. To empower partners and communities and strengthen their ability to shape their own future through the Change-Oriented Approaches (COA) methodology. Finally, in the face of the many major crises that are plunging the world into despair, they must provide a response not only to the immediate emergency but also to the challenges of development and social cohesion – without whose resolution no just and sustainable world is possible.



CHRISTOPHE HARGOUES / SCOF

WORKING TOWARDS A FAIR ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSITION

DEFINING A SHARED VISION OF WHAT A FAIR ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSITION WOULD LOOK LIKE

Launched in 2021, CoRe – a multi-year programme run by Secours Catholique – Caritas France and supported by the French Development Agency (AFD) – has achieved one of its objectives: to collectively develop, among some 30 partners across four continents and based on their field experiences and joint reflections, a shared vision of what a just ecological transition would look like. The programme's first four years were marked by several opportunities for dialogue: global and regional stakeholder assemblies gradually helped build this shared vision centred on the common challenges and values of climate and environmental justice.

This shared vision of ecological transition is centred on three major sets of rights, without the joint respect of which it will not be realised.

1) The right to live in connection with one another and with nature, while respecting the freedom, spirituality, and opinions of everyone.

2) The right to earn a decent living from one's work and the land, within fair and just economic systems.

3) The right to live in harmony with one's homeland, within ecosystems that are respected, free from land seizure, in an environment free of pollution, with respect for the rights of Indigenous peoples, and with access to sustainable essential services.

This common approach, the culmination of the programme's first phase (CoRe 1), will serve as a guide both for action – building, innovating, and ensuring coherence in the projects carried out by partner communities and civil society organisations in France and around the world – and for evaluating the transformations and changes set in motion, going beyond a traditional quantitative approach; and to exert influence by raising awareness of and



RIJASOLO / SCOF

promoting understanding of established positions and bodies of law, defending them, and raising awareness among the public and public authorities through advocacy efforts. These three objectives will be implemented over the four years of the programme's second phase, CoRe 2, which began in October 2025.

CHALLENGE FOR CORE 2: WORKING IN A MORE HORIZONTAL AND TRANSCONTINENTAL MANNER

As part of the CoRe 1 programme, the Research Institute for Development studied the dynamics of the collective itself – between Secours Catholique and its field partners, and between the partners themselves and the communities they support. This study identified one of the challenges to be addressed in the CoRe 2 programme: rebalancing the network of partnerships to make it more cross-cutting – and thus less focused on France – and also more transcontinental, centred on themes shared by partners across multiple continents as well as by Secours Catholique delegations, such as agroecology, food systems, and the defence of Indigenous knowledge and territories...

There is a convergence of the issues that must be addressed, drawing on the experiences and

expertise of all partners. These intercontinental exchanges will take place in various ways: webinars, "learning" meetings among partners, participatory action research – such as that already conducted during CoRe 1 – and the participation of several partners in conferences, such as the one on desertification to be held in Tunisia in 2026, on which a partner from Mali and another from Brazil will collaborate. Thanks to this more horizontal redistribution of roles, the programme will achieve one of its key objectives: empowering both partners and local communities to defend their rights and their environment.

CONFERENCE TO PRESENT THE MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECTS OF CORE 1

To mark the conclusion of the first four-year phase of the CoRe programme, Secours Catholique – Caritas France organised a major conference to present the findings of the fieldwork conducted by its research partners under the overall scientific coordination and leadership of Gemdev. Held at the Condorcet campus in Aubervilliers on September 11 and 12, 2025, this interdisciplinary, interregional, and even intercontinental dialogue brought together about ten researchers, practitioners, and partners from the

Global South (along with many more participants joining remotely) around the common goal they had set for themselves: to envision and build a just ecological transition.

Several studies were presented there: food systems in India; agroecology in Bolivia, Brazil, and the Sahel; a study on the different types of small family farms in Bolivia; as well as action research on shared resources conducted in four Latin American countries (see p. 53). Studies were conducted jointly by

renowned researchers such as Assumptionist Sister Cécile Renouard, who holds a doctorate in philosophy and is a professor at the École Supérieure des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales (ESSEC), and Éloi Laurent of the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). The conference thus contributed to the collective discussion on the conditions for a just ecological transition and opened up concrete avenues for strengthening communities' resilience in the face of environmental and social challenges. ■

BOOSTING THE RESILIENCE OF THE HARDEST-HIT REGIONS

AN OPPORTUNITY IN BANGLADESH ARISING FROM USAID'S WITHDRAWAL

For several years, Caritas Bangladesh has been working on the development of a major landslide prevention and response framework funded by USAID. However, this came to an end in January 2025, just as the new US president decided to halt international aid. After being contacted by Caritas Bangladesh, a long-standing strategic partner, Secours Catholique – Caritas France responded positively to the request for support.

Highly innovative and designed to be managed thereafter by local communities, local government bodies and the meteorological department, this 'early warning system for landslides' is fully in line with Secours Catholique's priority in Asia and Eastern Europe, namely anticipating, preparing for and responding to crises. The tool developed relies on groups of volunteers trained to implement contingency plans in the event of landslides (identifying assembly and evacuation points), to install rain gauges in targeted areas, to interpret measurements and risk thresholds, and also to stabilise unstable ground using natural materials.

It represents a major step forward, not only for the partner, Bangladesh and its people, but also for other partners in the network in other regions at risk of landslides.

JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF A PROGRAMME FOR RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES IN ASIA

Many of Secours Catholique – Caritas France's partners in India, Bangladesh and Cambodia operate in urban settings. In December 2025, they were invited to Paris for a joint workshop on the development of a regional programme on 'sustainable and inclusive cities', a key component of Secours Catholique's strategy since 2023.

Cities are, in fact, taking in an ever-growing number of people fleeing floods, droughts, fires and crop failures. This rapid and unplanned urbanisation (57% of the current global population – and 70% by 2050 – live in cities) is, in turn, having devastating consequences, in that it is accelerating global warming, the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems. Through the projects they are developing, Secours Catholique's Indian, Bangladeshi and Cambodian partners are working to tackle the extreme vulnerability of people living in urban areas who are caught in a vicious cycle of poverty, poor living conditions and extreme weather. In the face of these challenges, the involvement of those affected is essential, and it is on this that the project launched by Secours Catholique with the support of the French Development Agency (AFD) is based. This means recognising and strengthening residents' existing capabilities so that they can identify priorities for themselves, propose solutions tailored to their circumstances, and play an active part in implementing them – and thus in building more sustainable and inclusive cities.



ELODIE PERRIOT / SCSF

DOCUMENTING THE LINKS BETWEEN CLIMATE AND POVERTY IN FRANCE AND AROUND THE WORLD

While climate change now affects every region of the world, its impacts on communities vary according to their socio-economic circumstances and the resilience of their local areas. To understand and objectively assess the links between climate impacts and vulnerability, both in France and globally, Secours Catholique – Caritas France, together with partners in Tunisia, Brazil and Madagascar, has gathered testimonies from people who have experienced major climate events, whether occurring over a longer period (coastal erosion, drought) or more rapidly (floods, storms, cyclones, fires, heatwaves) that have caused damage to people, ecosystems and infrastructure.

Between March and June 2025, 152 interviews were conducted across 14 regions: mainland France, French Guiana, Mayotte and Réunion, as well as Tunisia, Madagascar and Brazil, with people directly affected by the issue as well as key stakeholders on the ground (community leaders, representatives of civil society organisations, local elected representatives and experts). An analysis of the experiences in each of the regions made it possible to identify local specifics and shared challenges. This analysis

was further developed during a week-long workshop attended by around forty people from the regions where the study was carried out and from the Secours Catholique network.

These discussions provided an opportunity to compare different perspectives and to collectively develop the messages and recommendations set out in the report *'The Climate Crisis as Seen by Those Experiencing It'*, which was finalised at the end of the year for publication in early 2026.

ADVOCACY ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION ISSUES AT COP 30

Ten years after the Paris Agreement, COP 30, which took place in the Brazilian Amazon in November 2025, marked an important milestone. The signatory states were expected to report on their progress in meeting their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as on their efforts to adapt to climate change – a key issue for the most vulnerable countries.

Given the importance of this event, Secours Catholique – Caritas France secured a strong presence there, with representatives from its head office, several representatives from the French Guiana delegation – which is deeply involved in Pan-Amazonian

issues – as well as international partners, notably those from Madagascar and, of course, Brazil. The survey, carried out in 14 regions severely affected by major disasters, served as the basis for its advocacy and recommendations in favour of fair adaptation to climate change. There is one essential prerequisite: that the States participating in the COP, particularly those that have historically been the worst polluters, step up their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In the run-up to COP 30, Secours Catholique was also invited to a conference organised by the *Laudato si'* movement to mark the tenth anniversary of the encyclical, attended by Pope Leo XIV and Marina Silva, Brazil's Minister for the Environment. The aim was to consider the role of religious leaders in ensuring that this encyclical continues to inspire and guide public action on climate change.

PUBLICATION AND PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT ON SHARED RESOURCES AND A FAIR ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION IN LATIN AMERICA

In 2025, the publication of the collaborative action research on shared resources in Latin America and its presentation at the Brazilian agroecology conference and the People's Summit, organised in parallel with COP 30, constitutes one of the key achievements of the CoRe 1 programme run by Secours Catholique – Caritas France.

Carried out between 2022 and 2023 by eight partner organisations from Bolivia, Brazil, Peru and Colombia, this research analyses – through a study of family-run or indigenous agricultural production units – how shared resources, such as land, water and forests, are managed, defended and protected by communities. These resources are not viewed there as mere commodities, but as fundamental pillars for the reproduction of life – an approach that stands in contrast to the dominant development model in Latin America, which is based on mining and agricultural industries.

The study was published in September 2025 under the title 'Preserving shared resources as part of a just ecological transition', in a benchmark collection, 'Les Cahiers de recherche', coordinated by one of Secours Catholique's Bolivian partners. In addition to a summary of the eight case studies carried out in the field, it includes an analytical essay offering insights into the economy of shared resources and their preservation, mechanisms for

collective action, and the role of public policy in promoting a just ecological transition. A valuable resource for knowledge and advocacy for the communities themselves, their organisations, development stakeholders and academics involved in the struggle to defend territories, this study will be promoted and disseminated as part of Phase 2 of the CoRe programme.

PARTICIPATION IN THE PEOPLE'S SUMMIT, HELD ALONGSIDE COP 30

Brazilian civil society is particularly strong, well-organised and closely linked to the wider Latin American civil society. Furthermore, as soon as Brazil was announced as the host country for COP 30, Secours Catholique – Caritas France and its partners in Latin America saw this as a tremendous opportunity to present and champion their advocacy work.

Several missions were carried out on the ground by Secours Catholique's Latin America teams in order to engage with their partners, as well as with various NGOs and social

movements, with a view to coordinating efforts as effectively as possible, aligning advocacy efforts and organising joint events, particularly outside the official negotiating framework: during the People's Summit held in parallel with the COP, which was attended by 1,100 civil society organisations.

Secours Catholique had also decided to provide financial support for partners to attend this major event, as well as for the preparatory meetings organised by the Brazilian Church in collaboration with Caritas Brazil and, more broadly, with all the Church's movements.

The presentation of the study 'Preserving shared resources within the framework of a just ecological transition' was one of the highlights organised by Secours Catholique at the People's Summit. Bishop Mario Antônio da Silva, President of Caritas Brazil, aptly summarised the importance of Christian mobilisation for climate justice during the organisation's 70th-anniversary celebrations: "By not honouring our climate commitments, we are not merely turning our

“THE EARTH, WATER AND FORESTS: FUNDAMENTAL PILLARS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF LIFE.”

backs on the sun, the moon or the stars. We are not merely turning our backs on forests and rivers; we are also turning our backs on humanity."

FOLLOW-UP TO THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

On 4 September 2025, the 15th Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was held in Riohacha, Colombia. Secours Catholique – Caritas France monitored the discussions and progress

made in relation to the recommendations set out in the previous year's presentation of its study, 'Free to Leave, Free to Stay: Protecting Human Rights in the Context of Environmental Mobility'. This call for greater consideration of human mobility in climate policies was also raised at COP 30. ■

DEFENDING THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF COMMUNITIES

BUILDING ON THE ADVOCACY EXPERIENCE GAINED THROUGH THE BACASI PROJECT

The Pointe-Noire Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission (CJP de Pointe-Noire), supported by Secours Catholique – Caritas France and CCFD-Terre solidaire, published a report in October 2023 entitled 'Carbon Offsetting at the Expense of Human Rights?', which had three objectives.

Firstly, it sought to set out recommendations for the Congolese government and TotalEnergies to address the local impacts of the BaCaSi (Batéké Carbon Sink) afforestation scheme, which the multinational had adopted as a carbon offset, and to demand compensation measures for the affected communities. The

report also aimed to put forward suggestions for an improved regulatory framework for this type of project. Finally, it sought to raise awareness among the French public, through the analysis of a specific case, of the risks and impacts – in terms of the rights of local communities – of these false solutions for

from this advocacy work. This process of knowledge consolidation aimed to analyse the skills developed, the adaptation strategies implemented and the obstacles encountered; this review also helped to inform Secours Catholique's international advocacy work, extending beyond the BaCaSi project alone. This initiative has helped to strengthen the advocacy expertise of the CJP de Pointe-Noire, showcase its know-how and consolidate its standing with partners and donors, while developing methodological skills that can be replicated in other future projects. Several very short and informative video clips were recorded as part of this knowledge-sharing exercise for communication and awareness-raising purposes.

“RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE RISKS AND IMPACTS OF FALSE SOLUTIONS FOR OFFSETTING CO2 EMISSIONS.”

offsetting CO₂ emissions, while mobilising networks of allies to strengthen advocacy efforts ahead of key political deadlines.

In May 2025, the CJP de Pointe-Noire and its partners undertook an in-depth review of the lessons learnt

GREAT SUCCESS FOR THE PROJECT TO PROMOTE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN RWANDA

In Rwanda, young people make up a significant proportion of the population, with nearly 40% of the population aged between 15 and 35, according to the Rwanda National Institute of Statistics. Many young people, particularly those from vulnerable backgrounds, face major economic and social challenges. According to a survey on working population trends carried out in 2022, the unemployment rate among young people aged 16 to 30 was the highest of all age groups, at 21.5%, while it stood at 13.1% among adults aged 31 and over. For several years now, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has been supporting the 'mentoring' project 'economic and social support for vulnerable young people' run by

Caritas Rwanda. The project is due to come to an end in 2026, having produced some outstanding success stories in 2025. Many of the thousands of young people supported by Caritas Rwanda have successfully developed technical and entrepreneurial skills, set up their own micro-enterprises or joined local cooperatives, and secured their incomes

through collective savings and entrepreneurship. Beyond its economic impact, this project has also fostered social cohesion by strengthening young people's participation in community initiatives and promoting values of solidarity, sharing, mutual support and mutual respect. ■

DEVELOPING A STRONG CIVIL SOCIETY



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TRAINING COURSES AS PART OF THE 'EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SPORT' PROJECT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

This innovative project, which aims to empower vulnerable people – particularly women and people with disabilities – through sport, was launched in 2023 in five Middle Eastern countries with the support of the French Development Agency (AFD). Over a period of three years, it brought together five partners from Secours Catholique – Caritas France (the Palestinian Amputee Football Association in Gaza, House of Peace in Lebanon, Caritas Jordan, and two partners in Egypt – St Andrews Refugee Services [STARS] and Etijah [Youth and Development Consultancy Institute]) – and sports coaches from the Fédération sportive gymnique du travail (FSGT)

in France. Objective: to restore social cohesion and empower people by enabling everyone to find their place in society, to learn to live together and to broaden the scope of what is possible.

Training programmes for 25 sports instructors in each of the five countries involved (conducted online for the teams in Gaza, using analysis of their practice filmed by the partner organisation) took place throughout 2025. These culminated in a seminar bringing together all the partners in Cairo to present the findings compiled on an ongoing basis by the educational coordinator. The aim was to arrive at a shared definition of 'sport for all'. As evidence of Secours Catholique's commitment to challenge established North-South patterns of interaction, »»



COUNTRY



IN BURUNDI,
YOUTH CLUBS
LOOKING
TO THE FUTURE

On Saturday morning, music fills the air in the parish of Mugera, the meeting place for one of the youth clubs set up by the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace, a partner organisation of Secours Catholique. *"Let's help the country develop and put aside what divides us,"* says the song composed by the 150 or so young people who come down from the hills every Saturday to work on joint projects.

These clubs were set up in response to an observation: young people affected by unemployment and poverty are easily manipulated by certain political parties. This carries certain risks in a country where elections are often synonymous with violence.

"We're learning to live in harmony and get along. Today, the club's chairman is a member of the ruling party, his deputy is from the opposition, and that's no longer a problem," says Bosco, 32, a schoolteacher and club coach.

Through writing songs and sketches, the young people are working to combat violence, including within families. On that day, they performed a play they had written themselves about the drunkenness of certain fathers who squander the family's money. Later on, they will perform these sketches in the village or at gatherings to raise awareness of living together harmoniously. Marie, aged 18, one of the actresses, also puts on dance performances here and there to earn a bit of money. "Last year, we danced at the little seminary, and with the money we raised, we bought a piglet for the club. It's growing, and its manure helps to fertilise our fields," she says happily. ■



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WEBSITE.

» Arabic was chosen as the language of communication. For their part, the instructors present challenged the teaching approach set out by the FSGT by adding their own principle: that the rules can be changed. Finally, from 22 November to 3 December in Marseille, and then from 3 to 7 December in Paris, partners from Lebanon and Jordan met with delegations from Secours Catholique and local FSGT committees as part of the 'Caravane du sport populaire et solidaire' (Popular and Inclusive Sports tour). This was an opportunity for them to take part in sporting activities organised by the FSGT, and to visit the reception centre for unaccompanied minors run by the Marseille branch – a particularly interesting visit for both organisations, which also support refugees within their own regions.

REPORTING ON THE AOC EXPERIENCE

To address the challenges of social transformation that Secours Catholique – Caritas France seeks to tackle in the four regions of the world where it operates, the decision was taken to carry out AOC (change-oriented approach) pilot projects, a participatory method that aims to bring about the changes desired by the communities or organisations concerned in the short, medium and long term, and thereby empower them to take action. It comprises four stages: analysing the context and defining the issue, developing a shared vision, selecting pathways for change, and implementing those changes.

Launched in the wake of the Covid crisis, the AOC pilot projects carried out by Secours Catholique in Palestine, Togo, Colombia, India and Madagascar have helped everyone to develop their skills. This was the conclusion reached in September 2025, during a debriefing workshop held with the relevant partners to identify the lessons learnt from each of the AOC initiatives. Lessons learnt for the community (for example: individual changes can have a collective impact), for the partner (developing skills in facilitating community mobilisation with a longer-term perspective), for Secours Catholique's partnership officers (moving from a highly technical support role to one of working together), as well as for the organisation itself, which has developed a more horizontal approach to dialogue, support and collaboration with its partners. The aim now is to produce a large-scale, open, online course (MOOC) to train all partnership officers in this approach, so

that they can put it into practice in the communities supported by their partners.

AOC EXPERIENCE CENTRED ON A PROJECT INVOLVING A CONSORTIUM OF ORGANISATIONS IN BENIN

At Secours Catholique – Caritas France, the aim is not simply to act on behalf of our partners, but to act alongside them – in other words, to build together, decide together and learn together. In Benin, in 2025, it was precisely this bond of daily teamwork and cooperation that was put into practice using the AOC methodology – an approach that involves agreeing on a desired vision and the changes needed to achieve it, rather than on specific activities.

The main contribution of this specific project in Benin was primarily organisational, as it involved a consortium of three diocesan Caritas organisations working on projects for a just ecological transition as part of the CoRe programme. The teams from the three partners and Secours Catholique clarified a common issue, formulated a shared vision, and then began to translate that vision into observable changes: better-defined roles, clearer coordination rules, improved information flow, and the first shared tools for change-oriented monitoring. The AOCs thus provided a 'common language', transcending the differences in practices and customs of the three organisations, to identify key elements: governance, operational trust, the ability to make joint decisions, and the ability to produce credible evidence of progress.

This momentum laid the foundations for the consortium and enabled Secours Catholique and its partners to embark on a process of guided and documented collective transformation within vulnerable communities, focusing on issues relating to a just ecological transition. The lessons learnt from this AOC experiment will inform the creation of further consortia of organisations, notably in Senegal and Togo, with a view to pooling not only increasingly limited resources but also each organisation's expertise.

A PILOT PROJECT IN IVORY COAST AT THE INTERSECTION OF GENDER AND ECOLOGY

The international management team at Secours Catholique – Caritas France is being supported in the development of its 'gender' strategy by F3E, a non-profit organisation based in Paris which supports charities and NGOs with their pilot projects.

In 2025, Caritas Katiola (Ivory Coast), in partnership

with Secours Catholique, responded to a call for applications from the F3E and was selected, alongside ten other organisational partnerships, to take part in the third phase of a project entitled 'Workshop on Social and Ecological Change', a methodological pilot project aimed at integrating the interrelated issues of gender, intersectionality and ecology into grassroots practices through AOCs.

An initial seminar, held in September 2025 in Paris, provided an opportunity to introduce the approach to partners and to begin adapting the proposed methodologies to different local contexts. As part of the project selected for this pilot scheme by Caritas Katiola and Secours Catholique (empowering women in rural areas through agroecology and education), the decision was taken to prioritise a community-led, bottom-up approach, combining AOC tools with those inspired by local traditions – such as the 'tree of discussion' – to identify the root causes of vulnerabilities, while taking into account the specific characteristics of local contexts. This process of mutual learning, which will continue until 2027, will empower Ivorian communities to tackle climate and social challenges. It will also enable Caritas Katiola to better monitor and highlight the changes taking place within the communities it supports.

PROJECT IN MADAGASCAR CO-DEVELOPED AND LED BY A LOCAL PARTNER

In December 2025, Secours Catholique – Caritas France, in collaboration with its long-standing partner Caritas Antsirabe, held an initial workshop in

Madagascar as part of a pilot scheme for Community-Led Development (CLD) – a participatory approach based on communities analysing their own circumstances, identifying the changes they wish to see, and collectively devising actions to improve their living conditions. The aim of this initial mission was to enable Caritas Antsirabe to take ownership of the AOCs, so that it could subsequently run a community workshop in Mahazina, bringing together representatives of local and religious authorities, as well as men, women and young people from the community. This so-called 'vision' workshop helped to identify shared priorities, particularly regarding food security, against a backdrop of significant socio-economic and climate-related vulnerability. Secours Catholique hailed this mission for two reasons. Firstly, because it illustrates its commitment to working alongside local communities, strengthening local initiatives and fostering links between local and international approaches in the pursuit of social change. But also because it was set up and run jointly by its Africa partnership officers and another Malagasy partner, SAF/FJKM (Sampanasa Fampandrosoana FJKM), which was already familiar with the method. This was a wonderful opportunity to put into practice a new, much more horizontal form of partnership, which Secours Catholique is working towards. ■

MAINTAINING A BOND OF FELLOWSHIP

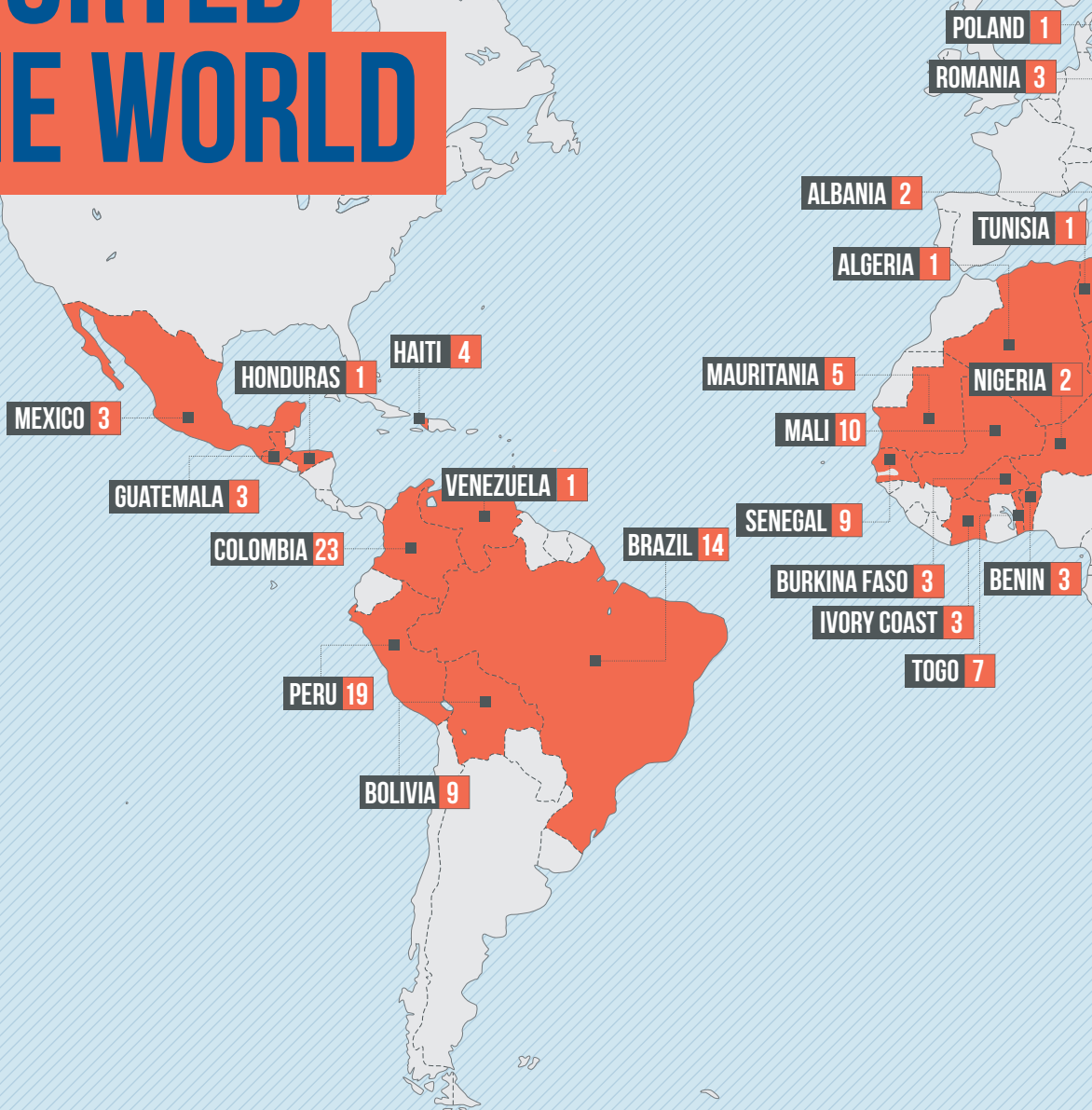
A MISSION OF HOPE AND PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

In late April 2025, the CEF, in collaboration with several charitable organisations, including Secours Catholique – Caritas France, organised a mission with Christian communities in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Syria to gather their accounts of the difficulties faced by local populations and to deliver a united message of hope and justice. Welcomed at the Maison d'Abraham, the members of the mission held discussions with the Latin and Greek Catholic Churches, visited healthcare facilities, schools, parishes and the families of hostages, as well as human rights organisations that are partners

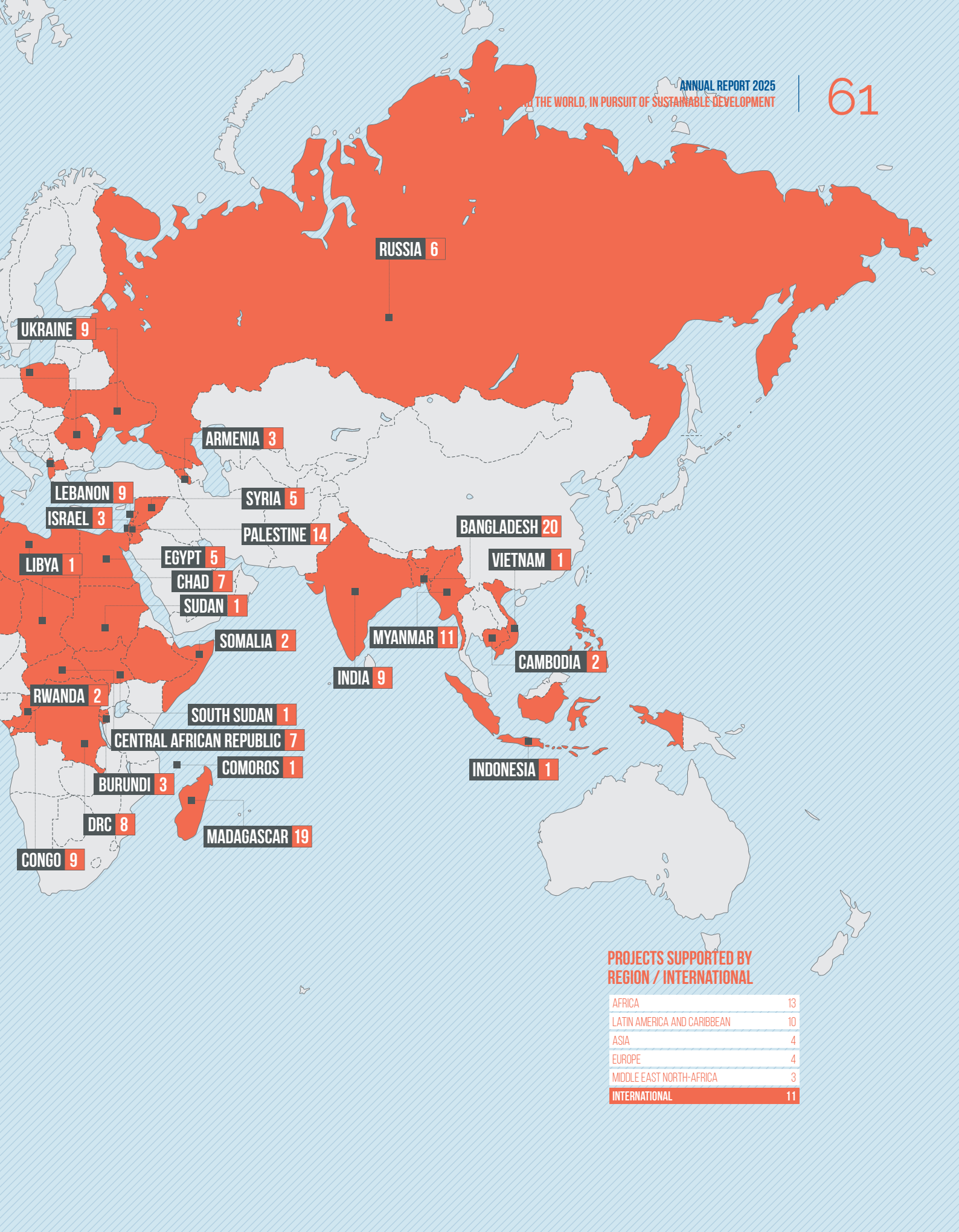
of Secours Catholique: Al Haq, Caritas Jerusalem and Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI), which operate in Gaza, as well as Breaking the Silence. All these stakeholders have condemned the daily violations of international humanitarian law and called on their partners in Europe to raise their voices against them.

A few days after returning to France, the representative from Secours Catholique helped draft the emergency statement on the ongoing destruction of Gaza and its population, a statement which was unanimously adopted at the CNCDH's plenary assembly on 20 May 2025. ■

340 PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN THE WORLD



COUNTRY NUMBER OF PROJECTS



PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY
REGION / INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA	13
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	10
ASIA	4
EUROPE	4
MIDDLE EAST NORTH-AFRICA	3
INTERNATIONAL	11

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES



CARITAS JERUSALEM

THE CRISIS IN PALESTINE: ADDRESSING THE EMERGENCY WHILE TACKLING THE UNDERLYING CAUSES

By the end of 2025, the war in Gaza had left 69,185 people dead, 170,698 injured and 1.9 million displaced; it had destroyed 90% of the territory, pushed the healthcare system to the brink of collapse and stretched humanitarian aid to the limits of its resources in the face of the scale of the needs. In line with the integrated approach adopted since the start of the crisis, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has been working across four areas.

1) Support for several emergency partners. In 2025, Secours Catholique stepped up its support for the Near East Council of Churches (NECC), which operates mobile clinics in Gaza to provide primary healthcare and psychosocial support to communities affected by the conflict. In the West Bank, where attacks by Israeli settlers are on the rise, resulting in numerous deaths, injuries and people being displaced, the partnership with PHRI has continued, focusing on a project involving mobile clinics and support for clinics and hospitals. Lastly, since 2025, Secours Catholique has also been working alongside

Caritas Jerusalem to provide a multi-sectoral emergency response in Gaza.

2) Continuation and adaptation of ongoing development projects. In 2023, Secours Catholique partnered with the AFD on a vocational integration project developed by NECC. Due to the war and the destruction of NECC's premises, the project had never been implemented. In agreement with the AFD, Secours Catholique decided to launch it in December 2025, but with shorter training courses in more traditional and practical trades such as bricklaying, electrical work and carpentry, combined with psychological support for the beneficiaries and the teams training them. Furthermore, support for the Palestinian Amputee Football Association (PAFA), one of the key partners in the 'empowerment through sport' project (see p. 55), has been doubled in response to the emergency, with sporting activities (athletics, volleyball, football) being set up in nine refugee camps for children, young people and women, both able-bodied and those with disabilities resulting from war injuries.

3) Support for advocacy work to ensure the application of international law. As a member of the French

NGOs' Platform for Palestine and of the Euromed France network, Secours Catholique can contribute to and amplify advocacy efforts for the application of international law in Gaza. Also through its support, since the start of the conflict, for the organisation Al Haq, which campaigns for access to justice by compiling case files for the International Criminal Court, which has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

4) Raising awareness in France through the series *Gaza Stories* by director Iyad Al-Astal. For many years, the director has been running a multimedia project entitled *Gaza Stories*, which showcases a vibrant and creative Palestine through portraits of artists, entrepreneurs and others... In 2025, Secours Catholique decided to support the next instalment of this series, *Gaza Stories After*, which, through some forty portraits of civilians, offers a living archive of the memories of the people of Gaza since the start of the war in 2023.

SUPPORT FOR TWO NEW ORGANISATIONS IN UKRAINE

In 2025, the fourth year of the war in Ukraine, the country faced a sudden drop in humanitarian aid, against a backdrop of renewed insecurity linked to the intensification of the conflict and the targeting of civilian areas, which further exacerbated the psychological strain and exhaustion of the affected and vulnerable populations.

Thanks in particular to the funds raised since the start of the war, Secours Catholique – Caritas France was able to support two new organisations, Dignitas and Spring of Hope, in 2025. The former operates mobile clinics that travel to areas directly affected by the conflict, particularly in the Sumy region in northern Ukraine, near the border with Russia, providing, in particular, primary healthcare to people with reduced mobility. The second organisation provides assistance to displaced people through psychosocial support in the Vinnytsia region, and to both host communities and displaced people in the Sumy region. Secours Catholique has also continued to support its sister organisations within the Caritas confederation – Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Spes Ukraine – which operate throughout the country, both in areas close to the front line and in the west, working with the most vulnerable people such as single mothers, children, people with disabilities and the elderly, and war veterans...

It has also renewed its contribution to the project to organise and coordinate volunteers, led by Caritas Spes Ukraine, for a further year. An initial pilot project was launched in 2024 and was extended and expanded in 2025 to cover all Ukrainian dioceses. This support includes collaboration with the network of Secours Catholique branches, which has extensive experience in organising and coordinating volunteers.

SUPPORT FOR SYRIA'S MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE

The 13 years of conflict in Syria have led to a major humanitarian crisis. Of the country's 24 million inhabitants, 13 million have been forced to flee, half of them abroad. According to the UN, in 2025, 90% of Syrians were living below the poverty line. Added to this is the destruction: 40% of schools (2.5 million children are currently out of school) and a large proportion of the energy infrastructure; water and electricity are now only available for a few hours a day in the major cities.

On 8 December 2024, the day Bashar al-Assad was overthrown, the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham group took control of a country ravaged by decades of a totalitarian, corrupt and violent regime. In this pivotal year, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has supported four projects run by its Syrian partners across the country: a project by its partner Basmeh & Zeitooneh, providing economic, legal and psychosocial support to single women (mostly widows) with children who were previously detained in the Al-Hol camp; the aim is to support their social reintegration in the city of Raqqa, in particular by helping them to restart an economic activity; also in the Raqqa, Al-Hassake and Deir-Ez-Zor regions, a project run by the same partner which aims to improve access to water by building the capacity of six local organisations; in north-western Syria, in Idlib, Secours Catholique has partnered with Mars, a new partner, which develops vocational training programmes for young people, women and people with disabilities, specifically targeting those who have returned home since the fall of the regime.

Finally, a fourth project was launched in late 2025 in western Syria, led by Basmeh & Zeitooneh in areas severely affected by inter-communal conflict, particularly the massacres of the Alawite community in March 2025. With the aim of restoring social cohesion, the project involves bringing together young women from different communities to work on micro-projects that they carry out together and

which benefit the whole local community. Secours Catholique could become even more involved in Syria's reconstruction, while continuing to prioritise the protection of the most vulnerable populations and economic recovery.

RESPONSES TO THE CRISIS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS CAUSED BY THE VIOLENCE IN HAITI

Haiti is facing a multidimensional structural crisis, fuelled by political instability, the spread of armed violence and a lack of essential services. The humanitarian crisis is worsening, with 6 million people in need of emergency humanitarian aid. Violence linked to clashes with armed groups, which now control 90% of the capital, is causing large-scale population movements across the country.

A quarter of the displaced people (300,000 people) are stranded in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area and are living in extremely dangerous conditions. Of the displaced, 54% are women and 53% are children. Widespread violence, family separations, displacement, children dropping out of school and difficult living conditions are stress factors for children that affect their learning and development. The recruitment of children by armed groups increased by 200% in 2025. Domestic violence and the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war are creating an alarming situation: more than 8,000 cases of gender-based violence were recorded in 2025, representing a 25% increase compared with 2024, with 59% of these cases involving sexual violence and 16% of survivors being children.

Given the extremely serious situation the country is facing, it became essential to develop a response to this humanitarian crisis by identifying new emergency partners.

One such partner is the Citizens' Initiative for Human Rights (ICDH), which works in camps for displaced people on child protection issues (recreational activities, psychosocial support, raising awareness of children's rights, and the distribution of hygiene kits). And also Solidarite Fanm Ayisyen (Sofa), which supports women who have survived gender-based violence through a day centre, Douvanjou, where women receive psychological and financial support. Secours Catholique also assisted SOFA with another emergency response in the south-west of the country following Hurricane Melissa in November 2025. A field visit to Haiti – the first in five years – provided an opportunity to meet these new partners and to meet

Secours Catholique's other development partners (working in agroecology and civic participation), as part of a Nexus¹ approach that Secours Catholique wishes to develop further.

A RESPONSE TAILORED TO THE CRISIS IN THE DRC

In early 2025, continuing the armed insurgency launched in November 2021 in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the M23 (23 March Movement) seized control of Goma and Bukavu, the provincial capitals of North Kivu and South Kivu, further exacerbating an already severe humanitarian crisis in the region. With such significant humanitarian needs in South Kivu province – in South Kivu



ELODIE PERRIOT / SCCF

province alone, 1.42 million people classified as 'internally displaced' were still forced to flee their homes in December 2025 – and with clashes still occurring regularly between the M23 armed group and the Congolese armed forces and their allies, Secours Catholique has renewed its support for the diocesan Caritas organisation in Bukavu, a partner since 2007.

In the face of this major crisis, Caritas Bukavu has therefore refocused its work to prioritise meeting the basic needs of the affected populations, including since the arrival of the new authorities. Caritas Bukavu has therefore carried out rapid and in-depth needs assessments with a view to providing tailored, multi-sectoral assistance, including cash transfers and/or food and/or essential household items, for the benefit of the most vulnerable households.

¹ A project combining humanitarian aid to meet people's basic needs with development initiatives to promote their economic and social integration.

RESPONSE TO THE EARTHQUAKE IN MYANMAR

Already severely weakened by four years of armed conflict and two cyclones in 2023 and 2024, Myanmar was struck on 28 March 2025 by an earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale, the strongest it had experienced in decades. Occurring very close to the surface, with epicentres near the cities of Mandalay and Sagaing, the earthquake was particularly destructive and deadly, claiming nearly 5,500 lives and leaving 11,500 people injured.

Caritas Myanmar, with which Secours Catholique – Caritas France has been working for many years, was on the ground and was able to quickly assess the needs and the resources required to address them. With the healthcare system having been decimated by years of conflict, the most urgent needs were to search for missing persons, provide assistance to the injured, and ensure access to water,

hygiene, sanitation, temporary shelter and food. As soon as the assessment was complete, the partner issued an appeal for emergency financial support through Caritas Internationalis, to which Secours Catholique was able to respond with exceptional speed, committing its own funds while launching a fundraising campaign, thanks to a rapid internal decision-making process and links with a national partner on the ground who was familiar with the needs of the affected populations.

This ability to respond swiftly in an emergency is one of Secours Catholique's key strengths; it makes all the difference in crises of this magnitude. ■

FRANCE AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS AS PART OF THE 'LIVING WELL, EATING WELL TOGETHER' PROGRAMME

For several years now, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has made food security a key focus of its work and advocacy, promoting agroecology and dignified access for all to sustainable, high-quality food. With a view to fulfilling the right to food, the organisation has developed two programmes: 'Ensemble, bien-vivre, bien-manger' in France, and 'CoRe' internationally, between which there is extensive collaboration. In 2025, the Brazilian Association for the Promotion of Small-Scale Farming and Agroecology (AS-PTA) visited France for study visits from 24 March to 4 April. Firstly, to discover the local initiatives led by

five Secours Catholique delegations and to compare the realities here and there; and secondly, in Lyon to take part in the 'Tout le monde à table' event, co-organised by Secours Catholique and its partners around the study 'The Unfair Price of Food'. These exchanges continued in Brazil from 7 to 15 July, with a visit by four of the French delegations to the Campina Grande region in the north-east of the country, where they were able to learn about the projects run by AS-PTA.

INSPIRING VISITS TO CARITAS IN SPAIN AND ITALY

As part of the 'Living Well, Eating Well Together' programme, representatives from Caritas Barcelona and Caritas Milan visited France in 2024 to tour community food shops serving a diverse range of people, which have been set up in various branches of Secours Catholique – Caritas France. Following on from these meetings, staff and volunteers from three regional branches and the national headquarters of Secours Catholique took part in an exciting immersion programme in 2025 with the teams at the diocesan Caritas organisation in Barcelona. This provided an opportunity to deepen the question of the participation of those receiving support, and to draw inspiration from initiatives such as prepaid



VINCENT BOISOT / SCCF



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INTERVIEW WITH

MARIA NYMAN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF CARITAS EUROPA

“WE MUST ENSURE
THAT THE VOICES
OF THOSE AFFECTED
ARE HEARD”

How would you sum up 2025 in Europe?

Maria Nyman: The year 2025 has clearly shown just how fragile our democracies and multilateralism are, and how essential it is to work tirelessly to strengthen them. It has put Europe's commitment to its values to the test and brought certain worrying trends into sharper focus, such as the extreme concentration of wealth and its translation into political power, or the shrinking space for civil society. It is those most exposed to situations of vulnerability who suffer the most severe consequences of this difficult context. Our mission as the Caritas network is all the more important and meaningful: to act in a coordinated manner within our network and through strategic partnerships, in cooperation with the Church, faith-based organisations, civil society in the broadest sense, European institutions and national governments, in order to promote social justice and build a world where ‘the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth’ are heard and taken into account.

Is there a stigmatisation of the poor and foreigners at both European level and in France?

Maria Nyman: Yes, across Europe, people in vulnerable situations are increasingly portrayed as a burden on social welfare systems, with no regard for their contribution to our society. This rhetoric is reflected in more restrictive policies: tighter access to social benefits, increased eligibility requirements, the criminalisation of migration, and a shift in budgetary priorities away from social welfare towards security and border control.

At the same time, the current context – characterised by budget cuts, the shrinking of civil society, the war on our continent in Ukraine, the suffering affecting many regions of Europe, as well as global conflicts and disasters – makes our situation particularly difficult. We must therefore continue to reflect on the best way to fulfil our mission and diversify our sources of funding. In this way, we will be able to continue supporting those who need Caritas's help. Caritas's work at local level brings hope to many people in this very difficult context. While other organisations are withdrawing from local communities, Caritas works with them and through them, bringing hope, resilience and the capacity to act, and contributing, brick by brick, to the building of a fairer society.

How is the withdrawal of US programmes and funding being felt?

Maria Nyman: The almost total and unannounced suspension of USAID funding has created a situation of unprecedented chaos in the humanitarian aid sector worldwide. The entire sector has been affected: Caritas, of course, but also the United Nations agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and almost all NGOs, both national and international.

There are two main lines of response. The first is to save as many projects as possible, to redouble efforts to secure funding and to focus on areas where efficiency gains can be made. However, as the crisis is affecting all actors in the sector, competition is intensifying over a 'pie' that has shrunk, forcing many NGOs to implement urgent reforms.

The second approach seeks to seize the opportunity presented by the current crisis to consider a systemic change of model. The model we would like to see emerge from the chaos created by the US administration would involve transferring decision-making power to local partners and reforming the headquarters of NGOs in Europe so that they retain only advocacy, communication and fundraising functions. Caritas has been a pioneer in this regard. We therefore have a responsibility, within our movement, to analyse what works in a model that promotes local leadership and to communicate this as effectively as possible to policy-makers.

Are European Caritas organisations managing to maintain their support for their partners around the world?

Maria Nyman: National budgets allocated to development aid and humanitarian aid have been significantly reduced in Germany, Austria, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands – and, unfortunately, this list is by no means exhaustive. These decisions are having a knock-on effect, as European Caritas organisations support their counterparts in the Global South. Some members of our confederation, particularly in African and Latin American countries, but also in Asia, are seeing their financial support drastically reduced and are being forced to suspend programmes and make staff redundant.

What needs to be done to revitalise solidarity at European and global level?

Maria Nyman: Civil society must mobilise, persuade and engage with the media to counter the dominant narrative using concrete examples. What would happen if there were no aid at all? How many people would then be completely deprived of access to basic assistance? Our voice is not being heard enough.

We (as Caritas and, more broadly, as a sector) must engage in an in-depth and critical reflection on our communication strategy, in order to prevent 'empathy fatigue' among the general public and to mobilise those who genuinely care about people living in poverty and marginalisation, both in Europe and in other parts of the world. This mobilisation is essential to ensure that cuts to aid budgets carry a political cost for those who make the decisions. We must also ensure that the voices of those directly affected – from both the Global South and the Global North – are heard, particularly those on the margins, those most affected by the lack of solidarity, funding cuts and unconscionable policies.

**“SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY
PRESENTED BY THE CURRENT
CRISIS TO CONSIDER A SYSTEMIC
CHANGE OF MODEL.”**

cards, community gardens and the work carried out to build skills in gardening and seed conservation. Inspiring visits organised by Caritas Milan are planned for 2026. In the meantime, online meetings continue to take place every two months, facilitating exchanges between the food teams of the three border Caritas organisations.

DISCUSSING INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY IN SCHOOLS

At the request of several of its local branches keen to raise awareness among young people about citizenship and solidarity at both local and international levels, and to encourage them to take action for a fairer and more united world, Secours Catholique – Caritas France designed and made an educational resource pack available to them in 2025. This ready-to-use resource offers a variety of fun and interactive activities to facilitate awareness-raising sessions in primary schools, lower and upper secondary schools: games (such as 'Le Pas en avant', 'Le Dé des religions' and 'Le Jeu des citrons'), immersive activities (such as 'En route avec les migrants') as well as

debates and activities tailored to each school year group. In line with the school curriculum, these activities enable pupils to explore four key themes: migration, the right to food, a just ecological transition, and intercultural and interfaith understand-

ing. They are a valuable tool for fulfilling one of Secours Catholique's missions: to foster a fairer and more fraternal society from a very young age, by encouraging the development of critical thinking and a sense of solidarity.

MAPPING INITIATIVES FOR WOMEN

To mark International Women's Day, and as part of the work on the 'gender' approach carried out by its International Action and Advocacy department, Secours Catholique – Caritas France set out to highlight and map all the initiatives undertaken for women in France and around the world. These initiatives are numerous and inspiring. In France, many support centres offer dedicated programmes, such as *La Halte de jour* in Bordeaux, which is reserved on Mondays for women, who are provided with hygiene

kits, a laundry facility, a snack, support and a sophrology workshop... Internationally, partners carry out a range of initiatives that help empower women and marginalised groups, thereby contributing to social justice and equity. For example, in the African Great Lakes region, where they are committed to combating gender-based violence, they support numerous initiatives that reinforce the key role of women in building resilience to climate crises (notably through the CoRe programme). Supporting these initiatives gives Secours Catholique the opportunity to engage in a broader dialogue with its partners aimed at dismantling power structures.

AN INTERNATIONAL PARTNER ON THE NATIONAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

The fourth cycle of the Secours Catholique – Caritas France National Advisory Committee (CAN) was held in Lourdes from 25th to 28th November. A new development this time was the inclusion among its members of an international partner, Caritas Natitingou in Benin, one of the coordinators of the Agroecology programme in the Sahel. The participation of international partners was requested by the National Advisory Committee members during the last cycle, as they wished to broaden the perspectives and exchanges that take place during the sessions. The highly symbolic nature of the presence of a partner from Benin in itself provides an answer to the question that will be addressed during this new three-year cycle: "In our current environment, where the core values of Secours Catholique are so often called into question, how can we describe and implement, in all its dimensions, the support we wish to offer to the people we assist and to those who support them?" ■

**“TO HELP BUILD A SOCIETY
THAT IS MORE FAIR AND
CARING, STARTING FROM
A VERY YOUNG AGE.”**

AN ORGANISATION TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES

IN MANY RESPECTS, 2025 will remain a landmark date for Secours Catholique – Caritas France, marking the completion of major projects designed to address new societal challenges and the expectations expressed by the network of regional offices. The two years spent focusing on volunteering have helped to stabilise the number of volunteers and to draw up a roadmap, with one key aspect: 'looking after' the volunteers who are faced with increasingly tragic situations and are now often criticised for their commitment, particularly when they come to the aid of migrants.

The year 2025 also marks the adoption of two major documents by the general assembly: the association's new articles of association, aimed at opening membership to those who are committed to the organisation and identify with its mission; and the position paper, conceived and drafted in collaboration with people who have experienced hardship, through which Secours Catholique reaffirms its commitment to a just ecological transition.

Finally, it was in 2025 that the foundations were laid for the far-reaching reorganisation that lies ahead. This reorganisation involves a job-preservation plan (PSE), which was introduced to reduce the growing gap between the association's expenditure and its resources.



THE CHALLENGES OF VOLUNTEERING AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

REVIEW OF TWO YEARS OF THE NATIONAL “VOLUNTEERING” PRIORITY

In 2023, Secours Catholique – Caritas France set itself a key objective for the next two years: to develop volunteering, based on a vision that had been refined during the first year: “To enable all those who wish to do so to have an impact on the spiritual, social and ecological transformations of the world in which they live.”

The very positive results of these two years were presented at the 2025 Annual General Meeting. The approach of setting a shared priority has helped to mobilise all those involved. And while the trend still needs to be confirmed, for the first time in ten years, the number of new volunteers has exceeded that of those leaving, with a very encouraging average age. A roadmap has been drawn up for the future. It comprises four key areas: promoting volunteering or civic engagement among people in vulnerable situations in order to empower them; encouraging volunteers who wish to do so to take on greater responsibility;

developing new forms of engagement that are better suited, in particular, to the constraints faced by young people; and, finally, supporting all volunteers so that they can carry out their activities with peace of mind.

COMMITMENT TO ‘LOOKING AFTER VOLUNTEERS’

As part of the ‘volunteering priority’ announced in 2024 by Secours Catholique – Caritas France, and also in response to requests from its network, a working group was set up in 2025 to address the issue of ‘caring for volunteers’. Drawing on feedback from local and regional discussions on the issue, identified practices and pilot schemes carried out within the organisation’s regional branches, as well as in other organisations such as Les Restos du cœur, the Salvation Army, Amnesty International and the Red Cross, the initiative aims to take into account the overall well-being of volunteers. In particular, it focuses on the needs that enable them to carry out

their work with peace of mind: the quality of life within the team, dealing with instances of discrimination, and their journey within the organisation, or taking into account personal constraints – whether financial, physical or emotional... This approach, designed for all volunteers, does not overlook those involved in activities that expose them to clearly identified risks such as aggression, as well as less visible risks such as a loss of purpose, a feeling of powerlessness or a sense of not being recognised by the organisation. The guide resulting from this work comprises three parts. The first part examines the rationale behind the

'caring' approach in the context of the organisation's mission and the Gospels. The second identifies and analyses the eight types of distress expressed by volunteers, while the third outlines how to proceed depending on whether one is a local team, a delegation, a region or an organisation, by assessing one's level of practice across a dozen criteria to identify what is already working well and what needs improving. This major project will also lead to the creation of a helpline, due to become operational in 2026. More broadly, it will raise awareness within the organisation of the need to look after those it sends on missions. ■

A FRESH APPROACH TO GOVERNANCE AND WAYS OF WORKING

ADOPTION OF THE NEW ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION BY THE GENERAL MEETING

In order to align more closely with its mission to enable everyone to make a difference to the world around them, Secours Catholique – Caritas France decided in 2022 to open up membership to the volunteers and staff involved in its work. This reform required the Secours Catholique's articles of association – which had not been amended since 1962 – to be rewritten. At its general meeting in June 2025, these new articles of association, which had been drafted following consultation with the organisation's networks, were unanimously approved and adopted. This first step was the most important, and the unanimous support it received reflects an encouraging level of confidence in the far-reaching transformation that lies ahead. The new articles of association could then be submitted to Secours Catholique's supervisory ministry, the Ministry of the Interior, and finally to the Council of State, with approval expected in early 2026. A new two-year period has begun for the implementation of the new articles of association, in particular the drafting of the rules of procedure, which are to be adopted at the 2026 general meeting and which will set out the terms and conditions for membership of the association: from the membership fee to the procedures for vetting candidates. This is set to be a complex task, given the decision – which has already been taken – to make membership conditional upon a long-term commitment and to

improve the induction process for volunteers and staff. Secours Catholique has not set itself a target in terms of membership numbers, but reaching 5,000 members – which is roughly equivalent to the number of people in leadership roles within the network – would be an initial success.

THE LAUNCH OF THE PROJECT TO TRANSFORM THE ORGANISATION OF SECOURS CATHOLIQUE

Faced with increasing uncertainty and against a backdrop of strained funding sources, Secours Catholique decided in 2025 to embark on a far-reaching transformation of its organisation to enhance its impact and move out of a medium-term risk zone. A transformation plan was presented to the Social and Economic Committee (CSE) on Thursday 16 October, and an information and consultation phase was launched.

This plan stems from the conviction that Secours Catholique must devote the bulk of its resources to tackling the root causes of poverty in France and internationally. To achieve this, Secours Catholique

“A TRANSFORMATION OF ITS ORGANISATION TO STRENGTHEN ITS IMPACT AND MOVE OUT OF A RISK AREA.”

– Caritas France has decided to evolve its operations, particularly the coordination between its departmental branches, its decentralised regional teams, and its national headquarters, with the aim of better supporting its on-the-ground initiatives. Like many charitable organisations, Secours Catholique faces financial constraints that are becoming increasingly difficult to manage. Its transformation plan aims to establish a streamlined organisation that is closely aligned with on-the-ground efforts – both in France through its regional offices and internationally through its partners – enabling it to meet these challenges. These changes are necessary to preserve its ability to provide sustainable support to the poorest members of society. This restructuring would have an impact on employment within the association; discussions with employee representatives regarding a job protection plan have begun. In particular, it would include an initial phase of voluntary redundancies. The association wishes to carry out this process with the utmost respect and consideration for each and every individual. The new organisational structure is scheduled to be implemented following the conclusion of the social dialogue phase, sometime in 2026.

CAN'S REFLECTIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND POVERTY ISSUES

As part of its internal RevE initiative launched in 2023, Secours Catholique – Caritas France finalised three complementary tools in 2025, including a reference document titled "Toward a Just and Fraternal Ecology: Secours Catholique's Vision and Commitment". Presented and adopted by the Secours Catholique General Assembly in June 2025,

it was drafted based on scientific and ecclesiastical writings, existing materials on the subject, and work carried out not only by the National Action Committee (CAN) from 2023 to 2025, but also by international partners and delegations engaged in this issue. This founding document is intended to serve as a compass to guide the association's reflection and action on this cross-cutting issue.

BOOSTING AND EXPANDING THE COLLECTION OF STATISTICAL DATA

For the second consecutive year, the Poverty and Territorial Analysis Department of Secours Catholique – Caritas France organised a week dedicated to statistics in 2025, offering webinars aimed at boosting data collection on the situation of the people they serve, highlighting the importance of this data for local and national advocacy, and to conduct a regional assessment... which then enables adjustments to be made to the activities carried out.

More than 200 people participated in the various webinars on tools and methods for collecting household data, as well as in roundtable discussions to share experiences and workshops designed for the organisation's various stakeholders: field volunteers, assistants, programme coordinators, delegates, headquarters staff, etc.

To broaden its scope of analysis on poverty, Secours Catholique also wishes to collect data on the situation of people attending its day centres, French language classes, community food pantries, social groups, etc. – a segment of the population currently underrepresented or not represented at all in its statistical report. The final webinar of this week dedicated to statistics focused on a data sheet and methods tailored to collecting information on participants in these group activities. About ten regional offices tested these tools throughout 2025 with a view to rolling them out nationwide starting in 2026.

REVIEW AND PREPARATION FOR A NEW TERM OF OFFICE FOR THE CCAS (CENTRE COMMUNAL D'ACTION SOCIALE)

The composition of the CCAS boards of directors is renewed at the time of municipal elections. As part of the campaign launched by Secours Catholique – Caritas France to try to incorporate its proposals into the candidates' programmes, the local chapters were also invited to assess the work of the 1,500 volunteers who served during the last term and to consider which candidates to propose to the future elected officials. ■



CHRISTOPHE HARGOUËS / SCCF

A STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE FRATERNAL REVOLUTION

PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR THE PODCAST "PARCOURS: GIVING A VOICE TO THE INVISIBLE"



Launched in late 2023 by the Editorial Production Division within the Communications and Philanthropy Department of Secours Catholique – Caritas France, the podcast "Parcours, la parole aux invisibles" aims

to share with the general public the life experiences of people facing social exclusion, whose voices are rarely heard in traditional media.

The podcast now features more than 30 episodes, each lasting about 20 minutes, offering a human and authentic encounter and providing a window into the reality of poverty or precarious living conditions (substandard housing, disability, economic insecurity, etc.) through intimate personal stories. This editorial initiative, aimed at combating the invisibility of the most vulnerable, was recognised on October 16 at the Maison de la Radio: Secours Catholique received the jury's special mention for "Parcours" in the Best Brand Podcast category, awarded by CB News at the 2025 Creativity Awards. A special episode of "Parcours", hosted by Fabrice Drouelle and featuring guests including journalist Florence Aubenas, was also produced (see p. 75).

A NEW BRAND IDENTITY GUIDE FOR SECOURS CATHOLIQUE'S ACTIVITIES

"Cafés Sourires", day centres, solidarity-based shops and grocery stores... In 2024, Secours Catholique – Caritas France noted that there was too much diversity in the signage used at the locations and centres run by its regional branches. To address this lack of consistency, which was undermining its identity, a new visual identity was developed – a single, easy-to-apply style guide for all of the association's locations, enabling the public to recognise them easily.

The guidelines were launched in January 2025. They confirm blue and orange as the association's signature

colours and establish a dedicated typeface that is instantly recognisable by everyone across all media. One of the objectives of these new guidelines is also to give Secours Catholique a modern, optimistic, and joyful image. Efforts were also made to propose standard names that would infuse these locations with the spirit of a "fraternal revolution". Secours Catholique's actions are fraternal; its signage and locations must also become fraternal! By 2025, about 100 locations had already undergone this transformation.

THE FRATERNAL REVOLUTION CONTINUES WITH MARIE-JOSÉ PEREC



The call from the general public to carry out a true fraternal revolution has not waned since its launch in 2020, as part of the Secours Catholique – Caritas France communications campaign. Following Annie Duperey in 2023

and Gad Elmaleh in 2024, it is Marie-José Péric, a three-time Olympic champion, who has taken up the torch of commitment in the 2025 version of the film *Fraternal Revolution. What is fraternity?* These commercials, aired in November and December on various television channels, feature the famous athlete alongside other volunteers of all ages, backgrounds, and races, to explain what the "fraternal revolution" is and encourage everyone to get involved.

Her fame and the strong public support she enjoys have given great visibility to this message of fraternity, which sets us apart and gives us an edge over other organisations. Visuals and a radio version of the film have been made available to our local chapters so they can post them on their websites, share them on social media, and broadcast them on the air through partnerships with local radio stations. ■

ENCOURAGING GENEROSITY

DONORS STEP UP TO MEET THE CHALLENGES

Secours Catholique – Caritas France ended 2025 with fundraising in line with its projections: €69.6M, representing a very slight decline (1%) compared to 2024. This decline is due to the natural attrition of the organisation's donor base, offset in part by slightly more generous average annual donations. Amid unprecedented economic, political, and geopolitical instability, Secours Catholique continues to enjoy the full confidence of its donors, who have consistently risen to the challenge.

The highly proactive strategy implemented to attract younger donors (ages 25 to 35) through regular direct debit contributions is beginning to bear fruit. The street fundraising campaigns conducted over the past few years have indeed been successful, enabling us to renew our donor base with these donors, who are much younger than the average age of our current donors.

A KEY PARTNERSHIP WITH CRÉDIT MUTUEL

In recent years, Secours Catholique – Caritas France has begun to develop corporate philanthropy, achieving great success in 2025: a very significant contribution from Crédit Mutuel, which committed to providing €1.5M per year over three years. Signed during the year, this partnership contributed to the strong final results, as did the successful initiatives to encourage regular donors to increase their contributions.

A SECOND EXCEPTIONAL YEAR IN TERMS OF BEQUESTS

The year 2024 was an exceptional year for life insurance donations to Secours Catholique – Caritas France, thanks to several large-sum policies. The year 2025 has been even more successful, with life insurance premiums remaining at a high level, compounded by the successful sale of several properties from bequests received. The final result stands at €45.5M, compared with €44.2M in 2024.

A SHARP FALL IN SUBSIDIES

The year 2025 was marked by the abrupt cessation of USAID funding, decided upon by the US government

as far back as February. The resulting widespread decline in international aid spared no one. The amount of grants received by the International Action and Advocacy Department of Secours Catholique – Caritas France thus fell from €4.3M in 2024 to €0.5M in 2025. Numerous fundraising efforts proved unsuccessful, while the renewal of the multi-annual partnership agreement (CPP) signed with the AFD was for a lower amount and will only be paid retrospectively in 2026. Similarly, of the €4.3M paid in 2024, part of the AFD grant related to 2025.

In France, Secours Catholique has recruited staff in every region to help its local branches respond to calls for projects and seek funding. This strategy has proved highly successful, enabling the organisation to increase its funding from €6M to nearly €10M in just a few years. Nevertheless, 2025 ended with a shortfall of €400,000, due to a significant reduction in subsidies from local and regional authorities, which state and European grants did not fully offset. Given this year's difficult circumstances, having managed to limit the decline to 4% is already a commendable achievement. ■

PUBLICATIONS

STATISTICAL REPORT 2025



In its annual statistical report, 'The State of Poverty in France: Thirty Years of Observing Poverty', Secours Catholique reviews thirty years of monitoring situations of poverty. The organisation highlights the sharp rise in the proportion of women and families, as well as people with long-term illnesses or disabilities, among those assisted over the course of these thirty years. This 2025 edition features an article by historian Axelle Brodriez-Dolino, who examines how society's perception of poverty and the poor has evolved.

REPORT ON HOUSING IN ÎLE-DE-FRANCE



In order to assess access to legal residence for people without a fixed address, the Île-de-France Residence Registration Network (CNDCH, Romeurope, Dom'Asile, the Île-de-France Federation of Solidarity Organisations, Médecins du Monde, Secours Catholique – Caritas France and Solidarité Jean-Merlin) has carried out a groundbreaking survey of the main CCASs in the Île-de-France region, which reveals numerous breaches of their legal obligations.

MAYOTTE'S POLICY STATEMENT



In its policy statement entitled 'Living Together in Mayotte: The Urgent Need for Social and Climate Justice', Secours Catholique highlights what remains to be done in the wake of the cyclone that devastated the island, to address the difficulties in accessing water and accommodation for all the

island's inhabitants – not just those with the right to reside there. It also sets out a vision for Mayotte's future in terms of social justice, taking into account the needs and aspirations of its residents, and empowering them to take action.

L'APOSTROPHE N° 14



'Love in Question(s)': for this 14th issue, the authors of *L'Apostrophe* – men and women from Saint-Brieuc, in the Côtes-d'Armor – have shared their thoughts on the multifaceted, and often intimate, theme of love. This issue also features poems from Réunion that explore what it means to be poor today. The 'From Pen to

Brush' section, meanwhile, presents the illustrated dreams of a group of residents at the Hestia home in La Garennes-Colombes, who were supported in their creative process by the artist Oleňka Carrasco.

WORDS ABOUT POVERTY IN 'PARCOURS'



The 'Parcours' podcast has released a special episode entitled 'The Language of Poverty', presented by Fabrice Drouelle. In this programme, the presenter of *Affaires sensibles* analyses the evolution of discourse on poverty, both in the media and in other areas of society, with contributions from the leading journalist Florence Aubenas, author notably of *Quai de Ouistreham*¹ – an immersive account of the world of insecure work –; historian Laurence Fontaine, a specialist in the history of poverty; and Julien Damon, a sociologist and lecturer at Sciences Po, author of several 'Que sais-je?' books on insecurity. ■

1 Paris, L'Olivier, 2010.

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 support 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 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.

www.cites-caritas.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.

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 certified social housing contractors, 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 act 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.ccscfrance.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 licensed 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.

www.solidarauto.org

THE CARITAS FRANCE FOUNDATION



Founded by Secours Catholique – Caritas France in 2009, the Caritas France Foundation is France's first charitable 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. Lastly, the foundation also supports research and experimentation. 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.

www.fondationjeanrodhain.org

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

ON 31 DECEMBER 2025

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of Secours Catholique – Caritas France has 140 members, including 132 active members (members who have paid their membership fee) – qualified administrators, presidents and vice-presidents from delegations, and one treasurer per region – and 8 honorary members. The age limit is 75 years old. 50.4% of the active members are men, 49.6% 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 seven 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.

OFFICE:

M. Didier DURIEZ

National President – Experienced professional

M. Hervé BERNOUD

National Treasurer – Experienced professional

M. Marc BONNET

National Secretary – President in Mayenne

Mme Dominique NOWINSKI

National Vice-President and Vice-President in Nord Cambrai

Mme Catherine GAUDRY

National Vice-President and President in Val-de-Marne

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mme Brigitte AUDIO

President of Berry

Mme Laurence AUGÈRE-ROSSIGNOL

President of Limousin

Mme Frédérique BOLLE-REDDAT

Vice-President of Franche-Comté

Mme Emmanuelle D'ACHON

Experienced professional

M. Éric DELZANT

Experienced professional

Mme Marilyne DURAND

President of Alpes

M. Bruno DE FERAUDY

Experienced professional

– President of Cités Caritas

Mme Marie Annick JOLY

Experienced professional

Mme Hélène JOUANNEAU

Vice-President of Ile-et-Vilaine

M. Jean-Pierre LAGASSE

Vice-President of Rhône

Mme Thérèse LECROART

Experienced professional

Sœur Anne LÉCU

Experienced professional

(Corref representative)

M. Vincent LÉONARD

Experienced professional

M. Jean-Louis MILHAU

President of Marne-Ardennes

M. Bertrand PARMENTIER

President of Tarn-Aveyron-Lozère

Secretary General:

Mme Adélaïde BERTRAND

Chaplain General:

Père François ODINET

Honorary Presidents:

Mme Véronique DEVISE,

Mme Véronique FAYET

and M. François SOULAGE

LINKS WITH 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 (CEF) and then 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 OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Offer advice and recommendations on life and the association's plans.

- Real Estate Committee
- International Committee
- Resources Committee
- Audit and Risk Committee
- Appointments Committee
- Advocacy Committee
- Treasury Committee
- Caritas France Network Committee
- Spirituality Committee
- National Coordination 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, 1,060,000 people were supported by 2,500 local teams. Internationally, 340 operations were carried out in 2025, in 47 countries or regions, in association with the Caritas Internationalis network (165 Caritas groups in 200 countries). Within one year, 3.3 million people benefited from international aid from Secours Catholique – Caritas France.

ORGANISATION

- ▶ On 31 December 2025 there were 72 delegations, divided into 2,560 local teams in mainland France and French overseas territories, covering the entire country.
- ▶ Network of 59,800 volunteers and 894 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 2025 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 16 June 2026.

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 covering three areas: governance, management and communication. In March 2024, le Secours Catholique – Caritas France had its «Don en confiance», accreditation renewed for a period of three years.

WE THANK OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN 2025

PRIVATE PARTNERS

Businesses

- 2C Bricolage SAS
- AG2R
- Agirc-Arrco
- Alliance professionnelle retraite Lourmel
- Axa banque
- Caisse régionale de Crédit Agricole mutuel de l'Anjou et du Maine
- CCF
- Chocolaterie Au Négus
- CGR Cinémas
- Comat Groupe
- Crédit Agricole Franche Comté
- Cuisinella
- DC Agency
- Décathlon
- Droit de Regard
- Eco TLC - Refashion
- EDF
- Fiducial Expertise
- Groupe Atlantic
- Groupe Crédit Mutuel
- HydrAlp-Invest
- Jean Lutz SA
- La Banque Postale
- La Poste
- Le Petit Futé
- Maisons du Monde
- MS EQUIPEMENT LAMBALLE
- Moneta Asset Management
- Pharmagreen
- SA SODINE
- SAS Delarbre
- SNF SA
- Socultur
- Symta Pièces
- Veuve-Clicquot
- V33

Associations

- Agence du Don en Nature
- Association Georges Hourdin
- Association Ouest France Solidarité
- AXA Atout Coeur
- Dons Solidaires
- Fédération des acteurs de la solidarité Bretagne
- Institut océanographique de Monaco - Association des Amis du musée
- L'Archipel des Utopies
- La Savoyarde en mémoire de l'abbé Poupon
- Montagne et Prière
- Union Nationale des footballeurs professionnels

Foundations and donations

- Belron Ronnie Lubner Charitable Foundation
- European Climate Foundation
- Fondation AnBer
- Fondation Caritas France
- Fondation Carrefour
- Fondation Crédit agricole Provence Côte d'Azur
- Fondation Crédit Agricole Solidarité et développement
- Fondation EDF
- Fondation Entreprendre pour toi
- Fondation de France
- Fondation groupe EDF
- Fonds Neoen Philanthropy
- Fondation Pour le Logement des Défavorisés
- Fondation Omerin
- Fondation Saint-Gobain
- Fondation Sancta Devota
- Fondation Somfy - Les Petites Pierres
- Fondation Suez
- Fondation VINCI pour la Cité
- Fonds Bayard - Agir pour une société du lien
- Fonds de dotation Antigone
- Fonds de dotation Martine Coisne
- Fonds de dotation Rondeau
- General Mills Foundation
- Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities
- Talents et Partage

Foundations under the Fondation Agir contre l'Exclusion

- Fondation Orléans

Foundations under the AnBer Foundation

- Fondation Les Uns Les Autres
- Fondation Nature et Solidarité 59
- Fondation Shiriki
- Fondation Stéraphan

Foundations under the Caritas France Umbrella Organisations

- Fondation Avenir Solidaire
- Fondation des Epiniers
- Fondation François, Monique et Pascal Bilger
- Fondation Franck Giroud
- Fondation Girafe Formations
- Fondation Les Primevères
- Fondation Masalina
- Fondation Tolot
- Fondation Xamafra

Foundations under the Foundation de France Umbrella Organisations

- Fondation Camachara Solidarités
- Fondation Castorama
- Fondation Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale
- Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso
- Fondation Guy Nicolas
- Fondation Hardy
- Fondation JM Bruneau
- Fonds Merymu

Foundations under the Notre Dame Umbrella Organisation

- Fondation H
- Fondation Isabelle et Hubert d'Ornano

Funds held by the Transatlantic Trust Fund

- Fonds Denise et Jean Verspieren

Central Government

- Direction générale de la cohésion sociale
- Ministère de la Culture
- Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères - Centre de crise et de soutien
- Ministère des Sports, de la Jeunesse et de la Vie Associative - Direction de la Jeunesse, de l'Education Populaire et de la Vie Associative

Local Authorities

- Communauté urbaine Le Havre Seine Métropole
- Directions départementales de l'emploi, du travail et des solidarités
- Directions régionales et interdépartementales de l'hébergement et du logement
- Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- Région Île-de-France
- Région Pays de la Loire
- Région Sud - Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur

Other Public Organisations

- Agence française de développement
- Agence Nationale pour les Chèques-Vacances
- Caisse nationale des allocations familiales et les caisses d'allocations familiales

As well as all the authorities (municipalities, joint community authorities and departmental and regional councils) that support us.

We would also like to thank all the companies that support us through skills sponsorship: Air Liquide, Allianz, Astek, Atos, Banque de France, BNP-Paribas, Crédit Mutuel, EDF, Michelin, Nokia, Orange, Société Générale, Vinci Construction.

PUBLIC PARTNERS**European Institutions**

- Commission européenne - Direction générale des partenariats internationaux

And, of course, we thank all the individual donors who enable us to carry out our day to day activities.



ENSEMBLE, CONSTRUIRE UN MONDE JUSTE ET FRATERNEL

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LE SECOURS CATHOLIQUE — CARITAS FRANCE IN

FIGURES



€330M

N FUNDS OF WHICH 82%
DEDICATED TO SOCIAL PROJECTS

2025 IN FRANCE



1,060,000

PEOPLE SUPPORTED
IN FRANCE



59,800

VOLUNTEERS



5,000

CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS
SUPPORTED WITH SCHOOLING



2,560

LOCAL
TEAMS



218,000

FAMILIES WITH
SUPPORTED CHILDREN



80,000

PEOPLE MET ON
THE STREET



640,000

VISITS TO FOOD
AID CENTRES



600,000

VISITS TO DAY
CARE CENTRES



22,000

PEOPLE SUPPORTED WITH
LEARNING FRENCH

2025 WORLDWIDE



3.3 MILLION

PEOPLE SUPPORTED
INTERNATIONALLY



340

PROJECTS IN 47
COUNTRIES OR REGIONS



50

EMERGENCY
INTERVENTIONS

