



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

 **Caritas** Japan

From our President

On behalf of Caritas Japan, I would like to convey our gratitude to all who encourage and support our efforts. I am sending this report to inform you of our activities over the past year to assist those in need.

Needless to say, since March 11, 2011, our priority has been to provide assistance to those people and places affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster. We intend, with special assistance from Catholic Relief Services (the American Caritas), to continue to provide a variety of such services.

Of course, we also continue to respond to needs elsewhere, both in Japan and abroad, when natural disasters and violence cause suffering. We also respond to the voices of those who point out the crisis of climate change and call upon us to reflect urgently upon the meaning of human life in the face of environmental problems. We cannot avoid facing that challenge. In doing so, we must not limit ourselves to tackling only one aspect of it. We must deal with a broad range of issues, helping people make choices that enable them to live together in a sustainable way. We at Caritas Japan will continue to cooperate in efforts to build a better world.

At last year's General Assembly of Caritas Internationalis, Manila's Cardinal Tagle was elected president, the first from Asia, while I was re-elected to a second term as president of Caritas Asia. Caritas Japan is grateful for your support for our involvement with the Caritas Internationalis "One Human Family, Food for All Campaign" initiative to combat poverty and hunger. Eradicating poverty and fostering sustainable development are long-term challenges that we cannot avoid.

Providing direct assistance to those in need necessarily involves the transformation of society as a whole. Therefore, educational activities aimed at changing our world are essential so that all our brothers and sisters might live full lives. Let's reach out our hands to bring that about.

Bishop Isao Kikuchi
President, Caritas Japan

Lenten Campaign

Each year the Pope issues a Lenten message to deepen Christians' understanding of the spirit of the season and to encourage them to conversion works of love. In answer to this call, the Catholic Church in Japan calls for Catholics to respond to the "Ai no Bokin" (love collection) in fellowship with those who face oppression, discrimination and abandonment as well as those whose lives are in crisis. (Catholic Information Handbook 2015)

■ Message of Pope Francis for Lent 2016 :

I desire mercy, and not sacrifice (Matthew 9:13)

■ Lenten Booklet 2016 Circulation: 55,000

Contents: Pope Francis' Lenten message, introduction to Caritas-sponsored projects

■ Collection box for children Circulation: 23,000

■ Contribution envelopes Circulation: 63,000



Our Funds

Caritas Japan depends solely on donations from individual donors in Japan and does not receive any public funds or government subsidies. These donations are made either by direct contribution from individual donors or through special collections organized by dioceses, parishes and other institutions.

Amount of total donation 2015 **¥521,738,761**

(April 2015 — March 2016)

Lenten Collection	¥68,462,551
For Domestic Assistance	¥9,166,369
For Overseas Assistance	¥26,815,206
For Overseas Emergencies	¥132,627,113
Christmas Donation	¥26,210,508
Support for Caritas Japan	¥1,746,119
For the Great East Japan Earthquake	¥256,710,895

* Domestic Donation	¥41,289,909
* Donation from abroad	¥215,420,986

Aid Activities

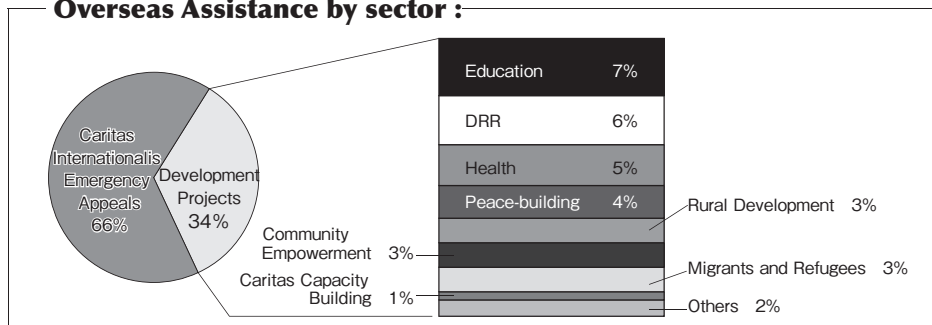
In collaboration with Caritas throughout the world, Caritas Japan supports the independence of people who must face harsh conditions in various places. Priority support is given to people recovering from disaster or war, and to support for human rights, education, health care and the eradication of poverty, especially where the need is most urgent.

- Funding for Emergency Appeals (EA) by Caritas Internationalis - 38 projects
- Human Development Projects with Caritas Member Organizations - 25 projects
- Support for grass-roots activities in Japan (incl. emergency response) - 8 projects

ASSISTANCES (April 2015 - March 2016)				Total Fund	¥384,091,847
The Great East Japan Earthquake				162,421	
Within Japan (incl. emergency response)				21,646	9.8%
Asia/Oceania				139,337	62.9%
Asian Partnership	794	Bangladesh	9,190	Cambodia	7,284
India	7,165	Indonesia	6,502	Mongolia	7,337
Myanmar	6,090	Nepal	36,879	Pakistan	15,018
Philippines	36,973	Sri Lanka	6,105		
Africa				34,007	15.3%
Chad	2,760	Democratic Republic of the Congo		1,243	
Eritrea	1,212	Ethiopia	1,323	Guinea	1,234
Malawi	1,252	Mauritania	1,384	Niger	1,364
Nigeria	1,401	Rwanda	2,969	South Sudan	2,419
Sudan	4,949	Tanzania	3,724	Uganda	6,773
Latin America · Caribbean				1,401	0.6%
Chile	1,401				
Middle East				11,108	5.0%
Iraq	4,849	Jordan	1,210	Lebanon	1,323
Palestine	2,356	Syria	1,370		
Europe				14,172	6.4%
CI Partnership	3,689	Croatia	1,366	Greece	5,111
Macedonia	1,318	Servia	1,370	Ukraine	1,318
Total Fund (Except the Great East Japan Earthquake)				221,671	100%

[JPY by the thousand]

Overseas Assistance by sector :



Education Assistance

Children of ethnic minorities or refugees, orphans and members of other socially vulnerable groups as well as those who suffer extreme poverty are not able to receive public education. In order that those children might receive primary education, assistance is aimed at developing a learning environment by providing teacher training, textbooks and scholarship grants. Technical training for poor women and youth is also provided. (Bangladesh, Mongolia, Cambodia, Rwanda and Haiti)

Disaster Risk Management

To prepare for disasters that might occur in the future, programs support the development of disaster-resident communities. (Indonesia and Pakistan)

Health Care and Public Health

In rural areas where primary health care is unavailable or where there is political instability, maternal and child health care are supported. (Cambodia, Palestine, and Iraq)

Peace Building

Caritas Japan supports efforts among differ-

ent ethnic and religious groups to cooperate in promoting peace. (Sri Lanka and Pakistan)

Agricultural Community Development Assistance

In Uganda and Kenya, the effects of climate change have made the already-difficult lives of agricultural families even worse. Caritas Japan assists efforts at community organizing to generate income through comprehensive programs to improve people's lives. This has included the communal construction of water tanks to collect rainwater for future use, an activity that strengthens community bonds. (Uganda and Kenya)

Community Empowerment Assistance

In India, Caritas Japan assists lower-class women to regain their rights and become financially independent. (India)

Assistance to Migrant Workers and Refugees

Poor people are driven to become migrant workers in foreign countries in order to support their households. Caritas Japan assists efforts to protect their rights. In addition, Caritas Japan supports those who because of conflict have become internally displaced or refugees. (Sri Lanka and Jordan)



Kabale, Uganda

Report and Study Sessions

- In Yokohama, 11th graders in Futaba High School's Caritas Group took part in a comprehensive learning session.
- Lecture at Hitotsubashi University Graduate School of International Policy.
- Presentation on "Poverty in the World" at the National Rally for Justice and Peace in Tokyo.

Social Awareness

In the world today, people face threats to human rights and life itself. In order to promote awareness of these situations, Caritas Japan sponsors training sessions and seminars as well as publishing booklets that deepen understanding of these challenges.

■ Fifty people attending the National Rally for Justice and Peace in Tokyo, September 9, 2015, heard a lecture by Caritas Japan Director Ko Miyanaga titled “Isolation and suicide – thinking about supporting life.”

■ Between November 2015 and February 2016, Caritas Japan sponsored a six-session seminar, “Supporting life.”

A total of 50 people took part, of whom 30 completed the entire seminar. In the first three sessions, participants shared in small groups, talking about the challenges of social isolation. The second half was devoted to learning about early intervention on behalf of those who feel isolated and suicidal. The themes of the six sessions were:

Being unable to say, “Help me!”
Being connected;
Escaping isolation;
Meeting different ideas;
Building supportive friendships;
What we can do.



■ Caritas Japan participated in the Third Korea-Japan Suicide Prevention Symposium on December 15, 2015, at Hongik University in Seoul. Three hundred people took part.

■ The 10th annual meeting of the 21st Century Christian Social Welfare Activities Conference was held in February. Yasuhiko Mukaiyachi and others from Bethel House gave a presentation on “Encounters that Echo with Life” to some 200 participants.

The 20th Caritas Internationalis General Assembly

Every four years, there is a general assembly of Caritas Internationalis. The most recent gathering of 424 Caritas representatives from 140 countries, was held May 12-17, 2015 with the theme “One Human Family, Caring for Creation.”

Prior to the general session, there were several keynote speeches. On the first day, Father Gustavo Gutierrez, the father of liberation theology, and Professor Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University in New York and noted campaigner against poverty, spoke. On the second day, Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, addressed the gathering.

Various agenda items were discussed in the general assembly, and Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of the Philippines was elected president, the first president from Asia. The assembly approved a framework and funding plan for action policies for the next four years.

Under the title “Hearing the cries of the poor,” the framework of activities policy intends to embody the call of Pope Francis to be a “poor church for the poor” by following five directions:



1 Caritas at the heart of the Church:

Uphold the Christian identity of Caritas as an essential service of the Church to the poor.

2 Save lives, rebuild communities:

Reduce the impact of humanitarian crises by enhancing disaster preparedness and response.

3 Promote sustainable integral human development:

Eradicate poverty in all its forms by empowering people and transforming unjust systems and structures.

4 Build global solidarity:

Address the causes of extreme poverty through strengthened communication, education and mobilisation, and enhance the visibility of Caritas.

5 Make the Caritas confederation more effective:

Build a stronger confederation based on professional and effective members guided by “formation of the heart”, and mobilise more resources.



Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan

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