

WHO ARE WE?

Caritas International Belgium is a Non-Governmental Organisation and a member of Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of 162 Catholic relief, development and social service organisations. We are working to build a better world in over 200 countries and territories. Focusing on the poor and persecuted, Caritas International Belgium believes the weak and oppressed are not objects of pity, but agents of change leading the struggle to eradicate dehumanizing poverty, unacceptable living and working conditions, and unjust social, political, economic and cultural structures. Unique to the Caritas network is its ongoing presence in communities, before, during and after crisis situations. In Belgium, founded in 1932, Caritas centralised Catholic health and social initiatives for the poor. The organisation's first international action was providing shelter for Basque children following the Spanish civil war. In 1949, Caritas supported refugees in Belgium and has since focused on reaching out worldwide to provide assistance during times of emergencies. Our programs have also expanded to include Caritas-supported micro-projects, many of which have evolved to support structural development programmes focused on food security, mainly in the Great Lakes region in Africa.

THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

As of 2006, Caritas International Belgium was running or supporting projects in 57 countries, on five continents for a total of nearly 10 million euros. Preferring to have activities implemented by local partners, Caritas International Belgium actively develops and nurtures partnerships (subsidiarity principle) in priority with the local Caritas organisations. Caritas International Belgium's long term focus is on food security. Caritas Belgium aims to consolidate the link between Relief, Rehabilitation and Development in order to improve the sustainability of its Relief and Rehabilitation interventions, and also to prevent food crisis or other disasters and to strengthen the resilience of the targeted communities (Disaster Risk Reduction / Preparedness). Further Caritas Belgium is always attentive to the following crosscutting issues: gender, participation, conflict sensitivity (Do not Harm), HIV/AIDS and environment. Caritas Belgium is particularly concerned with environment and climate issues since it is widely recognised that climate change is, and will become more of a cause of disasters with increasing magnitude and intensity (floods, droughts, cyclones...). Therefore, environmentally friendly approaches are fostered in all the projects, especially in the food security projects

ASIA DESK



Joeri LEYSEN
Representative in Asia
Caritas International Belgium
133 Kynsey Road
Colombo 08
SRI LANKA
joeri.leysen@gmail.com

Gauthier DE LOCHT
Desk Officer - Asia
Caritas International Belgium
43 Rue de la Charité
1210 Brussels
BELGIUM
g.delocht@caritasint.be
tel: 0032 2 229 36 39
fax: 0032 2 229 35 95



We wish for a world where peace, justice and solidarity reign. We wish victims of wars, catastrophes and poverty, are listened to and helped to rebuild their lives and restore their dignity. We believe every person must have access to food, drinking water and shelter and that everyone should be able to earn a living and have access to healthcare and education. We believe resources and wealth must be distributed among nations with an eye on our common humanity and sustainable development. We believe in unity and know it is illusory think one country or organization can solve global problems. Only unity under the common goal of a better world for ALL will make it possible to have long-term solutions.



Front: Three Sisters... protecting their line room (Galle Diocese, Sri Lanka)

Above: Organic and Healthy... results from the kitchen garden (Warangal Diocese, Andhra Pradesh, India)



Below: Images of Caritas projects in India and Sri Lanka

Right: Education for All...two smiling school girls from Andhra Pradesh, India (Warangal Diocese, Andhra Pradesh, India)



Caritas International Belgium assists the victims of wars, natural disasters, migration and poverty. Whether the victims are refugees or are internally displaced by disaster or conflict, we provide material and nonmaterial assistance. Assistance comes without regard to nationality, gender, religious or philosophical convictions and political affiliation. Support for the most vulnerable is in line with the Gospel. Our objective is to empower the afflicted to become actors of their own development. In case of international crises, we take part in relief and rehabilitation programmes initiated by the Caritas international network. In the Least Advanced Countries (LACs), we provide food security programmes that enable the most vulnerable people to rebuild their lives through rebuilding their livelihoods. In Belgium, we organize accommodation and other assistance for refugees and recent immigrants. In pursuit of permanent change we strive for human and structural solutions to the problems faced by the asylum seekers.

IN ASIA

After the December 26th tsunami in 2004, Caritas International Belgium significantly contributed to the Caritas response in 4 countries (Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia and Thailand). For the first time in its history, Caritas Belgium deployed technical advisors in Asia in Sri Lanka. Caritas International Belgium has already been working with various partners in Asia and would like to see these partnerships strengthened. Caritas International Belgium would also like to further develop its presence in the Asian region.

- Humanitarian aid throughout the world.
- Reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes including disaster risk reduction components.
- Food security programmes.

WHAT DO WE OFFER OUR PARTNERS IN ASIA

- Introduction to major donors Relief, Rehabilitation and Food Security proposals.
- Search of private donations for targeted projects.
- Expertise in Food Security.
- Support for Project Cycle Management.