



RAPPORTO ANNUALE 2006



ATTIVITÀ
PROGETTI
INIZIATIVE
IN ITALIA
E NEL MONDO



Activities and Projects in Italy and in the World

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

IDENTITY

“Caritas Italiana is the pastoral organization of the Italian Episcopal Conference (IEC), with the aim of promoting, in co-operation with other institutions, the expression and testimony of charity of the Italian catholic church community, in the forms that are appropriate considering time and needs, for a complete development of human being, social justice and peace, with particular attention to the poor and with a mainly pedagogical function.” (Statute, art. 1).

224 Diocesan Caritas are connected with Caritas Italiana, but each of them has a juridical autonomy and depends from its own Diocese. The 25.000 parish Caritas, all over Italy, likewise refer to their Diocesan Caritas.

On *National level*, Caritas Italiana is recognised as a Religious Non Governmental Organization by the Italian Foreign Ministry, and it is a member of the Italian Association of NGOs.

On an *International level*, Caritas Italiana is a member of the Caritas Internationalis network, (162 member organisations, present in over 200 countries and territories), and within that net, member of Caritas Europa (48 members to represent 44 European Countries).

TASKS

(Statute, art. 3).

- *Cooperating with the Bishops in promoting within the local churches (Diocese) the a charity feeling towards people and communities in difficulties, as well as the duty of translating it into concrete actions, having a promotional and, when possible, preventive nature;*
- *coordinating initiatives, charitable actions and assistance interventions of Christian inspiration;*
- *start, organise and coordinate emergency actions in case of national or international disasters;*
- *cooperating with other Christian organization:*
 - *carrying out studies and research on the needs in order to identify the causes, preparing both preventive and curative intervention plans, within the common pastoral planning and in order to stimulate the action of the civil institution towards an appropriate legislation;*
 - *promoting voluntary service and encouraging the training of the pastoral charity operator, as well as those people, voluntary and professional workers inspired by Christian principles, committed to both private and public social services and in a human promotion activities;*
 - *contributing to the developing Countries' human and social development by awakening public opinion, offering services, financial help as well as by coordinating the initiatives of the various groups and movements inspired by Christian values.*

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ANIMATING A CHANGING WORLD

*Msgr. Francesco Montenegro
President of Caritas Italiana*

Caritas, walking along with the Church, in search of a common path to “communicate the Gospel in a changing world”, has been trying to focus and to place its promotion and animation commitment, along three different tracks (reinforced as well in the Verona National Ecclesial Meeting):

a priority towards the poor, that calls us to take action, to address the more forgotten and urgent needs

a relevant pedagogical activity, that calls us to involve everybody in charity experience, in order to increase, in the daily life, more diffused ways of liability, involvement and commitment

the task to take care of all charity and welfare initiatives of Christian inspiration, that calls us to be more aware of the good connection among worthwhile service and other various experiences – rather than the direct managing of services, even if necessary and worthy.

All this work is carried on with a method centred on: listening, observing and discerning. This method will lead us to animation, priority actions to link emergency and daily life, proposal and building of educational paths/experiences, for a real change of life for people and communities.

A series of activities has sprung to promote this kind of processes, introduced in this Annual Report. We mainly hope, altogether, for a renovated socio-pastoral planning, with the goal to give value to promotion, co-ordination and network activities, as an expression of the charity of the Church.

We know for sure that even if we carry out our best efforts, “There will always be suffering which cries out for consolation and help. There will always be loneliness. There will always be situations of material need, where help in the form of concrete love of neighbour is essential.” (Benedict XIV, Deus Caritas Est, n.28)

We are well aware that we can't promote solidarity, justice and peace, by our forces alone, if God does not enlighten us, showing us His face and giving us faith, everyday renewed.

“Thanks to this touching the wounds of Christ, those wounds that the Risen One did not hide but showed, and continues to point out to us in the trials and sufferings of every human being.” (Benedict XIV, Urbi et Orbi Message, April 8th, 2007).

AN EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURE

Don Vittorio Nozza
Director of Caritas Italiana

Caritas Italiana has been trying to develop each one of its' initiatives, by impressing on them a style of presence. This leads us to walk along with, and serve, the local communities in Italy, as well as the Churches sisters in over 60 different Countries. We committed ourselves through interventions, meetings, animation, projects and micro-projects, in different situations of poverty, injustice, human rights offence and conflicts.

A tangible, extensive commitment, aimed to connect the advocacy activities for human rights of the poor, with educational paths, meant to promote choices and life styles appropriate to a full world citizenship, with duties and liabilities towards ourselves, other people and the future generations.

We live in a "global" world, where 190 million of migrants are constantly moving; large areas of our planet are affected by real plagues: hunger, drought, international debt, diseases, wars, weapons trafficking, more or less forgotten conflicts; where 1,350 billion of men, women and children live with less than a dollar per day. In this world the European Union has reached the number of 27 members with about half a billion of inhabitants, and comes in the third place, in terms of population, after China and India.

In this framework Caritas Italiana implemented institutional activities and projects in the fields of animation, promotion, training and partnership, communication, studies, research. Special attention was given in supporting the development of our diocesan Caritas, in order to promote them and sustain the care of pastoral spaces/tools, essential to express their own identity, such as: 'Centro di ascolto' (a centre where poor are listened), Poverty and Resource Observatory, diocesan Laboratory for parish Caritas promotion.

Our aim is to strengthen a steady attention and a solidarity and participation culture, in single persons, communities and society. How can this be reached?

In the first place, by really sharing the daily life, because only a deep-rooted participation can bring forth an encounter-relationship-partnership, producing shared projects.

Secondly, always going back to causes. The fact of pointing our attention on the causes of a situation, besides committing us directly, pushes us to seek, stimulate and activate new perspectives, and to start changes.

As Msgr. Angelo Bagnasco – newly appointed President of Italian Episcopal Conference – pointed out: "How can we progress, in this extraordinary adventure of communicating the Gospel's joy and the full dignity of each man and his values, the mystery of human life, the beauty of love and family, the hard but critical freedom's school, the responsibility of education, up to the urge for social justice, peace and a respectful and welcoming environment?" This is the challenge: looking for answers to these dilemmas.

INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Introduction

Caritas Italiana carries out an enormous variety of activities, inside the organization in itself as well as outside. Most of them are in favour of the poor and needy; others are more at institutional level, such as home training, cooperation and relations with other organizations and institutions.

IV National Ecclesial Meeting



In 2006 the Italian Church was particularly focused on the IV National Ecclesial Meeting, "*Witnesses of risen Christ, hope for the world*", held in Verona, 16th-20th October.

Caritas Italiana took part at the meeting with a long, foregoing preparation and gave its contribution in terms of theory and people participation.

'Deus Caritas Est' Forums

Following the encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas Italiana proposed an in-depth reflection, with a special focus on its own work and life style. Three Forums were organizing for directors and vice directors of diocesan Caritas. The work will continue in 2007 as well.

Meetings with regional Caritas delegations

To maintain constant relations and in order to coordinate the work, Caritas Italiana carries on a number of meetings with all the diocesan Caritas every year. It gives the possibility to share the work and the thinking in view of new activities and common paths to undertake.

National Groups

Caritas Italiana has 3 national groups (whose members come from different regions) focusing on: *Caritas promotion*, *Man promotion* (peace, justice, environment, etc) and *Education to a worldwide vision* - GNEM (international matters).

This last group, during the last year, focused on the establishment of smaller local groups, called GREM (*Regional Groups on a World-wide Education*) working on the same line at regional level. They aim to co-ordinate activities at diocesan and parish level. A seminar, "*Educating to a worldwide vision in the parish*", on February 2006, gathered the National Group (GNEM) and the Regional ones (GREMs) to go deeper into this field. All the work was also finalized to the preparation of the *European Social Forum* in Athens, April 2006.

The three National Groups also meet together once per year to share ideas about the diocesan Caritas organization and their plans.

GNEM is still working for the *Millennium Development Goals Campaign* and will take part at the preparation for the *World Social Forum* in Africa, in 2007.

Partnerships

Caritas Italiana is a member of the following organizations/projects:

- *National Ecclesial Council of social-aid organizations* (co-ordination among organizations working with poor and needy all over Italy)
- *Policoro project* (it aims to both to evangelise unemployed young people in South Italy, and give them the capacity to enter in the labour market)
- *Itaca Sud Project*

(support for inclusion of migrant families in South Italy)

Institutional international activities

Caritas Italiana is a member of Caritas Internationalis, Caritas Europe and Justice and Solidarity Foundation (a board working on the developing countries' foreign debt).

Activities with Caritas Europa

In 2006 Caritas Italiana took part in the following co-ordination meetings:

- Regional Yearly Conference in Mainz, Germany, where Caritas Italiana was appointed member of the Executive Board
- Forum of International Desk Officers of European Caritas
- Commission for International Development and Peace
- Social Policy Commission, working group for the 'Report on Poverty in Europe'
- Intra European Co-ordination: IEC Africa, IEC Asia, IEC Europe, IEC Latin America and Caribbean and IEC MONA

Caritas Italiana participates also to the CONCEPT (Caritas Organization Network to Challenge Exclusion and Poverty Trap) Project.

Activities with Caritas Internationalis

Caritas Italiana is active in the Peace and Reconciliation Group, as delegate of Caritas Europa, and in the Regional Forums, Emergency Co-ordination and Working Groups on specific countries.

Justice and Solidarity Foundation

Caritas Italiana co-operates with Justice and Solidarity Foundation – established in 2000, after the Jubilee campaign of the Italian Church, to reduce the international debt of developing countries. Guinea e Zambia were the chosen countries to start with. In Guinea Conakry, we have programs regarding health care and promotion of income generating activities, for an amount of € 7 million. Meanwhile in Zambia the areas of interventions and the projects to be achieved had been set for an amount of € 10 million (for further information see www.guistiziaesolidarieta.it).

PROMOTIONAL, TRAINING AND PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Caritas Italiana has a peculiar "*modus operandi*" that focuses, at local level, on "*Centri di ascolto*" (centres where poor are listened), *Poverty and resources observatories* (collecting data) and *Parishes workshops* (promotion of parish Caritas). At diocesan level, there is the *equipe*, where directors run all the activities with fellow workers. There is, too, at national level, a new *Promotion Caritas Service*, which is committed in the promotion of Caritas at diocesan level. Every year Caritas Italiana helps some regions to strengthen their organization.

COMMUNICATION, PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH

Caritas Italiana uses a variety of media:

- Monthly magazine "*Caritas Italiana*", 10 numbers per year, with a circulation of 384,720
- "*Informacaritas*", 19 issues per year, a fortnight internal newsmagazine meant for the Diocesan Caritas, only on line on the website
- Website, www.caritasitaliana.it, 216,427 contact in 2006
- A blog, www.esseciblog.it, on voluntary service
- A program broadcasted through "*Radioinblu*" – a consortium of 200 radios all over Italy
- Publishing activity (see list at the end of the report)

AT WORK IN ITALY

Introduction

In Italy the middle class is becoming increasingly poorer. According to the figures of ISTAT (Italian Institute of Statistics), we have 2,585,000 poor families (11,1% of all Italian families), equal about to 7,577,000 people. Moreover, there are another 6% of families, which are likely to slide into poverty. Years of reduction of governmental social expenses are now showing their effects.

Through the *Italian Episcopal Conference (IEC) 8‰ Fund*, Caritas Italiana financed projects for prisoners, children, homeless, mentally sick.

Voluntary service is still at the core of reflections of Caritas Italiana and other catholic NGOs, also due to the papal encyclical, *Deus caritas est*.

Man promotion and social solidarity

Mental health and child protection (with a participation in a team lead by Save the Children Italy) are the main areas where Caritas Italiana is engaged.

In 2006 we continued the *Metropolitan Areas project* – a study/research on the life in the suburbs of 10 different post-industrial areas, financed by the *IEC 8‰ Fund*. A book will be published with the results in 2007.

It is still going on the *Equal project* – in co-operation with and financed by EU funds for entrepreneurial development - with the aim to experiment social and labour inclusion of weakest people in 5 different cities.

In 2006 project on *family solidarity* – to promote a closer solidarity among families - came to an end and the compilation of a report on the experience will be editing next year.

Migration

Migration: Caritas Italiana continues to work at all levels for migrants. At diocesan and parish level Caritas are active directly with migrants; at national level, Caritas Italiana is extremely active in advocacy and lobby (i.e. suggestions and reports to our government in occasion of new laws, and, as a member of Caritas Europa, in the draft of the *Report on Poverty* and the monitoring of poverty and related policies at European level).



Asylum: forty-five diocesan Caritas are actively working on this field. In 2006 they created a legal network to dialogue with the Italian authorities and international agencies (as UNHCR). Caritas constantly co-operates with the Italian Home Ministry, Association

of Italian Communes and UNHCR. In Italy, one third of the asylum seekers are welcomed through the diocesan Caritas.

Human trafficking: Caritas Italiana co-operates with other Italian NGOs through the Asylum Seeker Board. In 2006 the board met 3 times and worked mainly on advocacy, lobby and training. In particular, the past year was also dedicated to meet with Romanian and Nigerian consulate Officials in order to counteract the flow of human trafficking coming from these countries.

Voluntary Service

Italian government finances per one-year young people (18 – 28 years old) working in social and/or solidarity projects. Caritas Italiana is involved in this scheme and offers the possibility to work in its services.

Voluntary service in Italy

In 2006 Caritas employed 1,143 boys and girls, who worked in social services, prevention and re-integration, social health support, education, rights' and citizenship's defence to promote solidarity and strengthen a culture of peace. Before starting the service, Caritas offers orienteering and training courses for these young people.

'White helmets' and voluntary service abroad

51 young people (called 'white helmets', to differentiate themselves from the UN blue helmets) left Italy to work in projects abroad (in 21 different countries), to promote solidarity and culture of peace and work on the defence of human rights.

Environment and national emergencies

Since the past few years Caritas Italiana gave great attention to environmental issues starting the program *Accountability for the creation*. It means being close to people who lost the very basic goods, but it also means to protect the creation gifts (earth, water, environment, etc).

On the emergency side, 2006 was a quiet year. Caritas Italiana was engaged in small floods (Sardinia, Calabria) and a landslide (Calabria). We are still working in post earthquake activities in some regions (Puglia, Molise).



Italian Episcopal Conference (IEC) 8 ‰ Project Fund

The Italian Government gives the possibility to all Italian taxpayers, to allot the 8‰ of their taxes to the benefit of either the Catholic Church or to some other Churches and Organizations. As for the Catholic Church, this fund is managed by the IEC, and Caritas is involved in some of these projects, such as: prisoners, human trafficking and sexual exploitation, children protection, migration, refugees, mental health, asylum seekers, environment, metropolitan issues, etc. (for further information see www.8xmille.it).

AT WORK AROUND THE WORLD

INTRODUCTION

At international level the crisis in the Middle East is grabbing most of the attention from the media and, in general, the relationship between Islamic and Western Countries.

How to address this continuous turbulence? How to avoid that everything be read as a conflict between religions?

Once more, the answer is on the continuity of our work in solidarity and commitment, inspired by the first encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI, "Deus Caritas Est ", which summarizes the basic ideas and the organization of Caritas work.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Middle East

- At the end of January burst the case of disrespectful sketches about Islam on a Danish newspaper.
- February, 5th, Father Andrea Santoro was killed in Turkey, as a consequence of the tensions followed in many Islamic countries after the sketches.
- February, 22nd, the great Shiite mosque in Samarra, Iraq, was blast off. As reaction 70 Sunny mosques were destroyed. In the middle of an endless violence, Saddam Hussein was hanged, after a process, at the end of the year.
- July, 12th, a new war starts between Israel and Lebanese Hezbollah militias. The ceasefire on August 14th stops the fighting, but it does not solve the problems behind it. In Gaza the conflict is always on.
- September, 12th, prolusion of Pope Benedict XVI at the University in Regensburg, Germany, about violence and religions responsibilities, including the Muslim one, increases the misunderstanding climate.
- September, 17th, Sister Leonella Sgorbati, a nun running a nursing school, in Mogadishu, Somalia, was killed. In December the conflict in Somalia refuels again between the transitional government in Baidoa (supported by Ethiopia) and the Islamic Courts in the South.
- Iran threatens to develop nuclear weapons; the Western World threatens sanctions.

Despite all this, local Caritas do not slow down their work, but keep on with planned programs.

Asia

- Rehabilitation activities, for 2004 tsunami-affected countries, are still going on.
- In Sri Lanka hostilities between government and the Tamil tigers reopened.
- In Afghanistan the activities of Talebans intensify in terms of military actions.
- China and India are still growing in economic terms, but still posing the same threats: environment and human rights (including religious freedom).
- Still uneasy the situation in North Korea: the development of nuclear weapons and the famine of the population.

Latin America

- Latin America is still one of the least equitable regions in the world: the gap between poor and rich widens more and more, while efforts to reduce significantly poverty are practically not sufficient. The challenge remains to reinforce democracy to let people develop freely.
- The update of Free Trade Treat with North America, underlined the decrease of agricultural production and the heavy economical, political and cultural dependence from foreign countries.

Africa

- Democratic Republic of Congo registers a positive turn toward democracy: in July and October there were the first elections since 1961.
- In North Uganda peace talks start after years of ravaged conflict.
- Darfur, Sudan, is still the worst place where to live nowadays: armed conflict and systematic violence are part of everyday life. Humanitarian situation is worsening.
- Cote d'Ivoire is still turbulent.

- Peace has been reinforced in countries as Angola, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea Bissau.

Europe

- European Union enlarged in 2006 with the inclusion of Romania and Bulgaria.
- May 21st Montenegro declares its independence .
- Caucasian area is still in turmoil with very fragile situations in South Ossetia, Chechnya and neighbouring republics supported by Russia. The oil and gas supplies coming from Russia influence the debate between eastern and western Europe.
- European Constitution is still out of reach.
- January, 21st Ibrahim Rugova dies, 62 years old; he was known as the Gandhi of the Balkans. He supported the Kosovo independence through a non-violent struggle, a very rare attitude in the Balkan area.

And last, but not least, 2006 sees the end of Kofi Annan mandate as UN General Secretary, a difficult and troublesome period in the world scenario not only for the countless conflicts around the world, but also for the organization in itself.

EDUCATION TO A WORLDWIDE VISION AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENCE

Initiatives and trainings

Caritas Italiana took part to some important initiatives along with Caritas Internationalis network and other Italian Catholic organizations. All this work has been done thanks to the GNEM – *National Group on Education to a worldwide vision* (see Chapter 1). The Group is working actively in education and training about world issues through the following actions.

In Italy:

- Seminar "**Caritas in the parish: educate to a worldwide vision to globalise solidarity**": "Caritas" as culture and prophecy for Christians to practise and promote sharing with the poor and the least in need.
- Establishment of small groups at regional level to spread the awareness on the subject and involve as many people as possible, the GREM – **Regional Group on Education to a world-wide vision**.
- Editing of **worksheets** to teach worldwide vision at every level of education (primary, middle and high school, university) and at parish, diocesan and regional level, as well as a **handbook** on Caritas Italiana interventions for emergencies and rehabilitations.
- Caritas Italiana is part of the consortium "**Terra Futura**": it proposes life practises to ensure a better future to the world environment and build a fair and sustainable development.



- "**Adopt a conflict**": it is an example how people involvement concretises in favour of far away conflict areas. It promotes a deeper understanding of a conflict (at school, on the media, etc, at local level) and finds ways to start a relationship, based on small solidarity projects or friendship with people living in the war-affected country.
- **Cooperation with SPICeS**: a yearlong post-graduate master on international politics and development co-operation organized by FOCSIV – a federation of catholic organizations of volunteers.

Abroad:

- Preparation and participation to the **European Social Forum** in Athens, Greece, May 4th – 11th, 2006, followed by the participation at the **World Social Forum** in Nairobi, January 2007.
- Continuing the **Millennium Development Goals Campaign**, supported also by Caritas Internationalis, and in cooperation with other Catholic organizations.

- Publishing of an handbook, "*Decalogue for Caritas Italiana workers*" to help our operators abroad as well as the Italian communities to elaborate programs of partnership with the local Church, institutions and organizations, respecting the local peculiarities and culture.

RECONCILIATION AND "FORGOTTEN CONFLICTS"

- *Debate on forgotten conflicts.* After publishing the book, "*Guerre alla finestra (Wars at window); a research report on forgotten conflicts, never ending wars and international terrorism*" (see 2005 Annual Report), Caritas Italiana was involved in debates and meetings about the subject. The book has been presented also at the European Social Forum in Athens, Greece.
- *Lobby and advocacy.* A research has been carried out in 8 different countries, on several campaigns supported by Caritas Italiana on these issues and will be published at the end of 2007.
- "Experiences of fraternity between Christians and Muslims in the international activities of Caritas" is a research completed in 2006 showing how it is possible to live together, even in harsh conditions. The booklet will be published in 2007

INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCIES

Caritas Italiana has a strong presence of operators in tsunami affected countries in Asia, in Afghanistan and Algeria; meanwhile in Latin America and Caribbean the presence is through the White Helmets – boys and girls 18-28 years old - performing voluntary service.

The International Desk of Caritas Italiana has a Working Group on Emergencies to ensure a quick contact with affected countries, in co-operation with Caritas Internationalis network, for rapid response to emergency aid.



International Solidarity Projects, Development Co-operation and Partnership Activities



SUMMARY

AFRICA

Caritas Italiana covers with its activities almost all the continent, especially the hottest spots in terms of natural (drought/floods) and human (wars, HIV/AIDS) disasters.

Our commitment goes from reconciliation and peace to health/social/educational services, debt conversion (in Guinea) and micro credit projects.

We are funding projects in: **Angola, Benin, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uganda.**

ASIA AND OCEANIA

Activities focused on the tsunami response – rehabilitation and reconstruction- are still carried on: a strong commitment in terms of funds and of staff deployed in loco along with the Caritas world network.

Response has been given also to other natural disaster (floods and earthquakes) around the continent.

We are funding projects in: **Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand.**

EUROPE

Caritas Italiana is committed on partnership with the sisters churches mainly in Central and East Europe in terms of personnel training and support to the organizational development. Post war activities are still going on in the Balkan region.

We are funding projects in: **Albania, Armenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Russia, Serbia Montenegro, Turkey.**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Cooperation in solidarity: it summarizes the experience carried on by Caritas Italiana in the continent. A part from the aid sent in occasion of natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and volcano eruptions), we work together with the local churches to help the human, civil, economic and social development of the people.

We are funding projects in: **Argentine, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay.**

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

A troublesome region where Caritas Italiana, beyond the difficulties due to wars and conflicts, faces also the different cultural environment and a general small presence of Christians.

Peace and reconciliation are the *leit motiv* of our efforts in this region, along with support of youth and women activities, education, health, and aid to refugees.

We are funding projects in: **Algeria, Djibouti, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Somalia, Syria, Holy Land.**

MICRO PROJECTS

Caritas Italiana supports local communities, groups, villages through small size programs in order to encourage self-development.

Priorities are: income generating activities, water supply and health care.

In 2006 we implemented 499 micro projects in 52 different countries in all continents.

SOLIDARITY PROJECTS, CO-OPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

AFRICA

Lights and shadows for the continent during the year 2006. In some countries as the Democratic Republic of Congo, the process of democratisation is moving forward, even if slowly and with great difficulties. The situation in Great Lakes region is improving but this is only the beginning; a lot has still to be done to build peace and democracy and to create the foundations for a better life for the people. Still difficult, on the other side, is the situation in Darfur - the western region of Sudan - Chad, Central African Republic, Ivory Coast due to different kind of conflicts and the presence of many displaced people. Ethiopia and Eritrea have not yet settled their border dispute. There is some hope coming from the on going peace talks about the crisis in North Uganda.

Caritas Italiana is continuing to co-operate with several African organizations through its own staff and the "white helmets".

Western Africa

Benin

The project on social and labour inclusion of young handicapped people and their families is still going on, with the aim to promote a culture of inclusion, to overcome narrow minded habits of exclusion towards people with less ability. The project, promoted by Caritas Benin, in collaboration with local organisations, is based on training, micro-credit and socialization.

Guinea Conakry

Caritas Italiana is working in the Country with the "Justice and Solidarity Foundation", on the topic of debt cancellation through the programmes for the poverty reduction run by FOGUIRED (Fond Guineo Italien Réconversion de la Dette). One expatriate is present on the spot since 2005. 700 different projects were financed in 2006, in the following sectors: health, education, rural development, handcraft and social rights. The FOGUIRED Fund (€ 7,5 million in 4 years) will expire on June 2007.

Niger

A project to fight Aids, with the diocesan Caritas of Niamey and Maradi, is in progress in connection with public health services for the diagnosis and medicines supply. The project has a component of training on HIV/AIDS for all the population, teachers, health care providers and a component of care to the people living with HIV/AIDS.

Sierra Leone

Caritas Italiana cooperates with the Justice and Peace Commission of Makeni diocese on a training program for the local community about poverty, citizenship and decentralization. Main activities have been: the diffusion of radio programs, training on accounting and management for the local authorities and training for traditional leaders on human rights.

Central Africa

Burundi

Caritas Italiana has supported a vocational training project on carpentry in the prison of Bujumbura and a scholarship program for prisoners' children in Ngozi diocese.

We have continued the cooperation with the Saverian Fathers, in the Youth Centre of Kamenge, Bujumbura, to promote peace and reconciliation and to fight AIDS.

Central African Republic

The health program which started four years ago with the local Episcopal Conference for the support of the Catholic Health care Institutions is still in progress, despite many difficulties due to the instable political situation. The program activities are: the training of health care personnel, the HIV/AIDS prevention and information with a particular attention to the mother to child transmission and a proper use of essential drugs.

Democratic Republic of Congo



Caritas Italiana is still co-operating with the national Caritas, in particular supporting the work of the development coordination and programs in some dioceses.

In Goma, with the technical support of the diocesan Caritas of Asti, northern Italy, we support a pharmaceutical laboratory, producing solutions for intravenous injections and galenic preparations. In Kindu the support goes on to the diocesan health activities (rehabilitation of health centres, supply of medicines, salaries for the staff). The first phase of the program for agricultural development for the displaced people who came back home has been implemented.

We helped the Justice and Peace Commission to held training sessions in view of the elections that took place in 2006. Caritas Rome and Milan contribute to supply stationery and desks for schools. In Popokabaka diocese, we are still supporting the repairing of schools and health centres, the distribution of school textbooks, the training of associations for local development and the payment of medicines for the poor. Thanks to Trento Diocese, North East Italy, we broaden the program to improve agricultural production and trade.

Rwanda

The co-operation with Gisenyi parish is being pursued continuing, thanks to the involvement of the diocesan Caritas of Padova, Gorizia, Frosinone and Chioggia, in different social fields: children education, care of people living with HIV/AIDS and re-inclusion of street children in the labour market. A micro credit project is implemented through an Italian operator who manages a micro credit inter diocesan network.

In Kigali Caritas Italiana supports a *Welcome Centre* for street girls, and supports with Caritas Naples a scholarship program.

Non-violence and reconciliation programs, with the Justice and Peace Commission of Byumba, were also renovated.

Southern Africa

Angola

Five years after the end of the war, almost all the refugees are back home. Caritas Italiana has continued to keep the focus on the needs of returned families. We are still involved in the building houses program for returnees (about 100 in 2006) in Luanda - the capital city - in co-operation with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). The program is also providing access to health services and schools as well as social activities for the promotion of reconciliation processes and conflict handling.

Mozambique

Caritas Italiana supports a training program of the Social Action Department (6 different commissions – Caritas, Justice and Peace, Education, Health, Media, Refugees and Migrant) of Maputo Archdiocese thanks to the cooperation with Caritas Rome present there with 1 operator and 3 young people working as volunteers on civil service.

In the same Archdiocese we are still supporting a micro-credit program with the association "*Phambeni Makwero*": last year 1,400 beneficiaries were assisted, mainly women but also refugees and unemployed young people. The association started a reflection about social and economical living condition.

The program for plastic recycling and sensitisation and education on environmental issues in Maputo public dumping site is going on in co-operation with LVIA, an Italian NGO, and Caritas Mozambique, while a new activity has started in the same site for the social rehabilitation of street children.

Again with LVIA we have promoted a development program for remote communities inside Zinave Park, province of Inhambane. In the Diocese of Quelimane, in cooperation with CeLIM,

we support an integrated rural program in some poor areas of the Diocese. We also support the institutional activities of CEMIRDE (Migrants, Refugees and Displaced People Commission of Mozambique Episcopal Conference).

Eastern Africa

Eritrea

Support continues to the emergency nutrition program, the socio-pastoral training program for priests and the department of HIV/AIDS prevention and care of the Eritrean Catholic Secretariat (ErCS).

Two partnerships are going on with the Eparchy of Keren: with Caritas Italiana and Ambrosiana (Milan) for the women promotion (income generating activities) and HIV/AIDS prevention and care programs and with Caritas Prato and Florence for water and an education programs.

An upgrading of the socio-economic program for women, in the cities of Addi-Keyich and Te-kondae, has been realised in collaboration with the Eparchy of Asmara.

We partly financed the food warehouse in the Eparchy of Barentù.

Ethiopia

The collaboration with the Addis Ababa Archdiocese has been consolidated: social economic and training activities with the Youth Pastoral Office; training for lay people; activities in prisons with the provision of health services and psychological support to detainees; women promotion; health with a support to an AIDS prevention project.

In Adigrat Eparchy, Caritas Italiana continues to support a women promotion project plus a project on food security (better access to clean water, development of irrigation schemes and flood protection walls in the Sassie area).

A water supply rehabilitation project, 46 windmill pumps, has reached its last year of activity, in the Apostolic Vicariate of Meki, where we have as well programs for women promotion and water and sanitation.

Kenya

The partnership of Caritas Italiana with the Catholic Secretariat and the Kenyan Episcopal Conference has been developed in three different areas: the publication, through the KCHAT (Catholic HIV/AIDS taskforce - Kenya), of the official policies of the Kenyan Catholic Church on HIV/AIDS; the response to the drought emergency together with the other Caritas agencies in Nairobi; the socio-economic promotion of women taking care of AIDS orphans, in Bungoma Diocese, in partnership with Caritas Kenya.

In Kangemi Parish, in Nairobi, the Development Office mainstreams the response to the AIDS pandemic (awareness creation in the community and psychological support to the people infected and affected by HIV). Still in Nairobi, in Dagoretti Parish the *Riruta Health Project* – under the local NGO *Koinonia* – offers various services to more than 400 people living with HIV/AIDS. In this same parish a micro credit project – *Employment and Enterprise Program* – involves more than 300 members, and is firmly established in the community.

Caritas Italiana supports St. Joseph Cafasso Consolation House, managed by the Consolata Sisters, a project aiming to the rehabilitation and reintegration of young offenders after a detention in a youth correctional centre. After the first year of activities beneficiaries of the project are 12.



In the Nairobi office are present two staff members of Caritas Italiana one following the projects in the country and the other one following the East Africa Region (Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda).

Sudan

Emergency operations are going on in Darfur, where, under the Caritas network and ACT (*Action by Churches Together*) intervention, Caritas Italiana has supported primary education in the displaced camps and in the surrounding villages.

Support is given to the activities of Caritas Chad, for Darfur refugees.

In North Sudan, support has been accorded to a project for *informal schools*, managed by Khartoum Archdiocese in the capital suburbs while the cooperation with the Kosti pastoral region is going on with health care projects.

In South Sudan, we still have two partnerships: with Rumbek diocese in a project for women empowerment and health, and with Tombura-Yambio diocese, on education, health care and water supply. Support was given to a program in Kakuma refugee camp to assist people who decide to go back to Sudan.

In Italy, Caritas Italiana supports the "*Campaign for Peace and Human Rights in Sudan*", and a report-book was published about the peace process, "*The Sudan bet, the peace challenge after 50 years of war*".

Uganda

We supported the program of rehabilitation and re-inclusion of former child soldiers, coordinated by Caritas Uganda and realised in North Uganda by the Gulu and Lira dioceses, which ended in 2006.

ASIA AND OCEANIA

In 2006 Caritas Italiana has been actively working in rehabilitation and post emergency programs, not only in the tsunami affected countries, but everywhere was an emergency (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan for the summer flood, in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka for the refuelled armed conflicts, in Kashmir for the earthquake, in Indonesia affected by flood, earthquake and tsunami, and so on). Asia is an immense land where tradition and modernization overlap, poverty and opulence run after each other; where the extreme poverty causes the highest number of deaths for hunger and underdevelopment; where dictatorial military regimes are still in power; where there are long term armed conflicts and human rights are trampled daily.

On the conflicts side, we have positive news for Nepal and Indonesia, but we have exacerbation and worsening in Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, North East India (Assam) and Thailand. There is turbulence also in some regions of Pakistan, Indonesia and Philippines, where the extreme poverty fuels terrorism or the militias.

Caritas Italiana commitment was in favour of health care, education, development and support of economic activities (including micro credit), emergency aid and animation program mainly in countries with conflicts, in order to support the civic life.

Tsunami emergency response



Caritas Italiana is working in 8 out of the 14 countries affected by tsunami. It still has operators working in the most affected countries, such as Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Indonesia. In these countries Caritas Italiana works in projects in partnership with the local Caritas –except in the Maldives where our partner is the local government - following four fundamental directions:

- a long period presence, beyond emergency
- a partnership with the sister Caritas and the local Church, through expatriate operators
- a priority to the last and least, that

may have been left aside by humanitarian aid

- an attention to learn from the poor, as close relationships are useful to our communities in terms of solidarity and competence.

The results of these two years work, are:

- *Emergency aid*
300,000 people received food, tents, mosquito nets, kitchen kits and other first aid items
290,000 people have been assisted in health care
Hundreds of latrines were built and hundreds of access to clean water accomplished.

- *Reconstruction and rehabilitation*
10,700 permanent houses built
10,441 still under construction
191 community centres, schools, health centres and mosques rebuilt
Tens of km of streets repaired
Distribution of 3,000 new boats, 2,777 boat engines and 40,000 fish nets
3,000 families financed for income generating activities in agricultural development
30,000 people cared in terms of psychosocial rehabilitation
Training of all operators working in each project

India

Caritas Italiana supported after-tsunami programs in 25 diocesan Caritas of India up to December 2006 with two expatriates and a budget of € 8,5 million in cooperation with Caritas India.

The main interventions were focused in two different places: Tuticorin, in Tamil Nadu and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, establishing a deep relationship between these two dioceses and the Italian dioceses, that brought several visits on the spot and useful sharing of ideas between Italian and local volunteers.

In Tuticorin our commitment is on the socio-economic development, houses reconstruction, psychosocial support, community animation and training to find an alternative to fishing for young people. Moreover, we help to built a garage to repair engines' boat, a technical training centre and we plan to built two schools and a home for orphans.

On the Andaman and Nicobar Islands we focus on the rehabilitation of social and educational structures damaged by the earthquake, educational programs, social economic support to small traders, artisans and women.

Indonesia

Earthquake, tsunami and earthquake: in three months the country was devastated by three different natural disasters. The Caritas network has allocated a fund of € 150 million in Indonesia. Caritas Italiana is the referent point in the Nias Island for all rehabilitation activities, with a budget of € 5,5 million and two expatriates on the spot.

In cooperation with the Sibolga diocese, it has implemented the following programs in the Nias Island:

- *Building:*
 - 42 temporary shelters
 - 2 hostels, 1 nursery, 1 clinic, 1 community hall, 50 houses
- *Social:*
 - 650 scholarships
 - opening of a radio station
 - social programs for women and vulnerable people
 - cultural centre for students/young people
 - social economic support to villages involved in the reconstruction projects
- *Health care:*
 - struggle against malnutrition
 - improvement of health care services
- *Promotion and support to social welfare centres implemented by the local church*
- *Pastoral care:*
 - increase capacity building of the local diocesan Caritas - to react and seek answers to the poverty and emergency

Myanmar and Maldives

Both countries were left a bit aside by the international mobilisation post tsunami.

In 2006 we supplied two different hospitals with two ambulance boats in the Maldives and put the fundamentals for a spread health care cooperation program.

In Myanmar a complex program has been implemented in cooperation with an Italian NGO working there, on education and agricultural development.



Sri Lanka

Rehabilitation in the tsunami-affected areas in Sri Lanka, has been suffering a pause due to the recrudescence of the conflict between the government and the Tamil tigers (LTTE) fighting for the independence of the North East region. Pitched battles and bombings are more and more frequent, leaving 200,000 displaced people and 2,000 (civil and military people) dead. Jaffna peninsula has been isolated from the rest of the country with a consequent severe shortage of food.

Caritas Sri Lanka is committed, together with Caritas Internationalis network, to a three years rehabilitation program with a budget of € 78 million (ending in 2007) in

the dioceses of Jaffna, Vanni, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Colombo e Galle.

Caritas Italiana participated to the SOA 02/2005 with €3.5 million, and it has 4 expatriates and 2 'white helmets' working there.

In Colombo we focused on the social economic rehabilitation; in Jaffna, on psychosocial programs for children, affected by tsunami or by conflict; in Chilaw with programs to support the local diocesan Caritas.

National Animation Program – freeing the population from poverty through group savings, organic agriculture and micro credit - and *National Peace Program* - for the promotion of feasible, basic, community paths for peace and reconciliation – are the two historic programs implemented by Caritas Sri Lanka and supported by Caritas Italiana. After the last escalation of the conflict, Caritas Italiana decided to add another € 300,000 to help the population.

Thailand

The entire west Thai coast has been heavily affected by the tsunami. Caritas Italiana, with a budget of € 3,5 million, has an expatriate for the implementation of the SOA and other projects. We try to help the most left behind groups, the Moken (sea gypsies) and the fisherman families.

We help the Suratthani diocese through the following work:

- support to a permanent diocesan structure for social and emergency interventions
- support to Takuapa social centre in order to implement a micro-credit project
- Ranong district (border with Myanmar): analysis and plan of intervention to face social and health emergencies (including HIV/AIDS) in the refugees camps
- Particular attention to disabled people in cooperation with Caritas Assisi and Istituto Serafico (Italian NGO)

Other Commitments

Afghanistan

2006 has been a crucial year for our presence and commitment in the country: we implemented a day centre for disabled children in Kabul. The centre is promoted and managed directly by Caritas Italiana in close cooperation with the missionary nuns of *Pro Bambini di Kabul* (Pro Children of Kabul) *Association*. This is the result of a long-term commitment in the country, pursued through the presence of an expatriate in the last three years.

Other commitments were in the following fields:

- Education, school buildings
- Vulnerable groups care, in particular deaf people
- Peace education programs

India

In 2006 we support rehabilitation programs in occasion of several natural disaster and it continues to support the rehabilitation post 2001 earthquake in Gujarat and post 2005 earthquake in Kashmir.

We pursued also development programs in health care, education (schools and student hostels), agriculture and economy in general, especially in the North East India (Assam) where poverty is combined with social and ethnic conflicts.

Pakistan

Caritas Italiana focuses on rehabilitation and reconstruction after the earthquake in the Pakistan Kashmir, which caused more than 70,000 casualties. Beyond the emergency aid sent immediately after, we financed:

- 2 new clinics,
- 1 mobile health care team for a year
- 1 school reconstruction
- 150 temporary shelters
- 50 new houses
- micro credit program involving 100 families, in cooperation with a local NGO

Moreover we intervene after the summer floods that affected the central part of Pakistan.

EUROPE

Europe's identity is quickly changing, due to the enlargement of the European Union (UE). Meanwhile supporting peace and social, economic and civil development, Europe – particularly eastern Europe - is still crossed by different tension (ethnic, economic, politic ones).

UE is not yet integrated in terms of policies towards social, economic and international issues; but it is still at the mercy of the local governments. Time will give hopefully opportunities to harmonize the differences inside the civil society.

Armenia

The Youth Migration Prevention Program, now at the third year, aims, through information at high school level, to prevent the young generation, inclined to leave the country, to become victims of the international human trafficking.

New micro-projects have been funded, as the rehabilitation of water plants in the village of Voskehask, where the water system is not working anymore – quite a common situation in the region.

Bulgaria

The support to Caritas Bulgaria concentrated in the upgrading and training of the local staff, within the network of the Balkan countries.

Russia

In Beslan, North Ossetia, Caritas Italiana supports the Vladikavkaz Caritas. It continues the cooperation with the local Orthodox Church and Caritas through a small contribution for the Rehabilitation and job training Centre for children and young people, victims of the Beslan tragedy.

Turkey

Caritas Italiana supports projects in various sectors and regions, since the 2000 earthquake in Adapazari, in cooperation with Caritas Turkey.

In Istanbul, the *Protection of women against family's and external violence* is still in progress, in collaboration with the local women's organisation Mor-Cati.

The *Vocational Training – Industrial Tailoring Project*, in Ducze, province of Adapazari, is still in progress. It helps to introduce the feminine workforce in the local textile factories.

We implemented a *Support to Refugees Program*, focusing on the refugees coming from Middle East countries. Special attention is given to teenagers through the *Vulnerable Teenagers Program*.

Structural Accompanying Program is on with the regional Caritas of Smyrne that is engaged in programs with local institution against extreme poverty.

Home Reconstruction Project is underway to give a permanent home to victims of last year earthquake (4-6 small apartments).

Balkans



A Regional Caritas Promotion Program in order to promote parish Caritas in East Europe is in progress through a regional co-ordination involving Caritas Bosnia, Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia and Albania and Catholic Relief Service (USA).

In 2006 the program implemented a training meeting for animators, one for volunteers, visits exchanges among national Caritas and it supports several parish micro credit projects.

Albania

Caritas Italiana, as facilitating partner of Caritas Albania, co-operated actively to ease relations with other countries and to support the internal updating of the organization.

W.A.R.M. (Welcome Again: Reinsertion of Migrants) Project, approved within the European Aeneas Program, is financed by European Union and sees the combined work of Caritas Italiana, Caritas Albania and Rome Municipality. Project's aim is to re-integrate the returnees, helping them to access to the labour market or creating micro business.

Health care: support is going on, together with Caritas Spain, to the National Health Care System. Even if Catholics are only a minority in Albania, this project, managed completely by Caritas Albania is a sign of the Church commitment among an interfaith context.

Some micro projects were also funded such as tools supply to produce terracotta handiwork in a ceramic laboratory in Krajen (in co-operation with Ambassador of Peace Association) or the excavation of a water well for the Social Centre of Tale Bregdeti (Tirana suburb).

Bosnia – Herzegovina

The first phase of *“Support to the victims of violence, by the Upgrading of Families Associations Project* (associations of victims, missing people, former prisoners of detention camps and political prisoners) has been concluded. The project aims to improve these Associations' capacity to respond to the interests, needs and preoccupations of its members, to involve their members in decisions' making process. It is co-funded by Secours Catholique (France) and will expire in September 2007. Caritas Bosnia Herzegovina is in charge of the project.

Agricultural Activities Rehabilitation for Family Business Program has started in July 2006 in Banja Luka, Mrkonjic Grad, Gradacac and Dobretici, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

School of Peace: summer schools for Bosnian and Italian volunteers have been organised to foster a better knowledge of each other, the religious dialogue and the exchanges of experiences.

Croatia

In 2006 the Parish Caritas Promotion Program implemented also in Croatia with some micro projects and the editing of a brochure on the promotion of parish Caritas.

Kosovo

The support to Caritas Kosovo is going on, mainly with the Program for the social pastoral training of Caritas staff and the parish teams. Privileged topics: peace, human rights, reconciliation, socio economical promotion and education.

As for peace, human rights and reconciliation, the *Program for Psycho-social support to local associations of the families of missing people and former political prisoners* is still being funded supporting the new 'Kosovar Centre for Self Help Aid Association' – established in 2005. The

Association is the result of three years work and experience of 15 different groups of relatives of *desaparecidos* (mainly women alone) and political former prisoners.

Radio Youth Voice, in Nvo Brdo, one of the poorest municipalities of Kosovo, thanks to Tuscany Caritas delegation is still going on. Three Albanians and three Serbs manage the radio to promote tolerance among the local communities.

On the educational front, Caritas Italiana and some Sicilian Caritas are prosecuting the support to a nursery school in Prizren that welcomes children coming from different religious cultures. Actually 2 young Italian volunteers, as 'white helmets', are co-operating in the project. Another 'white helmet' is working in Ferizaj with Caritas Kosovo.

Macedonia

The Program for Parish Caritas Promotion in Macedonia comes to an end with the establishment of small parish staff of laics to help the local priests in implementing projects to address the local needs.

Caritas Bolzano-Bressanone, is still co-operating with Rom association "Irhom" in Topana, Skopje, in managing a nursery of Rom children getting ready for the public local school (teaching of Macedonian language).

Serbia and Montenegro

The main activity is the implementation of the "*Mental health Program*" whose aim is the improvement of mental health patients' quality of life through the promotion of a community base approach in the psychiatric assistance and the empowerment of local institutions and specialists. In co-operation with Ucodep and Tuscany Region, a Centre for Mental Health opens in Mdjana-Nis and some of the staff could follow training in Italy (towns of Bibbiena and Livorno).

Development Caritas Program trains local operators and volunteers in different regions, to reinforce the Caritas network for addressing the local needs.

Twinships between Italian diocesan Caritas and Serbian Montenegrin diocesan Caritas are still on in order to promote and exchange experiences between Italian and Serbian diocesan Caritas.

A young Italian volunteer is now in Belgrade to work with Caritas Serbia.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Caritas Italiana activity in Latin America can well be described as "*Cooperation in Solidarity*": this is the experience carried out within the Caritas network in Latin America and Caribbean. It means the cooperation among the local Caritas and Caritas Italiana, to improve community training, mutual understanding and tight bonds of brotherhood and solidarity. The main aim of our cooperation is the upgrading of the common interests of the poor and the communities. We try to bypass the scheme donors-beneficiaries, using new cooperation ways and procedures.

We work together respecting each other's criteria and principles. Our southern partners, not only can, but actually "should" suggest and, ever more, teach to the northern Caritas and Church communities, the new, up to date operative ways they wish to adopt, both to detect needs and to find possible solutions.

South Cone

Argentine

Caritas Italiana sent two white helmets in Caritas Mendoza to help in animation and promotion mainly on active citizenship though a sociological study on poverty.

In the diocese of San Martin we work in social promotion with special training.

Brazil

We support the Permanent Campaign of Solidarity and managing the National Solidarity Fund. Caritas Italiana in co-operation with Etimos, organizes the training for local staff engaged in "Hunger Zero" program.

We still support local Caritas specially the Exerim diocesan Caritas in the region of Rio Grande do Sul.

Chile

In co-operation with Juvenile Pastoral Institute (Chile Episcopal Conference), Caritas Italiana contributes to the training of young people involved in solidarity activities.

Paraguay

Caritas Italiana keep going with the project: "Special Care for migrants in Paraguay" - care of irregular migrants, support to migrant families' organization, training of parish Caritas' teams, that take care of migrant families and offer them advice for health, labour and education.

Transito Santa Libranda centre, for women moving from the countryside into the city, is part of this project, ad it offers accommodation, services and vocational training.

Uruguay

Caritas Italiana has cooperated with Caritas Uruguay to strengthen Caritas' organization and support the animation and coordination of Social Pastoral in Uruguay. Programs in course regard fair trade, with the training of diocesan teams on the subject and the development of diocesan Caritas.

Central America

Costa Rica

Caritas Italiana has supported the Social Pastoral Caritas in its educational and animation programs in favour of the diocesan Caritas. In Limon diocese we funded a three years program for the workers' pastoral in 20 parishes, attended by Nicaraguan immigrants.

El Salvador



Caritas Italiana actions are mainly focused on families affected by the eruption of Ilamatepec volcano.

We completed the building of houses for the poorest people in Santa Ana and Sonsonate dioceses. We send some emergency aid after the tropical storm Stan (2005) and we support women's rights and promotion in the dioceses of Sonsonate and Santiago de Maria involving also men in the overall promotion of the community.

Guatemala

Caritas Italiana is supporting Caritas Guatemala in the following programs:

- Aid to reconstruction, in the area affected by the tropical storm Stan (up the end of 2007)
- Pastoral project on solidarity and reconciliation in San Marcos' diocese
- Cooperation agreement to upgrade social action and inclusion among the indigenous communities, in Verapaz diocese
- Support to three years project "Our history: identity and future" through *Alianza por la Vida y la Paz* social organization, to reinforce education in the community schools in the Popular Community of Petén and New Horizon Co-operative.
- Presence of 4 white helmets, who work in the Remhi diocese and with *Alianza por la Vida y la Paz*

Haiti

Security and stability are slowly back after the humanitarian crisis in 2004. The UN Blue Helmets are still in the country as the situation is still dangerous for the peace. This influences the implementation of a national program on social development.

Honduras

Caritas Italiana's activities regarded:

- A three years program for women, in co-operation with *Asociación por el Desarrollo de los Pueblos*, to sustain a refuge-home for women affected by violence and to fund micro businesses in a national artisan network
- Caritas Honduras for its activities in assistance and human promotion (rehabilitation of tramps, care of neglected elders, micro credit to small family business) and its' activities on political education
- Support to the popular educational school, in Santa Maria de Copan diocese
- financial support to Olancho diocese for a three years program to help the education of 12-14 years old children
- with Caritas Milano, support the safeguard of the environment with the project "*Natural resources and Life: human dignity*".

Mexico

Caritas Italiana supports a two years program of post-emergency, rehabilitation and development in favour of the population affected by floods, due to the tropical storm Stan.

Nicaragua

Caritas Italiana supported the following activities:

- Support to Caritas Nicaragua to reinforce its presence with the diocesan Caritas
- Support to Confer (Religious Orders Conference) for solidarity activities in the suburb of Nueva Vida in Ciudad Sandino: adults education, vocational training, health clinic, cultural centre; and in Jinotega diocese, for the reconstruction of villages on Rio Coco river, after the tropical storm Mitch, and for the setting up of an informal education centre in the same parish.

Panama

Support to Caritas Panama, for the educational three years program on Social Pastoral Caritas of Central America.

Bolivian Zone

Bolivia

Caritas Italiana co-operates with the Episcopal Commission of Social Pastoral (Cepas)/Caritas Bolivia on the following projects:

- Setting up of self-help micro-enterprises, for "Campesinas" women, through the training and organization of the social projects department of Cepas, in seven dioceses
- Support to the prisoners pastoral: human rights defence and promotional activities, for prisoners and their families, at national level
- Other projects, such as co-operation for training in solidarity economy in parish Caritas, in Santa Cruz, support to children prisoners in Cochabamba diocese, support to volunteers of prison pastoral in Tarija diocese, and so on.

Colombia

Caritas Italiana promotes "Peace is Possible" campaign along with Caritas Internationalis and other European Caritas. It aims to diplomatic awareness and international negotiation to recognise the humanitarian crisis and the victims' rights; international support to the emergency situation, in the humanitarian crisis; and to increase the Colombian government involvement.

Cooperation with Caritas Colombia is intense and offers a deeper partnership with the local Episcopal Conference, to foster the peace process.

The cooperation and support for the national prisoners' pastoral is still being carried on at national level both to maintain high attention by the media and through volunteers working in the prisons.

Ecuador

Support to a training program for parish Caritas, implemented by Social Pastoral Caritas Ecuador, at national level and emergency aid for the population affected by the eruption of the Tungurahua volcano.



Peru

We are at present working on socio economic inclusion of handicapped people, in Tacna province.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA – HORN OF AFRICA

"Middle East seems to be "the place" of conflict par excellence", we wrote in 2005 report: and still it is. Health care, malnutrition (not only in Iraq), education, re-starting production activities, refugees are the main issues the local Caritas are called to face, not mentioning to leave the hope flourish.

A Caritas Lebanon press release, says, after the conflict of July- August: "...damages are estimated around \$3,6 billions..30,000 houses destroyed. UNICEF registered 30 schools destroyed and 300 damaged. 97% of displaced people are back home, but only 30-40% can live in their houses...70% of the territory affected by the conflict, is poisoned by cluster bombs. Unemployment is over 50%".

Caritas Jerusalem informs that:

- import/export is closed from the Gaza Strip (1,400,000 people affected);
- increase of restriction on free movement in West Bank (2,400,000 people affected);
- in the last seven months public clerks didn't receive any salary from the Authority;
- 79% of the population live under poverty threshold.

Khawla Jajo, general secretary of Caritas Iraq, says: *"Iraq is a dead country, get ready to bury it"*. There are at least 150 bombings or kidnapping per day. Msgr. Sleiman, delegate for Caritas of Iraqi Episcopal Conference, affirms that 5,000 people try everyday to leave the country and UN says another 10% is displaced or refugee. Iraq is sliding back in a tribal system of security and protection.

The coast of North Africa is the stage for another problem: clandestine migration; two flows of migrants cross it, towards Europe: from Morocco to Gibraltar, and from Libya to Italian coasts. A never-ending human tragedy growing everyday, like the desperation that causes it. Local Caritas are called to help the massive flow of migrants coming from Sub Saharan Africa.

In Somalia, the drought (1 million people affected) left way to floods at the end of the year. The quick conflict between the Transitory Government in Baidoa and the Islamic Courts, in December, left thousands of displaced people and the impossibility to govern and help the country, not mentioning Ethiopian soldiers on its territory. This land, where Christians are just a few, is the grave of new martyrs: Graziella Fumagalli killed in 1995, Annalena Tonelli in 2003 and Sister Leonella in 2006.

North Africa

Algeria

Our support to the magazine *Hayat* is going on; it carries out a training for the defence of human rights and an animation activity among lower classes' women.

On proposal of Caritas Algeria, we supported the project "*Foyer Amitié sans frontières*" for students in Algiers, and the "*SOS Culture*" project - managed by a Muslim couple – which aspires to reach an open society, as an alternative to extremism and closures. They organise musical activities and performances, and support educational and micro credit activities for boys and girls.

Support is given also to a library in Zemmouri, to vocational training of disable people, and to a library/centre for young people as a start of the diocesan Caritas of Oran.

Morocco

After the help for reconstruction after the earthquake in Al Hoceima, (February 24th, 2004), Caritas Italiana supports the local organization in its effort to build a national Caritas and also in urban renewal of poor communities environment and aid to Sub Saharan refugees.

Mauritania

The *Health Care project* in Dar Naim is still in course: it benefits around 46,000 people per year. We start also to receive micro projects proposals.

Libya

Staff training for the treatment of drugs addicted young people was completed. Support was given to assist the African migrants in the Saharan oasis of Sebha.

Middle East

Holy Land (Occupied Territories and Israel)

Caritas Jerusalem works mainly to address needs coming from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, such as health care aid for poor sick people and non autonomous patients, social aid to particularly vulnerable families (worsened for the conflict), educational support to very poor or disable children, cash for work to benefit the communities and on demand from the authorities. More than 16,000 were the beneficiaries.

We are supporting the building of a poly functional hall in Aboud for young people, thanks to the funds from Caritas Livorno (Tuscany).

The *Home Violence Prevention Project*, implemented in cooperation with the local NGO *Trust*, tried to address violence, not only in connection with the conflict, but in relation to a Palestinian family culture itself. Causes can be found in the lack of work, overcrowding, lack of recreational places.

We helped to start a textile activity with the Bedouin shepherds (vulnerable because both Bedouins and Palestinians) in the West Bank, near Jericho.

As consequence of the Israel-Lebanese conflict, we start a co-operation with a local Israel NGO - called *Friendship Village*. It has a wide articulate program of peaceful coexistence among young Israelis and Arabs, living in Israel.

Jordan

Caritas Italiana supports the structural organization of Caritas Jordan, which is on the front line in helping refugees coming from Iraq. We supported also a Peace Camp for young people coming from all faiths and ethnic group.

Lebanon

Caritas Italiana joined the appeal of Caritas Lebanon for €6,280,000, in order to:

- send emergency aid to war victims
- re-launch of income generating productive activities for 3,000 farmers, 100 fishermen and 500 small artisans
- support to migrants and refugees, hundreds of them were repatriate
- promote reconciliation and interfaith activities to lower tensions, identify conflict and violence causes and obstacles to a peaceful coexistence.

In **Syria**, Caritas Italiana supports emergency activities due to the flow of refugees from Lebanon and to repatriate them at the end of the conflict.

Iran

We still support the reconstruction after the earthquake in Bam (December 26th, 2004), in Zarand (February 25th, 2005), in Qeshm Island (November 27th, 2005) and in Lorestan (March 31st, 2007).



The project *"Spinal cord injured"* in 2006 sees the hand over of 46 houses (out of 100 expected) that we built for people injured and paralysed due to the effects of the earthquake. From this project we started other programs, such as vocational training for disable people and their families, physiotherapy, support to governmental training preparedness for new emergencies and also public sanitation (showers and latrines), pedagogical equipment for students.

We support also the technical administrative training of the local staff, who manage all the projects.

Several times the Iranian authorities praised publicly the work fulfilled by Iranian staff of Caritas Italy present in the country.

Iraq

All our initiatives in the country went to assist the countless war victims. Caritas Italiana is still supporting the *Health Care Project*, started in 1992 by Caritas Iraq to take care of poor, and the *Well Baby Program*, to fight severe malnutrition of under 5 children. In 2006 Caritas Iraq has proposed to support two other programs: *Food and social aid to elders, disable people and orphans* and *Volunteers Training Program*, and we did it. This last one particularly, aims to help young people (coming from all the Christians communities of the country) to let alive a spirit of solidarity and service in a society downgraded by the war.

The Horn of Africa

Djibouti

Our support is going on, to 5 non - formal schools for adult alphabetisation and for boys/girls who left basic education, all over the country, a service which is particularly appreciated by the beneficiaries.

A contribution was given to help against the drought that affected the country.

Somalia

The new Caritas Somalia director (a former Caritas Italiana operator) has opened a dispensary in Baidoa, the only one which gives free health care in the area, in the middle of the dangerous and unsolved situation of Somalia. Caritas Italiana supports, with other Caritas, this dispensary and also some activities of school support and health care in Merka and Gowein, together with Caritas Somalia and other local NGOs.

MICRO – PROJECTS

Aims

Another commitment of Caritas Italiana regards the support of small communities – the last and least – by small size programs, to gradually encourage self-development.

Micro-projects, limited to a small community to find a solution for a local problem, aim at prompt, encouraging results, often having self-multiplying effects, extended to the surrounding neighbourhood.

Each of such actions represents the Italian communities' answer (funds offered by private donors, parishes, or dioceses) to a specific need of a community, located in a developing country and reported by the local Caritas, the diocesan or community leaders.

Apart from the financial support, *micro*-projects have several important pedagogical purposes. The fundraising phase aims to sensitise the Italian community to other populations' life. Generally this relationship does not close at the end of the project, but remains with a long-lasting exchange of information and support.

Moreover, these activities offer a chance to achieve a further knowledge of an area's specific needs, and to join efforts towards lasting and satisfactory answers.

All sort of occasions may offer to donors the suggestion to fund, in part or thoroughly, a micro project: weddings, christenings, the birth of a child, a university degree, or in memory of a dear departed, some parish celebration, or some special Lenten or Christmas collection, a first Mass anniversary, etc. Some social, sport or cultural groups can also take part in carrying on a collective act of solidarity.

Micro projects priorities

At the beginning the micro projects were born and addressed only for developing countries. Nowadays we finance micro projects also in East Europe and Middle East. We established the following priorities in the criteria and goals to achieve:

- Programs to generate income in rural areas, cattle-breeding, handicraft, small co-operatives or groups of women or young people of the most vulnerable categories
- Programs regarding access to water (for domestic use, irrigation, fish breeding and breeding in general)
- Health programs, such as small rural dispensaries. The contribution could be on small equipment, sanitary tools and materials. In a beginning phase, also basic medicines can be supply, but only if local government or other NGOs will support the health service further.

Implemented micro – projects

In 2006, Caritas Italiana has realized 499 micro-projects (mp) in 52 countries, for a total of more than 1,650,000,00 €.

The geographical subdivision is as follow:

Africa: 157 mp in 25 countries: Angola (2), Botswana (1), Burkina Faso (2), Burundi (1), Cameroon (4), Central African Rep. (1), Congo R. (5), Congo R.D.(29), Ivory Coast (5), Ethiopia (1), Guinea Bissau (1), Ghana (2), Kenya (9), Madagascar (15), Malawi (1), Mali (2), Mauritania (2), Mozambique (2), Nigeria (3), Sudan (1), Tanzania (16), Togo (1), Uganda (49), Zimbabwe (1).

Asia: 249 mp in 11 countries (2 in the Middle East): China (1), Philippines (11), Indonesia (3), Kazakhstan (2), Lebanon (1), Myanmar (16), Nepal (7), Palestine (1), Pakistan (3), Sri Lanka (2), Thailand (1) and Vietnam (96). The very high number of mp is due to the very small amount of each project – less than € 2,500 each.

Europe: 9 mp in 3 countries: Albania (2), Armenia (3) and Serbia (4).

Latin America: 84 mp in 11 countries: Argentina (8), Bolivia (14), Brazil (15), Chile (3), Colombia (13), Ecuador (9), El Salvador (6), Guatemala (5), Honduras (1), Peru (7) and Uruguay (3).

90% of projects regarded priority areas – water, community development, rural and agricultural development and health care. The remaining 10% goes to educational, human and social promotion in favour of the most vulnerable people.

BOOKS AND BROCHURES PUBLISHED IN 2006 BY CARITAS ITALIANA

Radicati e fondati nella Carità

(Deep-rooted and established in the charity)

Caritas Italiana-EDB, May 2006 – pp.448 (at the bookstores)

A training booklet for priests, seminarists, deacons.

Partire dai poveri per costruire comunità

(Start with poor to build community)

Caritas Italiana-EDB, March 2006 - pp. 80 (at the bookstores)

Reflections on charity seen as life style.

Caritas parrocchiale ed azioni

(Parish Caritas and actions)

Monti, April 2006 – pp.40, cards+31minutes video (at the bookstores)

Animation support at parish or area level. Criteria to address Caritas activities.

Vite fragili

(Fragile lives)

Caritas Italiana-Fondazione Zancan-II Mulino, October 2006, pp. 432 (at the bookstores)

2006 report on poverty and exclusion in Italy. Among others: children fragility and new poors.

La carità nell'emergenza

(Charity in emergency)

Caritas Italiana, May 2006 – pp. 128

A chronological excursus – from post Second World War to nowadays – of Caritas presence in emergencies due to natural disasters in Italy. Description of methods and projects implemented.

Tsunami due anni dopo – Riannodiamo la speranza

(Tsunami two years later – Renewing hope)

Caritas Italiana, December 2006 - pp.44

A report on tsunami activities: what we have done, what is still in progress, how we approached the sister churches on affected countries

Dal conflitto alla riconciliazione

(From conflict to reconciliation)

Caritas Italiana - EDB, January 2006 – pp.142 (at the bookstores)

Ten words to build peace. Ten years later the Dayton Agreement, the experience of Caritas Italiana in the Balkans, as an example how a war can start and turn into reconciliation.

Sussidio per l'Avvento/Natale

(Advent/Christmas brochure)

Caritas Italiana – Italian Episcopal Conference (IEC) – Pastoral for Family National Office, October 2006

“All who heard it were amazed”. A support to live Advent/Christmas in the family.

Sussidio per la Quaresima/Pasqua

(Lent/Easter brochure)

Caritas Italiana – IEC – Pastoral for Family National Office, February 2006

“Spread to everybody the joy of resurrection”. A support to live Lent/Easter in the family.

Poster Rifugiati

(Refugee poster)

Caritas Italiana – UNHCR, June 2006

On the occasion of the World Refugee Day, a poster and a card to remember refugee people.

Servizio Civile– La pace disarmata
Voluntary Service – Disarmed peace

Caritas Italiana, January 2006, poster, card and leaflet

Focus on peace, active citizenship and voluntary service as an answer to compulsory army service

Guida allo studio dei vissuti familiari
(Handbook to study family living)

Caritas Italiana, January 2006 - pp. 49 (e-book)

A report on poor families life styles.

Le abilità in rete - povertà, lavoro, promozione umana
(Capabilities in network – poverty, labour, man promotion)

Caritas Italiana, July 2006 – pp.104

Starting from the project Equal-Extreme, working experiences in extreme vulnerable situations.

Servizio Civile– La pace disarmata
Voluntary Service – Disarmed peace

Caritas Italiana, January 2006, poster, card and leaflet

Focus on peace, active citizenship and civil service as an answer to compulsory army service.

Guida allo studio dei vissuti familiari
(Handbook to study family living)

Caritas Italiana, January 2006 - pp. 49 (e-book)

A report on poor families life styles.

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(Capabilities in network – poverty, labour, man promotion)

Caritas Italiana, July 2006 – pp.104

Starting from the project Equal-Extreme, working experiences in extreme vulnerable situations.

Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2006
(Migration 2006 - statistic dossier)

Idos Ed. – pp. 512

By Caritas Italiana, Migrants Foundation and the diocesan Caritas of Rome. The XVI° yearly report of migrants issue.

La migrazione: un viaggio verso la povertà?
(Migration, a journey into poverty?)

Caritas Italiana, October 2006, - pp.128

III° study/report on poverty and social exclusion of migrants in Europe, by Caritas Europa. Italian/English version.

Polonia – Nuovo paese di frontiera
(Poland – A new border country)

Idos Ed., June 2006 – pp.384

From migrants to EU citizens, Country history, the flow of Polish migrants in Italy: an overview by 40 different authors.

Programma attività 2006/2007 – Animare territori e parrocchie
(Activities Plan for 2006/2007 – Local and parishes animation)

Caritas Italiana, October 2006 – pp.92

FINANCIAL DATA

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES IN ITALY

FIELD OF ACTION	EURO	%
PROMOTION/ TRAINING/ANIMATION	260,488.76	1.05
EMERGENCY AID/HEALTH CARE	1,656,834.33	6.73
SOCIAL-ECONOMIC PROMOTION	609,520.00	2.48
SOCIAL PLANNING	29,887,998.79	84.88
PEACE/HUMAN RIGHTS	708,682.00	2.88
MANAGEMENT	486,746.00	1.98
TOTAL	24,610,269.88	100,00

ACTIVITIES	EURO	%
TRAINING/ MEETINGS	126,088.14	0.51
IEC 8‰ FUND	20,768,788.84	84.39
OTHER PROJECTS	3,715,392.90	15.10
TOTAL	24,610,269.88	100.00

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES IN THE WORLD*

REGION	EURO	%
AFRICA	2,346,628.11	19.53
ASIA AND OCEANIA	6,792,347.87	56.52
LATIN AMERICA	858,293.81	7.14
EUROPA	935,479.05	7.78
MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICA	1,070,137.36	8.91
NORTH AMERICA	14,035.56	0.12
TOTAL	12,016,921.76	100.00

FIELD OF ACTION	EURO	%
EMERGENCY AID	977,686.16	8.14
PROMOTION/TRAINING/ANIMATION	156,100.73	1.30
PEACE /HUMAN RIGHTS	278,674.48	2.32
SOCIAL-ECONOMIC PROMOTION	697,673.48	5.81
HEALTH/EMERGENCY/ECONOMIC	1,359,415.60	11.31
SUPPORT TO SOCIAL PROJECTS OF LOCAL CHURCH	8,144,668.60	67.78
MANAGEMENT	402,702.71	3.34
TOTAL	12,016,921.76	100.00

*ITALY EXCLUDED

AFRICA

COUNTRY	EURO	%
CROSSING PROJECTS	10,950.99	0.47
ANGOLA	59,500.00	2.54
BENIN	6,000.00	0.26
BOTSWANA	5,000.00	0.21
BURKINA FASO	10,200.00	0.43
BURUNDI	15,000.00	0.64
CAMEROUN	12,000.00	0.51
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	4,500.00	0.19
CHAD	4,500.00	0.19
COTE D'IVORIE	17,750.00	0.76
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	547,074.58	23.31
ERITREA	74,300.00	3.17
ETHIOPIA	171,350.00	7.30
GHANA	5,200.00	0.22
GUINEA	39,114.04	1.67
KENYA	164,438.00	7.01
MADAGASCAR	29,161.00	1.24
MALAWI	4,500.00	0.19
MALI	3,052.00	0.13
MOZAMBIQUE	412,000.00	17.56
NIGER	40,144.50	1.71
NIGERIA	10,500.00	0.45
SIERRA LEONE	10,000.00	0.43
SUDAN	273,200.00	11.64
TANZANIA	74,596.00	3.18
TOGO	4,600.00	0.20
UGANDA	207,997.00	8.86
ZIMBABWE	6,000.00	0.25
TOTAL	2,346,628.00	100,00

NORTH AMERICA

COUNTRY	EURO	%
U.S.A. (EMERGENCY AID HURRICANE KATRINA)	14,035.56	100.00
TOTAL	14,035.56	100.00

ASIA AND OCEANIA

COUNTRY	EURO	%
<i>CROSSING PROJECTS</i>	<i>52,191.00</i>	<i>0.77</i>
AFGHANISTAN	205,683.68	3.03
BANGLADESH	25,000.00	0.37
CHINA	3,000.00	0.04
INDIA	1,417,710.00	20.87
INDONESIA	571,680.12	8.42
KAZAKHSTAN	7,100.00	0.10
MALDIVES	262,030.07	3.86
MYANMAR	316,686.00	4.66
NEPAL	33,064.00	0.49
PAKISTAN	911,980.00	13.43
PHILIPPINES	154,680.00	2.28
SRI LANKA	2,136,010.00	31.45
THAILAND	477,312.00	7.03
VIETNAM	218,218.00	3.20
TOTAL	6,792.347.87	100.00

LATIN AMERICA

COUNTRY	EURO	%
ARGENTINA	42,443.00	4.95
BOLIVIA	48,082.00	5.60
BRAZIL	132,423.11	15.43
CHILE	20,000.00	2.33
COLOMBIA	70,350.68	8.20
COSTA RICA	5,000.00	0.58
ECUADOR	31,107.00	3.62
EL SALVADOR	61,226.07	7.13
GUATEMALA	316,962.95	36.93
HONDURAS	95,700.00	11.15
PERÙ	25,284.00	2.95
URUGUAY	9,715.00	1.15
TOTAL	858,293.81	100.00

NORTH AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

COUNTRY	EURO	%
<i>CROSSING PROJECTS</i>	<i>5,547.19</i>	<i>0.52</i>
ALGERIA	60,582.31	5.66
DJIBOUTI	12,100.00	1.13
IRAN	312,998.86	29.25
IRAQ	299,080.00	27.95
ISRAEL	5,000.00	0.47
JORDAN	22,500.00	2.10
LEBANON	115,649.00	10.81
LIBYA	6,000.00	0.56
MAURITANIA	18,752.00	1.75
MOROCCO	55,830.00	5.22
SYRIA	14,000.00	1.30
SOMALIA	87,098.00	8.14
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (NPA)	55,000.00	5.14
TOTAL	1,070,137.36	100.00

EUROPE

COUNTRY	EURO	%
<i>CROSSING PROJECTS EUROPE</i>	<i>5,804.62</i>	<i>0.62</i>
<i>CROSSING PROJECTS BALKANS</i>	<i>8,248.86</i>	<i>0.88</i>
ALBANIA	210,222.91	22.47
ARMENIA	15,000.00	1.60
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	124,003.99	13.26
BULGARIA	10,000.00	1.07
CROATIA	20,041.10	2.14
FRY- MACEDONIA	11,902.19	1.27
GEORGIA	10,000.00	1.07
GREECE	22,130.40	2.37
KOSOVO	60,215.69	6.44
ROMANIA	25,000.00	2.67
RUSSIA	71,943.89	7.69
SERBIA	63,244.48	6.76
TURKEY	277,720.92	29.69
TOTAL	935,479.05	100.00



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