

The Mosaic Tableau

Caritas Jordan Monthly Newsletter



Caritas MONA Regional Conference

Jordan, Amman
February 20-22 ,2013



Caritas Middle East and North Africa (M.O.N.A.) held its ordinary Regional Conference between February 20 and 22, 2013 in the capital of Jordan, Amman, hosted by Caritas Jordan and under the joint sponsorship and presence of H.E. Cardinal Robert Sarah, President of Cor Unum-Vatican- Rome and H.B. Patriarch Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. Were also present, lawyer Joseph Farah, President of the MONA region- extending from Iran to Mauritania- and the Presidents and Directors of Caritas MONA Member Organizations.

Pope Benedict XVI on November 11, 2012. Participants discussed items put on the agenda, among which Caritas social and charity activities in the countries of the region, the dramatic events in Syria, and the intervention of

Caritas Syria that covers all the Syrian regions and all the population without any distinction.

Caritas Internationalis and Caritas MONA also discussed programs and assistance provided to Syrian brothers who fled to the neighboring countries, mainly Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq; these programs were initially launched by CI, Caritas MONA and other Catholic church and social organizations, in collaboration with UN agencies, governments, and relevant civil society organizations.



The participation of H.E. Cardinal Sarah highlighted the Pope's continuous interest in the peoples of the regions and their sufferings, based on the Apostolic Exhortation for the Middle East and as a continuation of the meeting that was held at Caritas Lebanon on November 9, 2012 and gathered Caritas Member Organizations and catholic associations working in the field of relief. During that meeting, Caritas Syria was appointed as a focal point for communication, in collaboration with Caritas MONA, Caritas Internationalis, Cor Unum, and the Vatican State Secretary so that all initiatives are launched "in the spirit of charity and without any distinction between religions" with the aim of promoting reconciliation and forgiveness for the sake of peace and the safe return of Syrian refugees to their country.

The participants praised H.M. King Abdullah II Bin el Hussein for receiving the heads of the participating delegations. During the meeting, His Majesty commended the efforts done by Caritas and the Church institutions in collaboration with national and local organizations

to provide assistance to the refugees and displaced; noting that their number has gone beyond the capacities of the neighboring countries. They also praised His Majesty's call to the United Nations and the countries of the world to exert all possible efforts to assist and promote peace and security, thus enabling the return of refugees. His Majesty has also insisted on the need to cater for the victims of these events, internally and externally.

The Conference reiterated its call to intensify efforts at all levels to support the Syrian population and to ask governments and relevant parties to work towards avoiding religious and racial tensions and extremism that only lead to destruction.

At the end of the Conference, participants thanked the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the warm welcome. They thanked Caritas Jordan and expressed their hope that peace, love and justice will soon prevail. They also paid tribute to the volunteers and social workers, mainly those working on providing shelter and relief to Syrian refugees.



CARDINAL SARAH

VISITS CARITAS CENTRE IN ZARQA

During his visit to Jordan to attend Caritas Regional Conference, Cardinal Sarah on Tuesday February 13, 2013, escorted by Bishop Maroun Lahham and the Papal Ambassador to Jordan Georgio Lingua, in addition to Executive Director of Caritas Jordan, Mr. Wael Suleiman, paid a visit to Caritas Zarqa. The Cardinal was acquainted with the services provided to Syrian refugees in the centre. He also met with a number of Syrian families, who approach the centre with an aim to register or receive relief aid. He, afterwards, met with Syrian students who are enrolled in the non-formal education school, which is run by Caritas Jordan for the Syrian refugee children, aged 6-15, at the Latin Church in Zarqa.



King Abdullah Congratulates Caritas Jordan on its 45th Anniversary



His Majesty King Abdullah the second congratulated Caritas Jordan on its 45 anniversary of its establishment in Jordan while praising the organization's efforts that provides humanitarian aid, development and community service and is headed by Patriarch Fouad Twal.

This took place on Wednesday, February 20, 2013 during the visit to his Majesty paid by Cardinal Robert Sarah and a group of MONA Regional Conference participants.

During this meeting, his Majesty stressed the importance of spreading values of tolerance and cooperation to be the basic of dialogue between the followers of the heavenly religions and the benefit it brings to the human society, which is after all the message of Amman City.

Cardinal Sarah and the group expressed their sincere gratitude and appreciation for his Majesty's great work and cooperation he is exerting towards humanitarian assistance and the refugees in particular, reflecting His Majesty's role of spreading values of peace and tolerance.

President of Caritas Jordan, Patriarch Fouad Twal with the presence of Chairperson, Mrs. Huda Muasher, and the Executive Director, Mr. Wael Suleiman, praised as well the efforts of King Abdullah, the government agencies and charity organizations, military and security forces, which he described as "an open door to all those suffering" that is actually a noble and well-known tradition of the Hashemite family.

Mr. Joseph Farah, Director of Caritas MONA awarded a "Commander Decoration"



On the sidelines of Caritas MONA Regional Conference, Cardinal Robert Sarah, President of "Cor Unum," has awarded Mr. Joseph Farah, Director of Caritas MONA a "Commander Decoration" as a "Knight" for his relentless efforts and dedication to Caritas in this region.

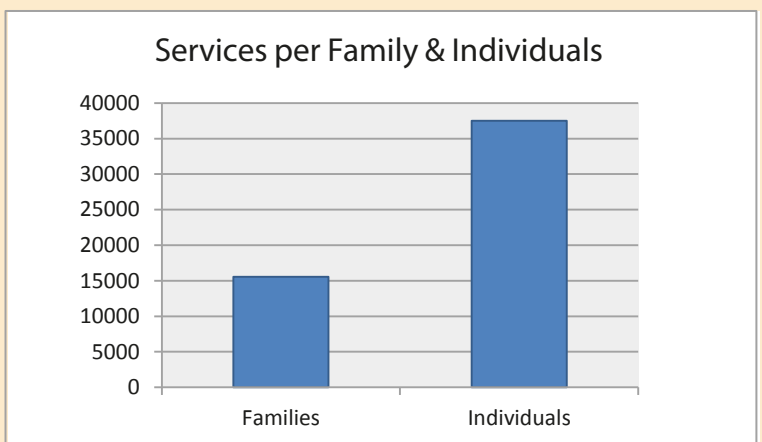
Mr. Farah has lauded Cardinal Sarah and the Catholic Church's appreciation and considered it as recognition to all Caritas workers and volunteers at Caritas MONA.

Humanitarian Response continues...

With the second anniversary of the Syrian crisis, the influx of Syrian refugees to Jordan is still on the rise with around 2,000 refugees entering the country on a daily basis.

Caritas Jordan continues its humanitarian response towards the needs of the Syrian refugees providing emergency humanitarian, tailored, educational and medical assistances.

The numbers of Syrian refugees registered in Caritas database reached **83.450 individuals**, with a total of **17.145 families** until February 28, 2013.



The chart shows the number of provided services for **15,544** families that include: (food and NFIs package and vouchers, home adaptation and rent assistance), in comparison with the provided services for **37,525** individuals, which contain: (NFIs-personal hygiene and comforters, milk& diapers, baby kits, school bags & kits, education services and medical services).

Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis visits Caritas Administration

On the sidelines of his participation in MONA Regional Conference, Mr. Michel Roy, Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis, paid a visit to Caritas Administration building on February 22, 2013, where he was familiarized with Caritas Jordan Program and Projects from the Executive Director, Mr. Wael Suleiman, Mr. Geroge Akl, Projects Manager, Mr. Omar Abawi, Program Manager, and Mrs. Suhad Zarafili, Community Center Manager.



Syrians & Jordanians gathered in a Peace Building & Reconciliation Project

Caritas Jordan, in cooperation with MCC (Mennonite Central Committee), held several workshops and lectures within the Project "Enhance Concepts of PB&R".

Workshops took place in (3) areas; Mafraq, Zarqa and Irbid over (5) days for 3 training hours each day, with the participation of (32) participants in each area, both Jordanians and Syrians.

The participants were introduced to concepts of conflicts, peace building and resolution. They also took needs assessment training, which they actually implement throughout field visits paid to Syrian refugees' houses to observe their needs and assess their living conditions.



"I am a part of the PB team... we do regular field visits to assess the needs of the Syrian refugees... I, myself, am a refugee so I can feel better and understand their situation. I am really happy to be able to help others especially people of my home country, says Tahani Anjari, female Syrian refugee, one of the PB team.

Visits to Caritas Jordan... Caritas Germany President

Prelate Dr. Peter Neher, Caritas Germany President, accompanied by Dr. Oliver Muller, International Director and PR Officer, Mrs. Claudia Beck, paid a first two-day visit to Caritas Jordan in March 2013.

This visit was meant to cast the light on Caritas projects and services provided to needy people in general and for refugees and migrant workers in particular. During several meetings with Chairperson, Mrs. Huda Muasher, and Executive Director, Mr. Wael Suleiman, Prelate Neher heard more about Caritas Jordan work since its establishment 45 years ago to serve the Jordanian society and the humanitarian response towards assisting Syrian, Iraqi refugees and migrant workers on different levels; health, social, education...etc.

He visited Caritas Center in Zarqa area, where a distribution of food vouchers and humanitarian

assistance took place for Syrian refugees. He also had the chance to visit some Syrian refugees and speak with them, in addition to meet their children, who participate in Caritas Jordan non-formal education school in Zarqa Center.

Throughout the interview conducted with him by the Catholic Center for Studies and Media, Prelate Neher expressed his happiness of this visit and mentioned how proud he and his country of the Jordanian policy that keeps on receiving those from refugees and who find security in Jordan. He was also impressed to see the services provided by Caritas Jordan to everyone without any discrimination based on religious or political considerations.



Caritas Switzerland Director



Caritas Switzerland Director, Mr. Hugo Fasel, accompanied by Mrs. Beatrice Winkler, Program Coordinator paid a visit to Caritas Jordan in February 2013.

Throughout a special interview he had with Caritas Jordan Communication Unit he said:

“Caritas is a big family and most of the times there are other countries that work with local Caritas, especially throughout the Syrian

crisis, so Caritas Switzerland took this engagement to support Caritas Jordan since we are convinced of the excellent work you are doing”.

Mr. Fasel toured many Centers, especially those serving Syrian refugees and he was impressed by the work, he commented. “For me, it was very important to see precisely how Caritas Jordan is working, especially with the vouchers system, which gives confidence to all. And it was also important for me to see the rest of the activities; health, education, psychological support...”

The visit was concluded with many positive feedbacks from both Mr. Fasel and Mrs. Winkler.

“I would like to thank you “Caritas Jordan” says Mr. Fasel, in this situation, I see this engagement as a very important one, and when I go back to my country, I can say that we have confidence as we have a partner who is completely sure of his work and we can rely on”.

“I would like to congratulate and thank Caritas Jordan for the excellent work” concludes Mr. Fasel.

Communication Officers/ Caritas Germany

A group of 12 Communication Officers from different branches of Caritas Germany paid a four-day visit to Caritas Jordan in March 2013. This visit aimed to learn about the work of Caritas Jordan, in particular the partnership with Caritas Germany.



They had the chance to visit many centers in Amman and middle areas, where they talked to employees, volunteers and beneficiaries about the activities and Caritas provided assistance.

The group was really delighted by the stay in Jordan and they were impressed by the work Caritas Jordan is doing.

MONA Regional Youth Working Group Meeting

The coordination meeting for MONA regional youth working group was held in Madaba, Jordan for 3 days, between February 8-10, 2013 and with representatives from Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine.

The meeting tackled the achievements of volunteers' activities and the local training program for each country that were previously agreed on in the last coordination meeting in November 2012. The group, in the second part of the meeting, agreed that the regional camp and the training of leaders program will take place in August 2013.





“Be in the service of love good like the merciful Samaritan...”

Pope Benedict XVI message on the occasion of the International Day of Patient 2013

This was the theme of the campaign that Caritas Jordan launched on the occasion of the International Day of Patient that comes on February, 11 of each year.

Volunteers Center prepared (50) posters that reflect the meaning and spirit of this day and distributed them to parishes all over Jordan, throughout Caritas volunteers in parishes, schools and Centers.

All parish committees agreed to have a special mass on behalf of the sick people in their parish on Sunday, February 10, 2013. Many activities took place in each parish including visiting elderly houses and prayers, with the participation of (500) members from parish movements, in addition to (100) patients who received the anointing of the sick during these masses.



Caritas Jordan provided (5289) medical, awareness, social, and educational services during the months of January and February 2013 for needy Jordanians, Syrian and Iraqi Refugees, Migrant Workers and persons from other nationalities.

The King... & CARITAS



Few days ago, I had the honor to escort Caritas delegation in a visit to His Majesty King Abdullah II. Patriarch Fouad Twal spoke on behalf of the delegation, which was headed by Cardinal Robert Sara, president of "Cor Unum" at Vatican that is working on human development worldwide. The Patriarch said that the Catholic Church's individuals and institutions are continuously offering their services to all people without any exceptions or discrimination.

His Majesty started delivering his solemn words, saluting Caritas on the occasion of 45th anniversary of establishing the Society in Jordan. The king knows that Caritas is a charity organization registered with Ministry of Social Development and is considered one of the important Societies in our beloved country, and it was established 45 years ago in 1967 to respond to the Jordan needs to give shelter to refugees and displaced people from the West Bank, who are now comprising an integral part of our harmonious society. In 1990, Caritas had another concern and played a historic role offering relief aid to Iraqi brethren. Caritas clinics, until these days, are providing its free services, regardless of who walks in, as social work that is based on love does not differentiate between ethnicities, denominations or religious groups. It is true that love has no limits.

This visit to the esteemed palace and meeting with his Majesty came at a time Caritas – means love- in cooperation with the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO), are working hand in hand,

providing assistance to Syrian brethren inside and outside the camps. His Majesty gave his support and blessing to Caritas work that is also aware of providing free sublime assistance to poor, sick and elderly Jordanians in this country.

Few hours before the meeting, his Majesty returned from Moscow and the focus of his meetings there were on the Syrian cause. He said that he hopes that the assistance also reach the displaced Syrians in their country, not only those who left their country. Despite his Majesty's deep concerns and the political aspects of his visits, he was very thankful and passionate to the humanitarian work that the Churches do through its charity institutions, especially Caritas Jordan, together with Caritas Jerusalem, Turkey, Lebanon and Iraq, in addition to Caritas Syria, whose president was there in the bountiful palace, Bishop Audo.

"I am confident that the Royal gratitude to the role of this Society is a new support and push forward, in spite of the hardships and challenges Caritas is facing in Jordan, the east and worldwide. However, we congratulate Caritas for the King's lauding. It is a new Royal appreciation for the charity work that does not expect anything in return, but to see justice, human dignities prevail.", says Father Bader.

By Fr. Rifat Bader
Director of the Catholic Centre for
Media and Studies