

## **Recommendations**

### **for policy coherence in migration and development**

Caritas Europa (CE) as part of the global Caritas Internationalis Confederation, present in over 160 countries, has long standing experience in both development and migration work.

Caritas seeks to embody the principle of integral human development and advocates for its promotion. Acknowledging that development and migration work are two policy areas with distinct as well as interconnected aims and objectives, the organisation encourages cooperation between services and organisations involved in migration or development work. This cooperation serves the ultimate goal of eradicating poverty by providing opportunities and options to people. In this way migration can become an option for individuals, families and communities, instead of a decision often led by unfavourable circumstances. This implies increasing efforts to empower individuals and advocate for a more enabling environment, which provide sustainable and decent jobs and opportunities for more prospective migrants in their countries of origin. CE is conscientious that development also creates the conditions for migration and therefore promotes balanced integration policies and practices in countries of destination, in compliance with the right to migrate.

#### **Ethical interpretation of concepts**

For Caritas, respect for human rights and safety along the migration “journey” is a key concern. It follows therefore that a human centred and ethical approach is fundamental to every policy. In addition, an ethical interpretation and application of key concepts used in the context of the migration and development debate, including brain drain/brain gain, remittances, and circular migration is essential.

Caritas proposes the following advocacy messages to policy-makers and the general public, as well as some recommendations to its Member Organisations.

## Recommendations to policy-makers and the general public:

### For a Human centred and Rights based approach

1. Human beings have a basic right to develop their potential and should be treated accordingly.
2. Human rights education and citizenship education should be core elements in all development projects, which should be human-rights based and include a systematic human rights impact assessment.
3. The right to stay in one's country of origin or to migrate is a fundamental and unalienable right that must be respected by all.

### International commitments to eradicate poverty

#### ***Eradicate root causes of forced migration: poverty, insecurity and inequality***

4. Governments have to adhere to their commitments relating to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Official Development Assistance (ODA). Donors must comply with their **commitment to reach 0.7%** of their Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015.
5. To combat the multiple dimensions and root causes of poverty and forced migration, such as insecurity, injustice, instability, lack of opportunities and unfair economic policies, development aid needs to be effective. Caritas urges donors and aid recipient governments to **improve aid effectiveness**, especially to strengthen democratic ownership through greater civil society participation, and accountability of governments for aid disbursement and use.
6. A strong **coherence of all policies** that can potentially affect the development of developing countries must be guaranteed. Caritas advocates for a systematic and thorough **impact assessment** of external policies on developing countries, especially on the poor and vulnerable groups, including their impact on forced migration and on the labour market in countries of origin.
7. It is necessary to build and strengthen capacity of marginalised people and local civil society in the field of **trade and globalisation** in order to enhance the participation of civil society into trade policy making at national and global levels (e.g. the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)).

#### ***Conflict prevention & peace building***

8. Relief and development programmes in refugee-receiving countries should **include support to receiving communities** to improve the development prospects of the wider community and prevent instability.
9. It is critical to promote projects dedicated to **reinforcing solidarity links and inter-communities dialogue** bringing together the migrants/refugees and the local population of a given area.
10. The inclusion of well-reflected **voluntary return projects** into peace strategies is an important element. This should enable countries to attract nationals who left the country and whose skills and qualifications would considerably contribute to the country's further development.

#### ***For better governance: policy dialogue and democratic control***

11. The **active involvement of civil society organisations** (CSOs) in policy dialogue and democratic control on governmental institutions is essential for the peaceful and sustainable development of democratic societies and should be promoted.
12. Governments should create an **enabling environment** for civil society to operate as watchdogs in respect of governmental institutions, especially in policy areas affecting poor people's life, including migration, development and trade. Their voices, in particular those of migrants as members of transnational communities, must be heard in the process of designing, implementing monitoring and evaluating public policies.
13. It is essential that **funding** is available to further build the **capacity** of civil society to monitor government activities through governance and transparency mechanisms in countries of origin and destination.

#### ***Decent jobs and social security***

14. Development policies and programmes should focus on **employment and income generating projects** in developing countries
15. Given the large proportion of **young people** in developing countries, youth should be a privileged target of employment policies and projects.
16. New systems, facilitating access to good information as well as to promote and encourage **community based innovative solidarity** schemes should be explored together with stakeholders in countries of origin, e.g. remittances contributing to health insurance schemes. This should be done with the cooperation of diaspora communities and involving migrants.

## Migration a safe option

### *Legal Labour Migration*

Migration should be an option and should take place in safety and with full respect for fundamental rights, through the creation of **legal channels for labour migration** and international workers' mobility embedded in a framework which provides flexible solutions for all migrants. Therefore **Caritas calls for:**

17. Strengthening **legal protection** of all migrants.
18. Creating **mobility centres** for prospective migrants which provide information and counselling, including the option of exploring alternatives to migration and involving civil society actors
19. Safeguarding access to international protection: legal channels for persons seeking **asylum** should be implemented. In addition, governments should implement support and protection structures.
20. Contributing to the **personal development** of migrants by facilitating qualifications and new skills.
21. Policies to strengthen local groups on the issue of **intercultural participation** and to work towards a **Social Pact and Civil Citizenship**, facilitating integration and global participation

### *Trafficking in Human Beings*

**Caritas seeks to:**

22. Combat root causes of trafficking by **raising awareness** in families and communities about the involvement of relatives in the trafficking chain. It is the first door to trafficking, which has to be closed.
23. Contribute to **assessing the extent** of the phenomenon by providing figures from its own services and/or by promoting research on this issue.

## Migration an asset for development

### *Labour migration*

**Caritas supports:**

24. Safeguarding **social inclusion of migrants** in a "welcoming society". Labour market strategies facilitating access to jobs on the level of people's qualifications genuinely contribute to achieving brain gain and preventing brain waste.

25. The initiative of the WHO for the adoption of a **Global Code of Practice for Ethical Recruitment** and calls upon states and the corporate sector to adopt and respect ethical principles, rules and procedures for international recruitment of staff.
26. The active recruitment of migrants in receiving societies, to work in the development sector and to include migrants and prospective migrants in the design of development programmes. This could include contributing to the education of people in the countries of origin.

### ***Remittances***

27. Caritas advocates for reducing the costs of the transfer of remittances to the minimum necessary. Remittances contribute to the quality of life and possible development (through education) of families and communities left behind. The structured use of remittances, directed to invest in economic, income and employment generating activities, e.g. through loans, and in necessary infrastructure in communities, such as schools, hospitals etc. should be encouraged by **complementing the remittances** with other money.

### ***Circular migration***

28. Circular migration will only be effective if accompanied by measures which ensure its promises: the option to return, while retaining the residence permit. In order to avoid disruption of families, with detrimental consequences for children, the right to live with the own family must be respected. Circular migration should be embedded **in the broader framework of partnership for development**, including mobility partnerships that provide options for different types of migration – seasonal, temporary, but also the possibility of becoming a permanent resident in the receiving society.
29. Caritas advocates for creating options related to the payment of wages and the **transfer of social benefits** in order to promote international mobility, as well as to create innovative ways of promoting productive use of remittances by migrants for the development of their home communities.

## Caritas recommends to its Member Organisations:

1. To initiate or join the **national debate on the linkages** between migration and development, and use the above listed policy recommendations.
2. To systematically use **a Rights-based approach** in their programmes and advocacy work. Human rights education and citizenship education should be a core element in all Caritas development projects. This includes workers' rights, and migrants' rights.
3. To engage more in policy design and monitoring and to propose more institutional and individual **capacity building** activities for their partners in the South, in particular marginalised people and local civil society to strengthen their ability to engage in policy design and monitoring in their countries too.
4. To strengthen **cooperation with migrants' associations** in their development activities, especially in projects focusing on job creation, sustainable income generation and innovative solidarity schemes.
5. To continue providing assistance to countries receiving refugees, also after the immediate relief phase, and address the needs of both refugees and receiving communities, with a focus on **promoting solidarity links and inter-communities dialogue**, in order to improve the development prospects of the wider community and prevent new conflicts.
6. To further explore and study the options to provide **protection, information and alternatives along the migration routes**.
7. To invest more research efforts and collect evidence and figures on **human trafficking**.

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