



Virtual Side Event Organizers: Caritas Africa, Caritas Internationalis, Caritas Burundi, Caritas Burkina Faso and Caritas Mali.

Date: TBC April 2024 Duration: 1h 30 mins Language: English, French and Portuguese

Theme: The role of faith communities in promoting effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions. *Case studies on: Goals 1 (No Poverty); SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and 13 (Climate Action)*

1.0 Introduction

In Africa, disasters are intensifying at an alarming rate ranging from drought in the horn and east of Africa, heavy rains, cyclones and flooding as well as conflicts across the continent. In light of this, Caritas Africa member organisations have been promoting rapid and coordinated disaster response, prevention and preparedness amongst its member organizations. Caritas Africa's humanitarian and developmental efforts have helped to protect people, their environment, their property, and their cultural heritage during major disasters. This assistance include shelter, WASH, food security, climate change interventions, integrated Disaster Risk Reduction among others which effectively contribute to SDGs 2 and 13.

2.0 Objectives and Overall contribution to ARFSD in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

[Caritas Africa](#) is a network of 46 National Catholic charity organisations spread out in 46 African countries. These local Caritas organisations implement food security, climate change, emergency relief and development projects across the entire region through its member organisations. This proposed side event during the tenth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be Co-organized with 5 Caritas Africa member organisations representing and sharing best practices drawn from its 46 member organisations.

The objectives of the session are to: (1) Facilitate experience sharing by Caritas Africa member organisations, government, academia and civil society on ending hunger and tackling negative effects of climate change: increasing food security amongst vulnerable communities. (2) demonstrate innovative strategies to mitigate climate change amongst local communities in Africa. (3) highlight the role of faith communities in the sustainable development agenda

3.0 Event format speakers and panelists

- Introduction and event overview- Government Representative Caritas Mali (5 mins);
- Keynote speech- Faith Leader (TBC): Innovative approaches in tackling climate change and improving food security among local communities.
- Panel discussion (30 minutes):
 1. **Gaston Goro from Caritas Mali:** The role of Caritas in facilitating access to food security amongst local communities (7 mins);
 2. **Representative of a local CSO (TBC)** Local and innovative climate change adaptative strategies to increase climate change resilience amongst local communities (8 mins);
 3. **Representative of SCIAF (TBC)** The impact of loss and damage on food security and its affects on women and girls in Africa
 4. **Representative of Government:** Innovative sustainable use of forests in Burkina Faso (7 mins)
- Question and answer & experience sharing (35 mins); Conclusion and wrap up (10 mins)

4.0 Target group

Representatives of local and national Governments, UN ECA, African Union, Media, Local Communities, Faith-based entities, Civil Society Coalitions, Academia, Private sector, UN Officials, National Caritas.