

**Caritas MONA joint partners meeting
Amman, 12-14 July 2022
Press Release**

"Hunger and collapse threaten societies in several Middle Eastern countries" - Caritas MONA urges decision makers to maintain sufficient aid levels.

From July 12-14, 2022, Middle East national Caritas and sister Caritas from around the world met in Amman for a partners' meeting organized by Caritas MONA¹. Most of the discussions revolved around the protracted socio-political and economic crises affecting the populations of the Region, and the impact of the war in Eastern Europe on the Middle East countries. The discussion was particularly focused on humanitarian aid, and on ways to coordinate aid in order to mitigate as much as possible the damages on the beneficiaries of Caritas assistance.

However, the problem goes far beyond the limits of Caritas' work. The effects of war are being felt around the world. Today, the wealthiest countries are struggling to cope with rising gas, fuel and food prices and are preparing for upcoming scenarios of shortages, inflation, economic recessions and social crises. In the countries of the Middle East, already in the throes of alarming humanitarian situations, aggravated by economic sanctions, food and health security is at stake, where more than ¼ of the population has fallen below the poverty line, as in Lebanon, Syria, the Palestinian territories, but also Iraq, Iran and Yemen.

Suddenly, aid received by humanitarian organizations from European and international bodies has been drastically reduced or completely cancelled in favor of emerging needs in Europe, leaving millions of people who relied on such aid to survive without that support.

While expressing their full sympathy for the victims of the war in Ukraine and recognizing the need to help refugees fleeing violence, the Caritas organizations in the Middle East, supported by their partners, calls on the United Nations, the European Union, international decision-makers, and donors not to prioritize one suffering over another, one life over another, or one people over another.

These Caritas join their voices in asking their partners and donors to maintain the allocation of a sufficient and sustainable level of funding to the region and to pursue a balanced aid policy at the global level, in order to avoid leaving behind peoples whose crises are no longer at the forefront of the media or current interests.

Caritas also calls for the solidarity of all persons and institutions capable of supporting in advocacy, in funds or in kind, the survival, development and recovery efforts of the countries in this Region.

¹ Caritas MONA is the regional secretariat of Caritas Internationalis for the Middle East, North Africa and the Horn of Africa.