

# A BRIEF HISTORY

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Caritas – Hong Kong (“Caritas”) was founded in July 1953 by the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong. The primary purpose of its establishment was to offer relief and rehabilitation services to the poor and the distressed.

Caritas has continuously developed and modified its services in response to the changing needs of Hong Kong. The wide-ranging services provided by Caritas address basic human needs and include social work, education, medical care, community development and hospitality, etc.

Caritas continues to serve the community through 302 service units from 150 locations. It has 5,556 full time staff and receives ongoing support from over 10,000 volunteers. The recurrent expenditure is about HK\$1.5 billion and funds are practically all raised locally. Although the Government provides significant funding for some of the services, Caritas also relies on the donations contributions and fundraising campaigns throughout the territory. The support from private sources precludes a total dependence on the Government for funds. Thus, the degree of flexibility achieved enables assistance to be extended to other causes or to the unaided.

Caritas – Hong Kong is a member of Caritas Internationalis, a federation of 162 Caritas organizations operating in over 200 countries throughout the world.