

A Brief History

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 251 service units from 151 locations. It has 5,421 full-time staff and receives ongoing support from over 12,000 volunteers. The recurrent expenditure is over \$1.85 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 is a member of Caritas Internationalis, a federation of 165 Caritas organizations operating in over 200 countries throughout the world.