

DRC: Caritas Congo Asbl presented its experience on « Veille humanitaire » at Humanitarian Forum

Kinshasa, 06 November 2018 (caritasdev.cd): The Executive Secretary of Caritas Congo Asbl, Mr. Boniface Nakwangelewi ata Degbo, presented the experience of Caritas Congo Asbl in the field of "Humanitarian watch" during the forum on the assessment of the humanitarian situation in the DRC. These meetings were held from 17 to 19 October 2018 at Pullman Hotel in the commune of Gombe in Kinshasa, under the patronage of Prime Minister Bruno Tshibala. Several humanitarian organizations took it. This is the case of ICRC, CORDAID, OCHA, etc. The Ministries of the Interior and Security, Solidarity and Humanitarian Actions, Budget, Health, National Defense, Veterans and Reintegration, Gender, Family and Children and Customary affairs and the Primature were also present at this forum.

In his address, the Executive Secretary said that the humanitarian watch is a system of permanent collection and timely transmission of information or alerts on situations that have or may seriously jeopardize the life or living conditions of a community. His presentation focused on six points: what is the Humanitarian Watch; Why the Humanitarian Watch Caritas Humanitarian Watch; actors of the Humanitarian Watch; Some practical cases and Perspectives of the Humanitarian Watch.

Humanitarian watch is based on several moral or ethical sources. In particular, the speaker cited the Humanitarian Law under which everyone has the right to assistance and is obliged to assist people in danger, he said.

Caritas Congo Asbl, with its partner Caritas International Belgium, holds 3 major experiences of the Watch: in the Greater Ecuador area (Provinces of North and South Ubangi, Mongala, Ecuador and Tshuapa), in Kasai space (Kasai, Kasai Oriental, Kasai Central and Sankuru and Lomami) and in the crisis of the repressed Angola.

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For several years, Ecuador remained a gray area on which we had no data to define the answer to bring. Thanks to the Caritas Watch, Ecuador has become a space on which we have data on the needs of populations, said Mr Nakwangelewi ata Deagbo.

A very encouraging work

En guise de bilan de cette veille humanitaire, il sied de relever que la Caritas a été le premier réseau à faire connaître à la Communauté humanitaire de la RDC l'éclosion de l'épidémie d'Ebola dans la Province de l'Equateur et qui a continué à informer régulièrement sur l'évolution de cette épidémie.

De même dans l'espace kasaïen : dès le début de la crise de Kamuina Nsapu, la Caritas a informé régulièrement la communauté humanitaire sur les incidents et le développement de cette crise à travers tout l'espace kasaïen. Ces informations ont grandement permis à la Communauté humanitaire de la RDC de cerner les besoins des populations et d'élaborer le premier appel d'urgence pour secourir les victimes de cette crise. La Caritas est informée minute par minute des mouvements des Congolais qui sont refoulés de l'Angola.

Dans son discours, le Secrétaire Exécutif de la Caritas Congo Asbl a remercié le Premier Ministre et Chef du Gouvernement d'avoir invité son Institution à présenter son expérience de terrain.

Après les exposés de différentes organisations humanitaires, les participants se sont répartis en 4 panels avec des thèmes principaux et des sous-thèmes. Parmi les thèmes, il y a lieu de citer Santé, Education et Sécurité alimentaire, Protection des personnes et des biens pendant les crises humanitaires, Infrastructures et capacités d'accueil des populations sinistrées, etc.

As a summary of this humanitarian watch, it should be noted that Caritas was the first network to make known to the DRC Humanitarian Community the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic in the Province of Ecuador and that continued to report regularly on the evolution of this epidemic.

Similarly in the Kasai area: from the beginning of the Kamuina Nsapu crisis, Caritas regularly informed the humanitarian community about the incidents and the development of this crisis throughout the Kasai area. This information has allowed the DRC humanitarian community to identify the needs of the population and to prepare the first emergency appeal to help the victims of this crisis. Caritas is informed minute by minute of Congolese movements that are being driven back from Angola.

In his speech, the Executive Secretary of Caritas Congo Asbl thanked the Prime Minister and Head of Government for inviting his Institution to present his experience in the field.

After the presentations of various humanitarian organizations, the participants divided into 4 panels with main themes and sub-themes. Topics include Health, Education and Food Security, Protection of People and Goods during Humanitarian Crises, Infrastructure and Shelter Capacity of Disastered People, etc.

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