



# CROSS OVER

Camillian Disaster Service International

Quarterly Bulletin No. 32 October-December 2023

## Onwards in building eCon-resilient vulnerable communities







Padua, Italy



Bangkok, Thailand

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CROSSOVER is the quarterly news bulletin of the Camillian Disaster Service International. The name CROSSOVER was inspired by the gospel of Mark (Mk. 4,35-41) when Jesus invited his disciples to cross over to the other side of the lake, and then a massive storm battered their boat that it almost sank. Fear had overshadowed them; Jesus rose from sleep and calmed the sea. St. Camillus himself had crossed over the confines of the hospitals when he learned about the plague-stricken people, and the victims of floods, war, and pestilence. The enormous strength and enduring compassion of the Camillians are displayed during these difficult historical moments.

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*Fr. Aristelo Miranda, MI,  
Executive Director*

# Building Ecological Resilience: the path to an E-Converted community

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As we navigate the intricate tapestry of a world marked by unprecedented challenges, the call to foster ecological conversion and build resilient communities has never rung more true. In this edition of our quarterly bulletin, we delve into the transformative journey toward an ecologically converted (e-con) and resilient community—a journey that holds the key to safeguarding our planet and ensuring the well-being of generations to come.

The term "ecological conversion" encompasses a profound shift in mindset, values, and practices, inspiring individuals and communities to embrace sustainability in every facet of their lives. At the heart of this conversion lies the recognition of our interconnectedness with the environment and the understanding that our actions have profound consequences on the delicate balance of our planet.

Building an e-con community goes beyond adopting sustainable technologies; it requires a holistic approach encompassing ecological, social, and economic dimensions. Our commitment to this cause is not just an environmental choice but a humanitarian and moral imperative. Communities worldwide are grappling with the fallout of climate change, natural disasters, and a myriad of other challenges. By embracing an e-converted lifestyle, we empower ourselves to weather these storms and emerge stronger, more united, and more attuned to the needs of both humanity and the planet.

Resilience, a cornerstone of our mission at CADIS, takes center stage in the pursuit of an e-con community. It involves not only fortifying physical infrastructure but also nurturing the resilience of individuals and fostering a spirit of community collaboration and solidarity. Through education, awareness campaigns, and practical initiatives, we can empower communities to adapt to changing circumstances, mitigate risks, recover swiftly from adversity, and overcome ecological sins and debts.

Imagine a community where renewable energy sources power homes, sustainable agriculture practices ensure food security, and waste is viewed as a resource rather than a burden. Envision neighborhoods where green spaces flourish, biodiversity thrives, and residents actively participate in conservation efforts. This vision is not a distant dream—it is a tangible reality that we can collectively bring to life through conscious choices and collaborative efforts.

CADIS, with its global network and commitment to humanitarian service, stands at the forefront of promoting ecological conversion and resilience. Our projects, from disaster response to community development, reflect our dedication to building a sustainable and compassionate future. As we strive to make a positive impact, let us inspire and be inspired by the stories of communities that have embraced the e-con lifestyle, showcasing the transformative power of collective action.

In this edition, you will find insights, success stories, and practical tips on how communities around the world are making strides toward ecological conversion. Together, let us explore the possibilities, share knowledge, and ignite a wave of change that transcends borders and spans generations.

The journey to an e-con community is a dynamic, ongoing process. It requires commitment, adaptability, and a shared vision for a resilient and sustainable future. As we embark on this transformative path, let us remember that every small action contributes to the greater whole. By working together, we can build a legacy of ecological resilience that echoes through the generations, leaving a thriving and harmonious world for those who will follow in our footsteps.

Thank you for your dedication to the cause of ecological conversion and community resilience. Together, we are shaping a future that is both sustainable and compassionate.





# One Health and Beyond: the CADIS Mission

*Sr. Daisy Carmona  
Sister Ministers of the Infirm of St. Camillus  
CADIS Volunteer*

Our global health was greatly challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic. The World Health Organization considers it the most extreme combined health and economic crisis in the last century. Massive number of confirmed cases and deaths were recorded, apart from those which did not reach the list. Similarly, the plagues during the era of St. Camillus de Lellis and his confreres exposed the weakness of the existing health care system. Heroic volunteers of those times risked and offered their lives attending to the persons afflicted by the disease. Called "The Martyrs of Charity" these servants of the sick considered themselves fortunate as they celebrated "The Festival of Charity" as an opportunity to love and serve God in the person of the sick affected by the plague. It was St. Camillus and the martyrs of charity to whom the Camillian Disaster Service (CADIS) owes its life and inspiration. Today, CADIS is an international, vibrant arm of the Great Camillian Family responding to the sick, addressing social and ecological injustices, and promoting ecological conversion. It continues to radiate the love and mercy of Christ towards people affected by extreme weather conditions, man-made and natural disasters and moreover, afflicted by epidemics.

Epidemiology and the plague history tell us that bacterial and viral infections result in the weakening of the human immune system. The mode of transmission includes animal to human and human to human. Air-borne and water-borne diseases also come into play. However, earlier global response to the pandemic was not keen to consider the social environment. It was only in recent years that the World Health Organization recognized the interplay between human beings and the ecosystem, establishing ONE HEALTH. In 2023, One Health evolved into an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, and ecosystems. It recognizes that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent (Wright & Preure, 2023, p.636-640).

One Health is a great leap made by the World Health Organization to offer robust solutions to growing antimicrobial resistance, human immunodeficiency virus - autoimmune deficiency syndrome (HIV-AIDS), tuberculosis, malaria, and the unfolding climate crisis posing threats to environmental and animal health. Collaborating with experts in various fields, taking into account interdependence and support from one another, ONE HEALTH is now a global response to address human health and its environment.

Human health and the environment are the substance of CADIS' vision, even before ONE HEALTH. Specifically, it envisions fullness of life in an ecologically - converted and resilient community. It is driven by the merciful love of Christ for his Church and the spirit of St. Camillus, "the giant of charity." CADIS promotes and inspires the development of community-based integral health programs for the well-being of disaster-stricken communities through compassionate, competent and coordinated interventions. Guided by program interventions, namely relief, recovery, rights advocacy, and resilience, CADIS has long been promoting human well-being and its environment.

The Sierra Leone Ebola Response highlighted the psychosocial support in public health emergencies. CADIS volunteers went beyond relief to the ebola-stricken communities. CADIS provided psychosocial care and support, among others, strengthening the community and its resilience.

The CADIS project in Kenya addressing severe drought underlined the participatory community approach in a Muslim-dominated territory. The project enormously empowered the community towards achieving sustainable farming and peace among their tribes as they learned to share farm resources. Community members claimed to have recognized their human rights and the need to advocate for them.





### Earthquake resilience building response in Palu, INDONESIA, 2018

The Philippines Typhoon Haiyan response proved that the human person afflicted by a major life-threatening disaster is more of a survivor than a victim. Through the provision of relief goods, food and non-food items, and materials to repair homes, the affected population regained their capacity to rebuild their resources.

It was further strengthened by the psychosocial and spiritual support provided by CADIS volunteers. Creative activities were carried out to address the psychological trauma brought about by the Super Typhoon that claimed the lives of many. Children and adults undergo art and play therapy and community-based counseling as well. Moreover, the provision of livelihood materials and equipment empowered the disaster survivors to claim their economic independence. This is where communities begin to develop resilience and claim their own development.

CADIS, in its recent Strategic Plan 2023-2028, commits to upholding resilience through integrated health systems and capacity for disaster preparedness of assisted communities and strengthening its own institutional systems. Integrated health is One Health. It is a common mission to promote the well-being of humans, animals, plants and the whole ecosystem. We have realized that we are all created and dependent on one another. Thus, we are called to respond to the climate crisis of our times. We now commit to One Health and beyond.





# CADIS Leaders officially appeal to the COP28 Delegates to raise the voice of the vulnerable

To the Delegates of COP28,

We, the leaders of the Camillian Disaster Service International, a faith-based humanitarian organization of the Order of the Ministers of the Infirm (Camillians), a Catholic religious Order, gathered in Bangkok for our annual leadership conference from November 13 to 18, 2023.

Thirty-seven leaders and members representing seventeen developed and developing countries renewed their commitment to alleviating human suffering in the face of natural and human-made disasters. We extend our sincere greetings to the distinguished delegates gathered at COP28. As representatives of the vulnerable communities of our respective countries of operation, united by a shared commitment to justice, compassion, and stewardship of our planet, we implore you to heed our collective call for urgent and decisive climate action.

The impact of climate change is devastating communities worldwide, exacerbating poverty, hunger, and displacement. With a deep-rooted connection to vulnerable populations, our organization witnesses the toll of environmental degradation on human lives. We believe that addressing the climate crisis is an ethical imperative and a moral duty embedded in the core tenets of faith traditions.

***The interconnectedness of Climate Change and Humanitarian Crises:*** Pope Francis's encyclical "Laudato Si'" underscores the concept of integral ecology, emphasizing the interconnectedness of social, economic, and ecological systems. This interconnectedness highlights that climate change exacerbates humanitarian crises, worsening poverty and displacing vulnerable populations. Moreover, it implores us to care for our common home, the Earth. The increasing frequency of natural disasters due to climate change directly threatens human lives and well-being. Our moral obligation is to address the root causes of these crises.

Pope Francis consistently advocates for the most vulnerable members of society, highlighting that they often bear the brunt of environmental degradation. As a faith-based humanitarian organization aligning with this perspective, we commit our efforts to supporting those

disproportionately affected by climate change, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are addressed.

***Ethical Responsibility and Stewardship:*** The call for ecological conversion is rooted in the biblical concept of humans as stewards of creation. Acknowledging our moral responsibility as stewards, we must work individually and collectively to reduce our carbon footprint to ensure a transition towards sustainable practices. An integrated approach to sustainable development that respects the environment and human dignity is of paramount importance. Our advocacy at COP28 should echo this conviction, urging delegates to adopt policies that promote change towards sustainable development. We emphasize the moral imperative to transition from fossil fuels and invest in clean, renewable energy sources. This transition not only aligns with ecological principles but also contributes to the well-being of communities currently suffering from the impacts of climate change.

Moving onwards towards the fullness of life, achieving ecologically converted resilient communities, we appeal to every person of goodwill, especially to the delegates of COP28, to:

1. Recognize the role of faith-based organizations play in humanitarian efforts and environmental stewardship and appreciate the importance of spirituality, values and faith traditions as relevant voices in solving the climate crisis and in crafting policies and programs;
2. scale-up commitments of rich countries to completely phase out fossil fuel production, transition our economy to 100% renewable energy and provide sufficient and transparent climate finance to low-income countries for resilience-building and
3. to build more climate-resilient health systems and community systems for health to save foundations of social determinants of health.

**As people of faith, we stand ready to collaborate with governments, NGOs, and all people of goodwill to address the urgent challenges posed by the climate crisis. Together, let us work towards a sustainable and just future for all.**

May the decisions made at COP28 reflect the values of justice, compassion, and solidarity that our faith tradition espoused.

# "The Letter: A Message for the Earth" arrives in Padua

*CADIS participates in the screening of the film inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical in its fourth screening*

On Sunday, 5 November, the Mornese Federation Padua APS, Salesian FMA and the Parish of San Camillo de Lellis in Padua organized the screening of the film "The Letter: A Message for the Earth".

After Rome, Bangkok and Messina, Padua was the fourth league on CADIS' journey with the film inspired by Pope Francis' Encyclical "Laudato Si", a letter for every person on earth, an invitation to act now to preserve our common home, increasingly threatened by climate change.

After the projection, Fr. Aris Miranda, MI, Executive Director of CADIS International, facilitated the reflection with the more than 50 spectators, beginning with his personal and work experiences with CADIS, recounting how climate change affects entire communities worldwide.

It is often thought that extreme weather phenomena, as well as human-made disasters, only affect the poorest people, at the margins, with the least means. The reality is that the global events of recent times, from COVID-19 to wars to environmental disasters, do not look at the GDP of the population or specific places on the globe but affect everywhere.

The difference lies in the ability to prevent or mitigate natural and other disasters or to respond with the necessary means to re-establish the situation better. And it is precisely this vision that CADIS has been pursuing for the past two years: the fullness of life in an eCon-resilient community.

There were several contributions and insights, including the importance of "taking charge of climate change, especially to give a voice to those who are unheard."

One lady commented: "A film like this should be shown in schools. Young people need to become aware. We must change our perspective; it is not enough to repair but to act deep down."

A young voice followed: "It is not only the task of young people; it is everyone's responsibility because not all young people have the power to make decisions and, often, do not have the space to act. It is important to come together in dialogue and joint action."

There was then an intervention on the globality of phenomena: "We really need to change our mentality. Looking at the floods of these days and the past months in Italy, we have witnessed a great rush of solidarity on the part of the population, which has literally dirtied their hands to help."

Stressing, once again, that "young people are suffering from this situation, they are not indifferent. We have left this heavy legacy to them. We must act alongside them, not just urge them to change."

Fr. Aris Miranda then concluded: "We must feel the guilt. We must act for ecological conversion. I am convinced that this is the way forward today. We all want our homes in order. And so our common home must also be in order."

The book of Genesis in the Bible speaks of putting order and not simply creation out of nothing. The Lord has put everything in order: the sun and the stars and the moon, the water and the land, the day and night, and so on. To put our common home in order, we have to start with our everyday life, and we can do this through small daily gestures.

We have to start from our heart, the abode of our decisions. It is everyone's fight, and we must take this battle to defend the earth to heart. If not for us, then for the future generations."





# CADIS Leadership Conference reaches its eighth year with a renewed spirit of collaboration

*Five days of training and workshops for the annual CADIS leaders' meeting in Bangkok*

Thirty-seven (37) CADIS leaders from 17 countries attended the eighth annual CADIS conference in Bangkok, Thailand, at the Camillian Pastoral Care Centre.

Brazil, Haiti, Poland, Spain, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Benin, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Philippines, Taiwan, Indonesia, India, Thailand and Australia gathered around this year's theme: 'Moving forward in building vulnerable and resilient communities'.

Climate change was a crucial topic in the discussion as the greatest impact falls on the most vulnerable communities in an increasingly intense way.

Finding solutions to contain the impact and build eCon-resilient communities will be the real challenge in the coming years. It means a community that reaches the highest level of resilience through ecological conversion.

On the first day, Dr. Pretesh Kiran, Associate Professor at St. John's Medical College in Bengaluru, India, gave a workshop on 'Disaster Preparedness and Resilience (DPR)'.

Part of the day covered the technical sphere of disaster response, the classification of disasters, and a global analysis of trends in the impact of natural and other disasters around the world.

The second day of the CADIS conference was an immersion into Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PMEL), facilitated by Fr Francis Maina, MI, CADIS Kenya's national coordinator and project management expert.





It is a crucial topic for CADIS, which focuses on building resilience, "a form of positive adaptation that helps people maintain or restore their equilibrium in the face of challenges and opportunities."

To measure resilience, it is useful to use a participatory approach that involves the people most affected by disasters.

Dr. Consuelo Santamaria Repiso, professor at the Centre for the Humanisation of Health in Spain, opened the third day with a workshop on community-based psychosocial facilitation, which is crucial in a crisis situation.

Through a detailed analysis, several points were made to get a complete picture of the emergency response and how important the preparation of operators and volunteers is. In detail, the dimension of the person is divided into physical, emotional, spiritual and economic. None of these aspects must be left out to not further damage a person affected by a natural or other disaster. Only the balance of all these components guarantees the maintenance of human integrity.

Afterward, the International Director of CADIS, Fr. Aris Miranda, MI, presented an overview of the accomplishments of CADIS for the year 2023. On the following days, all CADIS representatives presented a report of each country's activities.

Two other key topics for the development of CADIS in the coming years were the volunteer management plan and the resource mobilization plan.

Moments of conviviality interspersed the intense working sessions, which ultimately strengthened the cohesion of the participants and renewed the spirit of dedication to CADIS' mission.

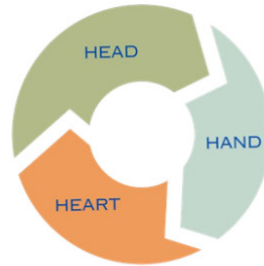




# Five facts on CADIS in 2023

## 1 Overview of CADIS 2023:

The year 2023 of CADIS International is a year of full engagement in responding to the emergencies and demands of the time as well as an opportunity to harness the lessons learned from the field and align its future plans.



## 2 Our engagement w/ emergencies:

Responded to the disasters in Pakistan and Peru (flood), Turkey (earthquake) and India (ethnic riot & violence). Over €300.000 worth of relief assistance delivered to 30.000 direct beneficiaries.

## 3 Building eCon-resilient communities:

8 resilience building projects have been completed in Kenya, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Tanzania, Thailand, Philippines, and Poland with the farmers, indigenous peoples, youth and refugees. Over €900.000 worth of resilience building projects affecting over 7.500 families.

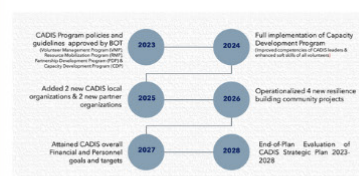


## 4 Organizational development:

A new Strategic Plan 2028 integrating the Laudato Si Action Platform is in effect which envision to build eCon-resilient vulnerable communities by 2028. To date, 12 CADIS' organizations have been formed in Asia, Africa, America and Europe.

## 5 Our priorities for 2024 onwards ...

The Strategic Plan 2028 defines 5 priority programs: Volunteer Dev't., Resource Mobilization, Partnership Dev't., Capacity Dev't., and Community-Based projects.





# Merry Christmas

In this Holy Season, be with us!

**Support CADIS EMERGENCY FUND**  
to make a difference in the lives of the most  
vulnerable

## **Fondazione CADIS:**

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