MIGRANT MINISTRY REPORT IN AFRICA

MIGRANTS MISSIONARIES OF HOPE

BEST PRACTICES 2025

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data compiled by:
Scalabrini Institute for Migration Studies in Africa (SIHMA)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION **7**

Dignity through skills and solidarity **9**

Caritas, Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Department, Diocese of Kimberly, South Africa 9

A safe haven at the border **11**

Roman Catholic Shelter for Women and Children, Diocese of Tzaneen, South Africa 11

Returns become new beginnings **13**

The Catholic Organization for Human Development (OCPH)/ Caritas Guinea 13

Preventing dangerous journeys **15**

Délégation Diocésaine des Migrations du Sénégal (DDM Senegal), Sénégal 15

Compassion for the displaced **17**

Tertiary Sisters of St Francis, Nigeria 17

Walking with women on the move **19**

Bienvenu shelter for refugee women and their children, South Africa 19

Peace, belonging, self-reliance **21**

Caritas Uganda, Uganda 21

Welcoming the stranger **23**

Archdiocese of Pretoria, South Africa 23

Migrants enrich the church **25**

Archdiocese of Johannesburg, South Africa 25

Rescue, restore, reintegrate **27**

Consecrated Life Against Human Trafficking (ConPAHT), Talitha Kum Ghana Network, Ghana 27

Defending migrants' rights **29**

Monze Catholic Migration Ministry, Zambia 29

Hope along a dangerous crossing **31**
Délégation Diocésaine des Migrations (DDM), Diocese of Tangere, Morocco 31
From loss to hope **33**
Mbour Migration Ministry, Diocese of Sénégal, Senegal 33
Healing after displacement **35**
Episcopal Commission for Migrants and Refugees, Central African Republic (Commission Episcopal pour les Migrants et les Refugees) 35
A home of faith and belonging **37**
French Catholic Chaplaincy, South Africa 37
Educating to end trafficking **39**
School Sisters of Notre Dame (anti-human trafficking), Province of Africa 39
Hospitality and peaceful coexistence **41**
Episcopal Sub-commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants/ Refugees, The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire 41
Vigilance against trafficking **43**
Takunema (Talitha Kum Network in Malawi), Malawi 43
Bridging children into education **45**
Three2six Refugee Children's Education Project, South Africa 45
Where every migrant belongs **47**
Saint Patrick La Rochelle Catholic Church, South Africa 47
Protection and dignity in transit **49**
The Catholic Diocese of Mzuzu, Malawi 49
Welcoming, listening, accompanying **51**
Accueil - Écoute, Diocese of Nouakchott, Mauritania 51
CONCLUSION **53**

INTRODUCTION

Commissioned by the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development and compiled by the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA), this Ministry Report offers a picture of the laborious and fundamental contributions of the Catholic institutions and organizations-Episcopal Conferences, Dioceses, parishes, religious congregations, Catholic associations and foundations in Africa in restoring dignity, protection, sustainability, and agency to countless people on the move.

Established in Cape Town, South Africa, on 5 December 2014, the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA) is a research institute and non-profit organization of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles – Scalabrinian. Building on the Scalabrinian' presence in Africa since 1994, SIHMA forms part of a worldwide network of Scalabrini study centers and the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN). Its mandate is to generate and disseminate rigorous research that deepens understanding of human mobility across the African continent and informs policies, programmes and pastoral responses that uphold the rights and dignity of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. By monitoring the main aspects of the migration phenomenon to nurture effective migration policies that respect human rights and provide a solid basis for social projects of promotion and integration, SIHMA represents a bridge between academic research and civil society work in this field. In its own way, it realizes and supports the very mission of the Church, which is committed to realize with determination and originality the four verbs indicated by Pope Francis for the pastoral care of people on the move: welcome, protect, promote, and integrate.

The 2025 good practices entailed in this report are rooted in the 111th message for the world refugee day of migrants and refugees, inspired by the Magisterium of Pope Francis and signed by Pope Leo XIV. The message presents migrants and refugees as "*Missionaries of Hope*". Their courage and tenacity are huge testaments to a faith that sees beyond what our eyes can perceive. They take the Gospel to where it has not yet arrived, establish inter-religious dialogues through daily life and bring new strengths to ecclesial communities. Their presence is more of a divine blessing and an opportunity for the church to open itself to God's grace. Therefore, this report emphasizes the relationship between migration and mission giving details of the projects carried

out by the Catholic institutions and organizations both in countries of origin and host countries aimed at promoting active participation and contribution of Catholic migrants and families to the life and mission of the Catholic Church.

SIHMA gathered good practices through questionnaires sent to over 100 Catholic missions and organizations across the African continent. In a second step, SIHMA collected the material received on good practices from the different organizations and interacted with them to prepare a summary sheet for each practice. The report broadly covers geographically, all major areas of Africa, offering through 21 good practices a glimpse of different African countries, namely: Cote d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. The report also featured the work of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Africa providing services across Ghana, The Gambia, Kenya, and Sierra Leone, through educational, pastoral, and social ministries. The report broadens into countries not previously featured in the previous report notably Guinea, Nigeria, Zambia, Malawi, Mauritania and Senegal.

This report highlights selected key initiatives that embody the theme "Migrants, Missionaries of Hope," displaying how people on the move are not only recipients of care but active drivers of the missions of pastoral care, hope-building, and community transformation. They align with the universality of the Church and its multifaceted response to human mobility across different contexts.

Clearly, this type of reporting has certain limitations: in many cases, the data collected is provided directly by other parties, so there is no possibility for SIHMA or the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development to verify its accuracy. The consistency of the data is also difficult, both because different organizations present their practices based on different criteria (depending on their type of activity or mode of intervention) and because the data and descriptions have often been summarized and reduced for editorial needs.

It should also be kept in mind that organizations serving migrants with different programmes may, depending on their database and data collection criteria, count the same individuals several times who access multiple activities or, on the contrary, not record users who seek help but are assisted by being referred to other external organizations. Depending on the case, the number of people may be overestimated or underestimated. Despite this, SIHMA believes that the report offers a credible and interesting picture of the ongoing development of Catholic organizations in Africa, with still ample room for improvement and intervention and with the awareness that the Catholic Church still represents a reliable reference point for all people on the move.

DIGNITY THROUGH SKILLS AND SOLIDARITY

CARITAS, MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEPARTMENT, DIOCESE OF KIMBERLY, SOUTH AFRICA

Location: Northern Cape and Northwest Province, South Africa

Website: https://rcdioceseofkimberley.co.za/

The Caritas Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Department of the Kimberley Diocese serves as a diocesan structure of the Catholic Church, addressing the needs of migrants and vulnerable populations across a vast geographic area in South Africa. The organization offers a comprehensive range of services designed to address both the immediate and long-term needs of migrants and refugees. Emergency assistance is provided through the distribution of food parcels and clothing, while livelihood and empowerment programmes including women-led beading projects, equip beneficiaries with practical skills and sustainable sources of income. Complementing these material services are awareness campaigns on human trafficking and safe migration, pastoral and spiritual accompaniment, and referral services that connect beneficiaries to government institutions and partner organizations. Together, these services reflect a holistic approach to human dignity that appeals to the physical, social, and spiritual dimensions of the people served.

Migrants and refugees are not merely recipients of services, but active participants in the life of the organization and the broader community. They contribute to program implementation, part-take in parish activities and assume leadership responsibilities within various initiatives. Women involved in the beading project frequently progress to become trainers and facilitators, while others support outreach and awareness efforts by sharing their lived experiences. The spirit of active participation within the migrants and refugee community extends to the organization's relationship with local communities. Group activities in liveli-

hood projects and community initiatives foster social cohesion, mutual learning and solidarity.

Collaborations between migrants and local communities are a defining characteristic of the organization's approach. Despite its impact, the organization faces significant resource constraints.

- Among the large areas of needs are funding, material for livelihood programmes, logistical support and strengthened partnerships for legal and psychosocial services.
- Capacity-building needs identified migration governance and policy, humanitarian protection and assistance, safeguarding of vulnerable groups, climate change and human mobility, pastoral care, communication and partnership development
- Additional areas of training support include specialized training in human trafficking prevention, psychosocial support and community facilitation.

Caritas Kimberley's holistic and collaborative approach positions it as a key diocesan player in migration ministry in Southern Africa. Strengthened institutional capacity will significantly improve its ability to provide sustainable, rights-based support to people on the move.



Joyful moments from Palm Sunday with the Roman Catholic Diocese Of Kimberley at the Open-Air Arena!

A SAFE HAVEN AT THE BORDER

ROMAN CATHOLIC SHELTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, DIOCESE OF TZANEEN, SOUTH AFRICA

Location: Musina, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Website: https://dioceseoftzaneen.yolasite.com/

The Roman Catholic Shelter for Women and Children in the Diocese of Tzaneen works as a major humanitarian facility providing emergency accommodation and support to migrant women and children in Musina, a critical border town along the Zimbabwe–South Africa migration corridor. Its mission borders on providing protection, dignity, and care to vulnerable migrants in transit and those who need temporary refuge. Its services also include the provision of food, hygiene support, trauma counselling, and referrals to key institutions such as UNHCR, IOM, the Department of Home Affairs, and local service providers.

The shelter mainly serves economic migrants, especially those from Zimbabwe, and refugees from countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, and Malawi. In 2025, about 470 migrants passed through the shelter, with many staying for short periods before proceeding with their journeys, while others remained for longer-term support. The organization also operates a small early childhood development (ECD) facility for children and empowers longer-term residents in transitioning toward independent living through essential material assistance and referrals to community support programmes.

Beneficiaries support the daily activities of the shelter through shared responsibilities such as cooking and maintaining the premises. Some also engage with local parish life, although leadership participation remains limited due to the transient nature of the population. Migrants contribute to local communities by engaging in informal work and supporting one another. Notably, women at the shelter often identify and assist other stranded migrants, bringing them into the shelter system and extending the network of care. The shelter faces acute financial challenges, with operational costs such as utilities, food, and healthcare placing continuous strain on limited resources. Additionally, the

transient and multi-faith nature of beneficiaries presents challenges for sustained pastoral engagement. Areas prioritized for capacity-building include migration governance and policy, humanitarian protection, and support for vulnerable groups with staff-focused needs such as debriefing and psychosocial resilience training. As an epicenter of reception and protection, the Tzaneen Shelter represents an essential humanitarian response within a high-mobility border context. Strengthening its operational and human resource capacity will significantly improve its ability to provide safe, dignified, and sustainable support. The testimonies from the shelter shows the people on the move's ability to adapt and endure as proof of their courage and strength, despite the unimaginable challenges that they face.



A blessed Third Sunday of Advent Mass with Fr. Gabrielle and the Waterval community in Makhado!

RETURNS BECOME NEW BEGINNINGS

THE CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (OCPH)/CARITAS GUINEA

Location: Republic of Guinea

Website: https://caritas-africa.org/caritas-guinea/

The OCPH Caritas Guinée operates as a major social and pastoral section of the Catholic Church in the Republic of Guinea, tackling migration-related challenges through reintegration, prevention, and socio-economic empowerment initiatives. Its mission resonates with the Church's commitment to human dignity, social justice and integral development. The organization assists economic migrants, returnees, refugees, and vulnerable youth. In 2025, it supported 39 return migrants through reintegration programmes and provided training services to approximately 400 potential migrants to promote local economic alternatives and reduce irregular migration pressures.

Its services include psychosocial support, socio-economic reintegration, mediation between returnees and families, and vocational training. Also, preventive initiatives center on awareness and skills development, equipping young people with opportunities within their local contexts. Migrants and returnees play a transformative role within the organization's programmes, using their experiences to discourage irregular migration and motivate others to pursue local opportunities. The organization uses a participatory approach, involving beneficiaries in all stages of program design, implementation, and evaluation. Business plans for reintegration are developed collaboratively, ensuring ownership and sustainability. Reintegration processes are, however, not without challenges. Social stigma, family tensions, and perceptions of failed migration always complicate returnees' reintegration, necessitating sustained mediation and psychosocial support.

OCPH collaborates with a wide range of partners, including governmental agencies, international organizations, and civil society net-

works such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Belgian agency for international cooperation (ENABEL), Caritas Belgium, and the RAEMH (Réseau Afrique-Europe pour la Mobilité Humaine). Capacity-building areas include migration governance, humanitarian protection, support for vulnerable groups, climate change and mobility, pastoral care, communication, and partnership development. These demonstrate the need for strengthened technical and institutional capacity to address diverse migration issues. OCPH Caritas Guinée's integrated approach to prevention and reintegration positions it as a leading actor in addressing the root causes of irregular migration and advancing sustainable, community-based migration solutions in West Africa. Strengthening the organization's capacity will improve its ability to deliver sustainable, community-based solutions and contribute to broader migration governance efforts in West Africa.



PREVENTING DANGEROUS JOURNEYS

DÉLÉGATION DIOCÉSAINE DES MIGRATIONS DU SÉNÉGAL (DDM SENEGAL), SÉNÉGAL

Location: Senegal

Website: https://www.ddmsenegal.org/

The Délégation Diocésaine des Migrations du Sénégal (DDM Sénégal) is a Catholic migration ministry that is grounded in the Church's pastoral mission and commitment to human dignity. They assist migrants, refugees, returnees, and vulnerable communities affected by irregular migration in Senegal. They focus on preventing the risks of irregular migration while supporting affected families and communities through awareness, psychosocial accompaniment, and community engagement. The organization helps economic migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), asylum seekers, victims of human trafficking, and children on the move. Through humanitarian and pastoral interventions, DDM Sénégal assisted approximately 2,500 beneficiaries between January and December 2025

The organization's key activities include raising awareness on the dangers of irregular migration, professional training to equip and discourage unsafe migration pathways, psychosocial support for people affected by migration-related grief and loss, especially women and children, and tracing mechanisms for persons who disappeared along migration routes. Refugees and migrants actively contribute to the organization's mission through participation in outreach and sensitization activities. Many beneficiaries are also community focal points ("relais communautaires"), strengthening local prevention efforts and helping to educate others. Their lived experiences provide hope and encouragement, especially among youth vulnerable to irregular migration. Beneficiaries are also involved in leadership, evaluation processes and planning, promoting local ownership and sustainability.

DDM Sénégal has a broad network of partners, including the Parish of Mbour, Caritas Dakar, Caritas Sénégal, Sénégal Services, the Employment and Entrepreneurship Centre (Pôle d'Emploi et Entrepreneuriat), ONG Sentinelles, ONG ABC, ONG Help for Migrants, and ONG Migdev. Despite its impact, the organization faces challenges related to limited funding and training opportunities. Capacity-building priorities include migration governance and policy, humanitarian protection, support for vulnerable groups, climate change and mobility, pastoral care, communication, and partnership development. Strengthening these areas will enhance DDM Sénégal's ability to prevent irregular migration and promote dignity and resilience among migrants and their families.



DDM Sénégal continuing community training on migration awareness, prevention and support.

COMPASSION FOR THE DISPLACED

TERTIARY SISTERS OF ST FRANCIS, NIGERIA

Location: Takum, Taraba State, Nigeria

Website: https://tertiarysisters.org/

The Tertiary Sisters of St Francis operate a faith-based humanitarian and pastoral ministry in Takum, Taraba State, Nigeria. They support refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, victims of trafficking, and vulnerable local communities. Rooted in Franciscan spirituality and Catholic Social Teaching, the congregation promotes human dignity, compassion, and social justice through integrated humanitarian and pastoral interventions. The ministry reached an estimated 8,000 to 15,000 beneficiaries between January and December 2025, through programmes focused on livelihood support, healthcare, education, food assistance, and protection services. The organization's approach is holistic, embarking on activities that address both immediate humanitarian needs and the long-term social and spiritual well-being of displaced populations.

Refugees and migrants actively impact the life and mission of the congregation through cultural exchange, volunteerism, advocacy, and community engagement. Their experiences and resilience strengthen social cohesion, deepen awareness of justice issues, and enrich the spiritual life of the Church and local communities. Beneficiaries also take part in program planning, implementation, and leadership structures, helping identify and support the most vulnerable groups. Faith formation is mainstreamed as a central theme in the ministry's work through prayer initiatives, mentorship, spiritual counselling, and interfaith dialogue; also, the organization supports migrants in becoming faith-based leaders within their communities. The congregation collaborates with partners, including the United Nations, Bridge of Refuge, and Caritas networks, to strengthen humanitarian and social support services.

Priority needs include food and clothing assistance, housing and accommodation support, psychosocial services, mentorship programmes, policy research, and stronger partnerships with government and civil society partners. Areas prioritized for capacity building include humanitarian protection, migration governance, support for vulnerable groups, climate change and mobility, pastoral care, communication, and partnership building. Strengthening the organization's capacity will further enhance the congregation's ability to provide coordinated, compassionate, and sustainable support to people on the move.



A moment of grace as the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis host and receive Pope Leo XIV

WALKING WITH WOMEN ON THE MOVE

BIENVENU SHELTER FOR REFUGEE WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN, SOUTH AFRICA

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

Website: https://bienvenushelter.scalabrinianas.org/

Bienvenue shelter is a faith-based organization in Johannesburg and a work of the Scalabrinian Missionary sisters, dedicated to supporting refugees and migrant women and their children through holistic protection, empowerment and long-term accompaniment. It operates within the pastoral framework of the Catholic Archdiocese of Johannesburg and is inspired by the Scalabrinian vision. The shelter promotes dignity, integration and healing for vulnerable women and children on the move. In 2025, the shelter served approximately 205 beneficiaries, including refugees, economic migrants, asylum seekers, victims of human trafficking and children on the move.

The shelter provides comprehensive services that sustainably address both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term empowerment. These include food, healthcare, safe accommodation, clothing, psychosocial support, legal assistance and counselling. Children are also supported through Early Childhood Development programmes, school placement assistance, uniforms, educational materials and transport. Women also receive livelihood training in sewing, hairdressing, baking, business development, and income-yielding activities, with starter kits to support self-reliance. The organization also offers outreach and post-exit support, including food parcels, school support, rental assistance, and continued psychosocial accompaniment.

Migrants and refugees actively contribute to the life and mission of the organization and the wider Church community. Many former residents return as staff members, teachers, volunteers, or peer supporters, while mothers take part in meetings, child development activities, and community life. Their lived experiences, faith, and resilience help foster sol-

idarity, shared responsibility, and hope within the shelter. Beneficiaries also support one another through mentorship and follow-up networks, while graduates use acquired skills to serve their communities through small businesses and other community initiatives. The Shelter for Refugee Women collaborates with a broad network of partners, including the Catholic Archdiocese of Johannesburg, the Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees Department, Scalabrinian structures and Foundation, Lawyers for Human Rights, Pro Bono lawyers, SACBC, IOM, UNHCR, local parishes, clinics, counselling centers and other faith-based organizations.

Priority capacity-building areas identified include humanitarian protection, migration governance and policy, support for vulnerable groups, safeguarding and child protection, psychosocial and trauma-informed care, gender-based violence prevention and response, legal assistance, communication, partnership building and monitoring and evaluation. Bienvenu Shelter represents a strong and sustainable model of faith-based accompaniment where migrants and refugees are empowered to become active "Missionaries of Hope" within both the Church and society.



Bienvenu Shelter community members attending a documentation workshop in Johannesburg facilitated by Lawyers for Human Rights.

PEACE, BELONGING, SELF-RELIANCE

CARITAS UGANDA, UGANDA

Location: Kampala, Uganda

Website: https://caritasuganda.org/

Caritas Uganda is the development arm of the Catholic Church in Uganda. They provide humanitarian, pastoral, and development support to refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons (IDPs), asylum seekers, returnees, victims of human trafficking, and vulnerable host communities. The organization is rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and the principles of human dignity and solidarity. They promote peacebuilding, social inclusion and self-reliance among displaced and vulnerable populations. Caritas Uganda served approximately 1,500 beneficiaries between January and December 2025, including 1,050 refugees and 450 host community members. The organizations services include food security support, spiritual counselling, environmental protection initiatives inspired by *Laudato Si'*, Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA), Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) services, peacebuilding and advocacy for vulnerable groups.

Migrants and refugees actively contribute to the organization's mission by participating in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts, collaborating with host communities to access land for food production and engaging with key community stakeholders. These initiatives have strengthened resilience, social cohesion and self-reliance among refugee communities. The organization promotes refugee participation in leadership and program implementation through local community structures that include refugee representatives. These structures are involved in planning, monitoring, and evaluation processes to ensure community ownership and sustainability. The organization also collaborates with Catholic priests who offer prayers and spiritual counselling to refugees. This pastoral support helps restore hope, strengthens community integration, and forms part of Caritas Uganda's broader commitment to faith formation among people on the move.

Caritas Uganda works with several partners, including Caritas Arua Diocese, Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI) Kampala, the Eastern Archdiocesan Development Network (EADEN) of the Tororo Ecclesiastical Province, and the Central Archdiocesan Province Caritas Association (CAPCA Kampala). Priority capacity-building areas identified include humanitarian protection and assistance, migration governance and policy, support for vulnerable groups, climate change and human mobility, communication, pastoral care and partnership building. Strengthening financial and institutional support will further enhance the organization's ability to accompany refugees and migrants and refugees as "Missionaries of Hope."



WELCOMING THE STRANGER

ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

Location: Pretoria, South Africa

Website: https://www.ptadiocese.org.za/

The Archdiocese of Pretoria provides humanitarian, pastoral, and social support to refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), victims of human trafficking, and vulnerable local communities in South Africa. The Archdiocese promotes dignity, inclusion, and care for people on the move, guided by Catholic Social Teaching and the Church's mission of compassion and solidarity. The Archdiocese served approximately 2,050 beneficiaries between January and December 2025. Its services include professional counselling, empowerment programs, immediate humanitarian assistance, clothing and blankets, distribution of food, school support for children, and healthcare assistance.

Migrants and refugees contribute actively to the mission of the Archdiocese by supporting outreach activities and assisting in efforts to reach vulnerable people in need. Their shared experiences foster solidarity and mutual support within migrant and host communities, helping beneficiaries support one another emotionally and materially. The Archdiocese promotes migrant participation in leadership and decision-making structures. Some migrants and refugees serve as commission members. They participate in annual planning, implementation, and evaluation of activities. The ministry also encourages migrants to take active roles in Church life, parish programs and community activities, helping them grow as faith-based leaders within their host communities.

The Archdiocese partners with several organizations and partners, including Outreach Foundation, Lawyers for Human Rights, Jesuit Refugee Service, Tshwane Leadership Foundation, Lifeline, Fuller Africa, and Unchained Foundation. Capacity-building priorities include migration governance and policy, humanitarian protection and assistance, support for vulnerable groups, climate change and human mobility, communication, pastoral care, and partnership development. Enhanced

financial and institutional support would strengthen the Archdiocese's capacity to sustain and expand its accompaniment of migrants and refugees as missionaries of hope.



Archdiocese of Pretoria hosts synod implementation workshops to deepen dialogue and parish collaboration.

MIGRANTS ENRICH THE CHURCH

ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

Website: https://catholicjhb.org.za/

The Archdiocese of Johannesburg provides pastoral, humanitarian, and social support to migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, victims of human trafficking, and vulnerable local communities in South Africa. Guided by Catholic Social Teaching and the Church's mission of solidarity and inclusion, the Archdiocese promotes dignity, integration, and social cohesion among people on the move.

Between January and December 2025, the Archdiocese reached approximately 104,626 beneficiaries through a broad range of programmes and services. Its interventions include pastoral care, legal aid, social assistance, healthcare support, integration initiatives, and social cohesion programmes. Migrants and refugees contribute actively to the life and mission of the Church through their cultural diversity, languages, skills, and worldviews, enriching parish communities and strengthening intercultural understanding. They also collaborate closely with local communities, fostering integration and social cohesion through shared experiences and mutual support.

The Archdiocese promotes migrant participation in leadership and Church activities, with migrants and refugees actively involved in parish ministries and pastoral initiatives. Through the Department of Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees, the Archdiocese conducts parish visits, creates awareness on migration issues, and forms pastoral care agents to strengthen accompaniment and inclusion within local communities. The organization collaborates with a broad network of partners, including Bienvenu Shelter for Refugee Women and Children, Sophiatown Counselling Centre, the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC), Lawyers for Human Rights, ProBono.Org, and parishes across the Archdiocese. Migration governance and policy, humanitarian pro-

tection and assistance, provision of services and support for vulnerable groups, special emphasis on climate change and human mobility and pastoral and spiritual care were identified as some of the capacity building activities for the effective functioning of the organization. Communication and dissemination, and partnership building, strengthened financial, legal, pastoral, and skills-development support were also indicated as essential in enhancing the role of the Archdiocese in accompanying people on the move and in ensuring that they contribute to the life of the Church.



Diocesan priests gather for a Day of Recollection at the Jesuit Institute.

RESCUE, RESTORE, REINTEGRATE

CONSECRATED LIFE AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING (CONPAHT), TALITHA KUM GHANA NETWORK, GHANA

Location: Kumasi, Ghana

Website: https://www.talithakum.info/

Consecrated Life Against Human Trafficking (ConPAHT – Talitha Kum, Ghana) operates within the Catholic Archdiocese of Kumasi. It is a faith-based anti-trafficking ministry dedicated to protecting and restoring the dignity of victims of human trafficking and vulnerable migrants. The organization works through prevention, rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration, and pastoral accompaniment, rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and the mission of Talitha Kum. The organization serves economic migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, victims of human trafficking, and vulnerable local populations. It supported approximately 165 beneficiaries between January and December 2025.

ConPAHT also conducts transit monitoring to intercept potential trafficking victims and carries out awareness-raising activities aimed at preventing human trafficking and exploitation. Its key services include rescue operations, provision of temporary shelter and basic needs, repatriation support, rehabilitation, and reintegration assistance. Victims and survivors contribute to the organization's daily life through shared responsibilities. They also participate in routine activities within the shelter environment. Their experiences also support sensitization and prevention efforts within local communities. Strengthening shelter capacity would improve protection and provide beneficiaries with a secure environment for recovery and preparation for reintegration or return. A major challenge identified by the organization is the lack of a safe transit shelter for rescued victims. ConPAHT partners with several churches, government, and civil society partners, including the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, the Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Gha-

na Police Service, Safe-Child Advocacy, the Department of Social Welfare, and other non-governmental organizations.

The organization identified several training priorities, including migration governance and policy, humanitarian protection and assistance, climate change and human mobility, support for vulnerable groups, pastoral and spiritual care, communication and dissemination, and partnership building. ConPAHT – Talitha Kum Ghana represents an important frontline ministry addressing trafficking and vulnerable migration in West Africa. The organization is well-positioned to expand its protection and accompaniment work for people on the move, with strengthened institutional support and targeted capacity building.



ConPAHT-Talitha Kum Ghana gathers in prayer and solidarity to mark the World Day of Prayer Against Human Trafficking.

DEFENDING MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

MONZE CATHOLIC MIGRATION MINISTRY, ZAMBIA

Location: Monze, Zambia

The Monze Catholic Migration Ministry is an initiative of the Catholic Church in Zambia dedicated to supporting migrants and other vulnerable populations through pastoral accompaniment, legal assistance, and community integration. The ministry works to protect the rights of people on the move while promoting inclusion within both Church and local communities, rooted in the Church's mission of justice and human dignity.

The ministry serves refugees, economic migrants, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), victims of human trafficking, returnees, local community members, and human rights defenders. Between January and December 2025, it supported approximately 20 beneficiaries. Its key activity is the provision of paralegal assistance, particularly on issues relating to migrants' rights and protection. The ministry also promotes social inclusion and pastoral care through parish and community activities.

Refugees and migrants actively contribute to Church and community life. Some migrants serve as priests and pastoral workers, providing spiritual leadership, pastoral care, and guidance within Church communities. Others contribute to local economic development by establishing businesses and creating employment opportunities. Many also participate actively in liturgical celebrations, small Christian Communities, and Church ministries such as Health and Development and Justice and Peace, where they support faith formation, community outreach, social justice initiatives, and the promotion of human dignity. They also collaborate with local communities in agriculture, health sectors and education. The organization collaborates with partners including the Paralegal Alliance Network, Caritas Czech Republic, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Immigration Department, the Police Service, Correctional Services, and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Capacity-building priorities identified include migration governance and policy, humanitarian protection and assistance, support for vulnerable groups, pastoral care, climate change and human mobility, communication and dissemination, partnership building, and legal provisions relating to migration. Despite limited resources, the Monze Catholic Migration Ministry continues to provide important rights-based and pastoral support to people on the move. Strengthened training and institutional support would be greatly needed to enhance its ability to respond effectively to migration challenges in the region.



Joy and thanksgiving as St. Edmund's Secondary School and local parishes celebrate Br. Bruce Hakalembe's Final Vows.

HOPE ALONG A DANGEROUS CROSSING

DÉLÉGATION DIOCÉSAINE DES MIGRATIONS (DDM), DIOCESE OF TANGERE, MOROCCO

Location: Northern Zone, Morocco

Website: https://ddmmaroc.org/

The "Délégation Diocésaine des Migrations (DDM)" operates under the Diocese of Tangier. It provides essential pastoral accompaniment and humanitarian support to migrants and refugees in northern Morocco, that is one of the principal migration transit regions linking Africa and Europe. Situated near the Strait of Gibraltar, northern Morocco has become a strategic but often dangerous route for migrants attempting to reach Europe. Migrants are exposed to many forms of insecurity, exploitation, and precarious living conditions. Against this backdrop, the DDM plays an important role in protecting the dignity and well-being of people on the move.

The organization renders psychosocial and medical assistance to vulnerable migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, and victims of human trafficking. In 2025, the delegation supported approximately 3,330 beneficiaries across key transit areas in the region.

Its interventions include medical consultations, emergency social assistance, educational support, and accompaniment services that help migrants navigate complex legal and social realities. The DDM also works to strengthen migrants' resilience by encouraging community participation and mutual solidarity. Many beneficiaries become active members of support networks. They share information, accompany new arrivals, and help vulnerable individuals access services and protection. Their courage, resilience, and solidarity make them important witnesses of hope along one of Africa's most difficult migration corridors. The organization partners closely with Caritas teams and Church structures in various zones to coordinate humanitarian protection, ac-

companiment, and integration initiatives. Through this collaborative and pastoral approach, the DDM contributes not only to immediate humanitarian response, but also to restoring dignity, hope, and a sense of belonging among migrants facing uncertainty and exclusion.



Délégation Diocésaine des Migrations team gathering for an internal reflection week focused on staff care and ethics.

FROM LOSS TO HOPE

MBOUR MIGRATION MINISTRY, DIOCESE OF SÉNÉGAL, SENEGAL

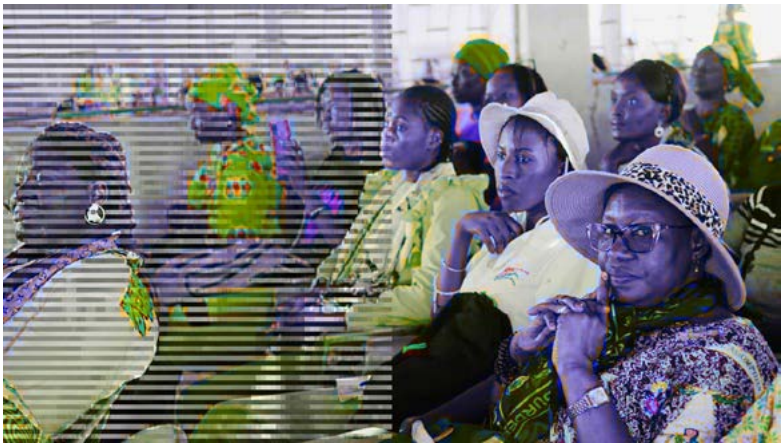
Location: Mbour, Senegal

Through its migration ministry based in Mbour, the Diocese of Sénégal implements a comprehensive pastoral and preventive response to the growing challenges of irregular migration in Senegal. Located along the Atlantic coast, Mbour has become one of the communities most affected by dangerous migration journeys toward Europe, particularly through irregular sea crossings. To address both the causes and consequences of irregular migration, the ministry combines prevention, accompaniment, psychosocial support and livelihood initiatives.

In 2025, the ministry reached approximately 1,500 beneficiaries. The beneficiaries include economic migrants, returnees, grieving families and vulnerable members of local communities affected by migration-related tragedies. The organization's work is rooted in the Church's commitment to human dignity, solidarity, and the protection of life. The organization's key activities include the following: sensitization campaigns on the risks of irregular migration, psychosocial support for families grieving relatives lost at sea, active tracing and search initiatives for missing migrants, and vocational and professional training programmes that provide safer alternatives to migration. Priority attention is given to women and children affected by migration-related loss and trauma. The ministry also facilitates therapy sessions and sewing workshops that help vulnerable families rebuild livelihoods and regain emotional stability.

Migrants and returnees actively impact the ministry's mission by sharing personal testimonies during awareness campaigns and community meetings. Their lived experiences provide credibility and authenticity to prevention efforts, especially among young people vulnerable to unsafe migration pathways. Many beneficiaries also support reintegration activities and accompany others returning from failed migration attempts. In this process, personal suffering is transformed into a source of communal learning, resilience and hope. Working in collaboration

with local Church structures and community organizations, the ministry strengthens social cohesion and encourages sustainable alternatives to irregular migration. Its work demonstrates how pastoral accompaniment, psychosocial care and economic empowerment can together help communities respond constructively to migration challenges while restoring dignity and hope.



HEALING AFTER DISPLACEMENT

EPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (Commission Episcopal pour les Migrants et les Refugees)

Location: Bangui (national office) and all nine Dioceses, Central African Republic

The Episcopal Commission for Migrants and Refugees (CEMIR) operates as the national migration and displacement ministry of the Catholic Church in the Central African Republic (CAF). CAF continues to experience prolonged instability, armed conflict, and widespread humanitarian crises. Due to years of insecurity, there has been massive internal displacement and refugee movements, leaving many communities vulnerable to poverty, trauma, and social fragmentation. Within this fragile context, CEMIR provides a critical humanitarian, pastoral, and peacebuilding response across all nine Dioceses of the country.

In 2025, the Commission accompanied approximately 1,225 beneficiaries, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, returnees, women and vulnerable children, and victims of trafficking. Its interventions aim not only to address urgent humanitarian needs, but also to promote healing, reintegration, and long-term resilience. The organization offers a broad range of services, including reschooling programmes for displaced children, psychosocial support for traumatized children and families, vocational training for women, legal assistance, and reintegration support for displaced and returning populations. Its approach targets education and skills development, helping vulnerable people rebuild their lives and regain economic independence after displacement and conflict.

Beneficiaries are actively involved in training, peacebuilding and reconciliation activities. Women and young people often become advocates for social cohesion and peaceful coexistence within their communities. Through dialogue activities, empowerment programmes and community participation, displaced people are encouraged to become agents

of peace and hope rather than passive recipients of aid. The Commission's holistic approach is evident in the following activities: integrating education, psychosocial healing, pastoral accompaniment, protection, and empowerment. These reflect the Church's commitment to restoring human dignity in contexts of violence and instability. CEMIR contributes significantly to peacebuilding and social recovery in the Central African Republic by helping displaced persons regain confidence, skills, and community belonging and complete the rest.



Cardinal Nzapalainga Dieudonné visits Central African Refugees living at the Gado-Badzéré site near the Cameroonian border with the Republic Central African.

A HOME OF FAITH AND BELONGING

FRENCH CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY, SOUTH AFRICA

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

The French Catholic Chaplaincy serves as an important spiritual and social support structure for francophone migrants and refugees living in Cape Town, South Africa. Cape Town is a city known for cultural diversity and significant migration flows. The chaplaincy provides a welcoming faith community where migrants can preserve their spiritual identity while finding practical and emotional support. The chaplaincy assisted more than 10,072 beneficiaries in 2025. They include economic migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable residents.

The ministry provides pastoral and spiritual accompaniment through regular Masses held at St Agnes, St Clare's, and Holy Redeemer parishes. There are also prayer meetings, home visits, counselling, and food assistance. Beyond material support, the chaplaincy creates a strong sense of belonging and solidarity for francophone migrants who often face linguistic, economic, and social barriers in South Africa. This is done through organizing various activities including choir festivals, social gatherings, film screenings, charity events, distributing food parcels every three months through the rosary groups and home visitations.

Migrants actively contribute to the life of the chaplaincy through liturgical participation, community outreach, and mutual support initiatives. Their cultural traditions, languages, music, and faith practices enrich parish life and strengthen intercultural understanding within the local Church. Many beneficiaries also support newly arrived migrants through interpretation, accompaniment, and practical assistance. The beneficiaries' resilience and active participation help migrants become living bridges between cultures and authentic missionaries of hope within the diaspora community.



Catholic migrants attending Mass in French

EDUCATING TO END TRAFFICKING

SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME (ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING), PROVINCE OF AFRICA

Location: Rome, Italy (with active African networks)

Website: https://africassnd.org/

The School Sisters of Notre Dame are actively engaged in combating human trafficking through prevention, advocacy, awareness-raising, and accompaniment of victims. The Sisters of the Province of Africa serve across Ghana, The Gambia, Kenya, and Sierra Leone, through educational, pastoral, and social ministries. Within their 19 schools, five community centers, and healthcare clinic, the sisters provide educational programming concerning human trafficking to keep their communities informed on the possibilities of exploitation.

Their ministry focuses strongly on public education and prevention through radio programmes, public speaking engagements, television appearances, workshops, and community sensitization campaigns. By using media and education platforms, the sisters raise awareness about the dangers of trafficking, deceptive recruitment practices, and exploitation affecting women, children, and vulnerable migrants. The congregation also promotes healing and empowerment for survivors of trafficking. Many survivors become advocates and peer educators, courageously transforming painful experiences into testimonies that encourage prevention, resilience and recovery. Survivors contribute to restoring dignity and strengthening community vigilance against trafficking networks through awareness campaigns and pastoral accompaniment.

As part of the wider Talitha Kum network, the School Sisters of Notre Dame contribute to international collaboration against trafficking while reinforcing local Church efforts to protect vulnerable populations and promote hope, justice, and human dignity.



Sharing joy, faith, and God's call with thousands of young adults at SEEK26

HOSPITALITY AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

EPISCOPAL SUB-COMMISSION FOR THE PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS/REFUGEES, THE REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Location: Côte d'Ivoire

The Episcopal Sub-commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants/Refugees coordinates the Catholic Church's pastoral and humanitarian response to refugees, migrants, displaced persons, returnees, and vulnerable communities in Côte d'Ivoire. The organization works within a context marked by regional migration flows, internal displacement, and socio-economic reintegration challenges affecting both migrants and host communities.

In 2025, the sub-commission directly accompanied 322 beneficiaries, including economic migrants, Ivorian returnees, internally displaced persons, refugees, victims of trafficking, and children on the move. Its mission is grounded in the promotion of human dignity, hospitality, solidarity and peaceful coexistence. Its interventions include spiritual accompaniment, psychosocial support, food assistance, empowerment projects, awareness campaigns on the risks of irregular migration, and socio-economic reintegration support. The organization also promotes social cohesion and intercultural dialogue through pastoral activities and community engagement initiatives.

Through cultural and religious participation, especially during intercultural Masses and parish activities that celebrate diversity and fraternity, migrants actively contribute to Church and community life. Their experiences and testimonies help strengthen solidarity, hospitality, and mutual understanding within local communities. Through these interactions, migrants become active contributors to social cohesion and community resilience. The sub-commission's work reflects the Church's broader commitment to accompanying people on the move

while supporting reintegration, peaceful coexistence and dignity in increasingly diverse communities.



Catholic education leaders gather in Yamoussoukro to strengthen institutional governance and tax compliance.

VIGILANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING

TAKUNEMA (TALITHA KUM NETWORK IN MALAWI), MALAWI

Location: Mzuzu, Northern Malawi

Website: https://talithakum.africa/southern-africa/

TAKUNEMA stands for Talitha Kum Network in Malawi, a local network of Talitha Kum International (the global network of consecrated life against human trafficking). It is a faith-based anti-human trafficking initiative operating in northern Malawi. The organization focuses on awareness, prevention, accompaniment, and support for victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants, particularly women and children exposed to exploitation and unsafe migration.

In 2025, Takunema reached more than 3,000 people through sensitization campaigns. It directly assisted 10 trafficking victims with basic economic support, food, clothing, and accompaniment services. The organization works with economic migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, trafficking survivors, and children on the move. Its activities include awareness campaigns in communities, churches, schools, and local networks aimed at educating people about trafficking risks, exploitation, and deceptive migration practices. The organization also provides counselling, prayer support and limited material assistance to vulnerable individuals and survivors.

Despite operating with limited resources and without a dedicated shelter facility, Takunema continues to strengthen prevention and community vigilance through survivor testimonies, sensitization activities, and pastoral accompaniment. Survivors and participants actively engage in awareness and prayer initiatives. They are helping to restore hope while promoting greater community responsibility in protecting vulnerable persons from trafficking and exploitation.



Youth Ambassadors engaged with many parishioners and community members, raising awareness and encouraging meaningful conversations during the youth choir festival.

BRIDGING CHILDREN INTO EDUCATION

THREE2SIX REFUGEE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION PROJECT, SOUTH AFRICA

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

Website: https://three2six.co.za/

The Three2Six Refugee Children's Education Project is an innovative educational initiative promoted by the Marist Brothers to support refugee and migrant children who are excluded from South Africa's public school system. Established in 2008, the project provides bridging education and holistic support that enables vulnerable children to transition successfully into mainstream schooling and broader social integration.

In 2025, the project directly served 185 student beneficiaries while also supporting families through documentation assistance, psychosocial support, and school placement processes. The project follows the South African curriculum and combines education with comprehensive child-centered care. Services include classroom education, daily meals, safe transport, school uniforms, learning materials, psychosocial counselling, and legal support related to documentation and school access. Refugee teachers are also employed within the program, creating employment opportunities while promoting representation and inclusion within the educational environment.

Children and families actively participate in the life of the project through community engagement, mutual support networks, and learning activities. The nurturing and inclusive environment helps restore confidence, stability, and hope among children who have often experienced trauma, displacement, and exclusion. The project facilitates the development of future leaders and strengthens social cohesion within migrant and refugee communities through education and empowerment initiatives.



Three2Six children posing for a picture, proud and all smiles after taking the stage with the National Children's Theatre

WHERE EVERY MIGRANT BELONGS

SAINT PATRICK LA ROCHELLE CATHOLIC CHURCH, SOUTH AFRICA

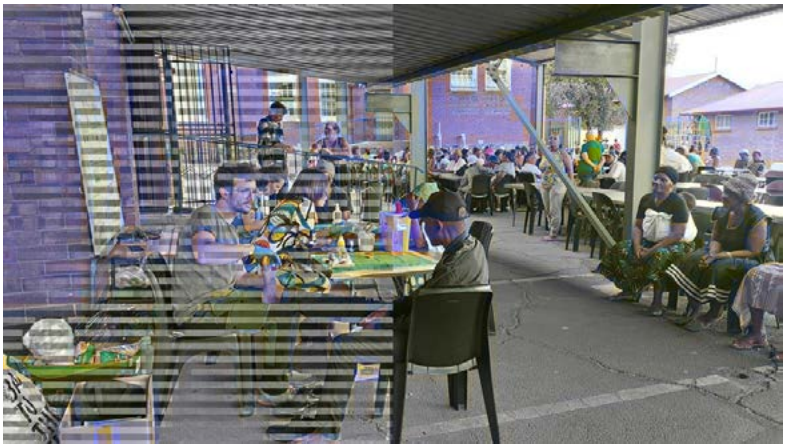
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

Website: https://stpatricklarochelle.org/

St. Patrick's Catholic Church in La Rochelle is a vibrant multicultural parish that provides pastoral, humanitarian, and social support to refugees and migrants living in Johannesburg. The parish serves approximately 2,500 beneficiaries, mainly refugees and migrants from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia and Angola.

Its services include spiritual accompaniment, food parcels, health support, clothing distribution, and skills training in areas such as computer literacy and sewing. The parish seeks to address both immediate humanitarian needs and longer-term integration and empowerment through these initiatives. Migrants actively participate in parish life through choirs, altar service, youth groups, catechism teaching, food distribution, and other ministries. Their involvement enriches the parish through multilingual worship, cultural diversity and strong community participation.

Migrants become important contributors to both the spiritual and social life of the parish through their active participation and service. They enrich parish life by serving in ministries, participating in liturgy, and supporting community initiatives that foster inclusion and solidarity. In turn, the parish promotes hospitality, inclusion and solidarity, demonstrating how diverse migrant communities strengthen local Church life and cultivate a genuine sense of hope, belonging and shared mission.



Dr. Federico and Dr. Chiara hosting a hypertension awareness talk and blood pressure check in honor of World AIDS Day.

PROTECTION AND DIGNITY IN TRANSIT

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MZUZU, MALAWI

Location: Nkhamenya, Malawi

Website: https://mzuzudiocese.mw/

Based in northern Malawi, the Catholic Diocese of Mzuzu provides humanitarian and pastoral support to migrants, asylum seekers, trafficking victims and children on the move. Working closely with local authorities, traditional leaders and police, the Diocese responds to urgent humanitarian needs while promoting protection, dignity and integration.

Its services include food assistance, counselling, referrals, temporary accommodation, and basic social support for vulnerable migrants and displaced persons. Many beneficiaries are referred to local protection structures and community networks. Migrants who remain in the area for longer periods often become integrated into Small Christian Communities and parish life, participating in prayer activities, liturgy and community initiatives according to their talents and abilities. Their active participation contributes fresh perspectives, spiritual renewal and stronger intercultural understanding within local faith communities.

Notwithstanding the limited infrastructure and resources, the Diocese continues to advocate for improved shelter facilities, protection mechanisms, and stronger support systems for migrants and vulnerable people on the move.



Catholic clergy in Mzuzu unite for prayer, reconciliation, works of mercy, and environmental care.

WELCOMING, LISTENING, ACCOMPANYING

ACCUEIL – ÉCOUTE, DIOCESE OF NOUAKCHOTT, MAURITANIA

Location: Nouakchott, Rosso and Nouadhibou, Mauritania

Website: https://evechenkc.org/accueil-ecoute-nkt/

The Accueil - Écoute du Diocèse de Nouakchott provides comprehensive accompaniment and humanitarian support to migrants in Mauritania, a country that has become an important transit point along the West African migration route toward North Africa and Europe. The ministry operates in Nouakchott, Rosso and Nouadhibou. It supports migrants facing vulnerability, insecurity, detention and difficult living conditions during their journeys.

In 2025, the organization assisted more than 2,150 migrants through a broad range of humanitarian, educational, psychosocial and pastoral services. Its mission is centered on welcoming, listening to, and accompanying people on the move with compassion and dignity.

Services include psychosocial and medical care, awareness campaigns on irregular migration risks, nutritional assistance and prison pastoral visits. They also include education support for children, vocational training in languages, sewing, cooking and computing. These programmes aim to strengthen migrants' resilience and improve opportunities for self-reliance and social integration. The ministry also promotes pastoral accompaniment and intercultural dialogue within Mauritania's predominantly Muslim environment. Many beneficiaries who participate in training and support programmes become active contributors within migrant communities. They help others navigate difficult situations and promote solidarity and hope.

Through its holistic and compassionate approach, the organization provides an important Church presence along a difficult migration corridor. It affirms the dignity of migrants while encouraging resilience, participation and hope among vulnerable people on the move.



The Diocese of Nouakchott taking part in the 137th Marian Pilgrimage of Popenguine in Senegal.

CONCLUSION

The 2025 Ministry Report portrays the enviable commitment of Catholic Dioceses, religious congregations, migration ministries and shelters across Africa and beyond in accompanying refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, returnees and victims of human trafficking. Despite operating in challenging environments with limited resources, these organizations continue to deliver comprehensive responses grounded in human dignity, hope, and solidarity. The report shows that migrants and refugees are not only beneficiaries of assistance, but active contributors to Church and community life. Through their leadership, resilience, faith, and cultural contributions, they engender social cohesion. Above all, they embody the theme of "Missionaries of Hope."

Across the different initiatives, organizations provide integrated support, including humanitarian assistance, legal aid, psychosocial care, livelihood training, education, pastoral accompaniment, peacebuilding and advocacy. The effectiveness of the initiatives owes much to strong collaboration with Church structures, civil society partners and governments. The report, at the same time, identifies ongoing challenges such as limited shelter infrastructure, inadequate funding, growing training and capacity-building needs. Strengthening institutional support, technical expertise and partnerships will be essential for maintaining and expanding these ministries.

Finally, the report demonstrates the Church's important role in accompanying people on the move with compassion, protection and dignity. The report also portrays the Church's compassionate approach in treating refugees and migrants as important agents of renewal, resilience and hope within both the Church and society.

DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL
HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT

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