



Camillian Disaster Service International
Quarterly Bulletin No. 42 April - June 2026



**CADIS'S FAITH IN ACTION: FROM PROJECTS
ON THE GROUND TO COMMEMORATING
THE MARTYRS OF CHARITY**

CONTENTS

03 EDITORIAL

Steering through the storm: born for the perilous crossing

04 PROJECT

Three-year project in Elnur funded by the 8x1000 tax contribution to the Italian state kicks off

05 PROJECT

Phase II begins: Cebu communities push toward sustainable self-reliance

07 SPECIAL 10 YEARS

“Faith in Action” is finally available in Italian

08 COMMEMORATION

Let us celebrate the Camillian Martyrs of Charity – 25 May

10 EVENTS

CADIS joins Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation in Hualien for historic 60th anniversary and learning tour



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.

Director: Fr. Aristelo Miranda, MI
Chief editor & Layout: Giulia Calibeo

French translation: Fr. Emmanuel Zongo, MI
Spanish translation: Consuelo Santamaria

STEERING THROUGH THE STORM: BORN FOR THE PERILOUS CROSSING

In the Gospel of Mark (4:35-41), when Jesus calls his disciples to “cross over to the other side,” he isn’t promising a tranquil journey. He is calling them into the unknown—a journey that is quickly disrupted by a violent, terrifying storm. When fear threatens to overwhelm the boat, Christ restores calm, reminding them that faith is stronger than any tempest.

This biblical narrative is the living blueprint for Crossover. It reflects the very heart of the Camillian charism, a flame ignited nearly five centuries ago. Every year on May 25, our global family marks a profound convergence of memory and mission: we celebrate the birth of our founder, St. Camillus de Lellis, and simultaneously honor the Feast of the Camillian Martyrs of Charity. These extraordinary men did not merely witness the storms of their time from a safe distance; they deliberately stepped into the eye of the hurricane, knowingly sacrificing their lives while tending to those struck by contagious plagues.

To celebrate the birth of St. Camillus alongside those who died in service is to understand the full trajectory of our calling. We are reminded that the Camillian charism was born for the frontier. It was designed precisely for moments when humanity is at its most vulnerable.

As we look out at the landscape of this second quarter, the modern "plagues" of our world feel undeniably intense. From communities reeling under the abrupt fury of climate-driven natural disasters to families enduring the slow, exhausting erosion of protracted humanitarian and political crises, the vulnerabilities of our global community are laid bare. Yet, the legacy of our Martyrs reminds us that danger must never dictate the boundaries of our compassion. Where others retreat, the Camillian spirit is called to cross over.

True to this sacred heritage, CADIS International continues to anchor itself alongside the forgotten. This quarter, our efforts globally remind us that disaster response cannot just be about immediate Relief. Guided by our 4-R transformation framework, we walk with communities through the grueling journey toward holistic Recovery, structural Resilience, and the defense and promotion of human Rights.

When we reinforce community-based health programs, empower local communities to adapt to harsh climate realities, or accompany displaced families as they reclaim their dignity, we are doing more than executing NGO strategies. We are living out the vow of our Martyrs—putting "the lives of our brothers and sisters before our own" by investing our resources, expertise, and hearts into their long-term survival.

The work of a perilous crossing is heavy, but it is borne by the incredible courage of our volunteers, partners, and supporters who choose, day after day, to be agents of hope. As you read through this issue of Crossover, we invite you to look beyond the statistics and see the human faces of resilience. May the courage of the Martyrs of Charity ignite our own hearts this May. The waters ahead will undoubtedly bring new challenges, but with faith as our compass and the Camillian cross as our anchor, we will keep crossing over.

Aris Miranda, MI
CADIS Director



THREE-YEAR PROJECT IN ELNUR FUNDED BY THE 8X1000 TAX CONTRIBUTION TO THE ITALIAN STATE KICKS OFF

In Elnur sub-county, Wajir, Kenya, CADIS International's three-year project 'Towards sustainable development in Wajir County through food security and water supply' is getting underway. The initiative, funded through the 8x1000 tax contribution to the state, has been set up to address, in a structural manner, the effects of the persistent drought affecting the region, which has exacerbated the economic, food and health vulnerabilities of the local population.

The project will impact around 3,000 households with specific target the most vulnerable groups, including the elderly, children, pregnant or breastfeeding women, and people with differently-abled. Wajir county, classified as one of Kenya's ASAL (Arid and Semi-Arid Lands) areas, is in fact one of the regions most exposed to the effects of climate change, with long periods of drought, water scarcity, and depleting resources for livestock and agricultural production.

In recent years, the population has faced a gradual deterioration in food security. Many families have gone from two meals a day to just one, while access to water often requires travelling more than 30 kilometres. In this context, CADIS has already stepped in with emergency programmes focused on the distribution of food, water, medicines and essential supplies. The new project, however, marks the transition from an immediate humanitarian response to a long-term resilience strategy.

The overall aim of the initiative is to contribute to poverty reduction and strengthen community resilience by improving food security and promoting climate adaptation practices. The programme is structured around three main operational strands: agricultural training, access to water and direct support for agricultural production.



A central part of the project involves the transfer of skills to local farmers through training activities focused on climate-smart agricultural technologies. Workshops, seminars and field activities will address topics such as sustainable soil management, efficient use of water resources, climate mitigation, livestock management and innovative agricultural techniques. There are also plans to involve local trainers (Training of Trainers) to facilitate the dissemination of skills within rural communities.

On the infrastructure front, the project involves the drilling and equipping borewells, the installation of storage tanks and water distribution systems for human, plant and animal consumption. Access to safe water sources is one of the key factors in reducing households' vulnerability and supporting local productive activities.

Three hundred farmers will receive tools, seeds, equipment and other agricultural inputs, along with technical support and agricultural extension services delivered directly to their farms. Activities will include onsite demonstrations, technical support and training on the management of small-scale farm production. The aim is to increase agricultural productivity, improve crop quality and reduce post-harvest losses, thereby increasing the income of the households involved.

The kick-off activity was a community awareness and engagement session in Elnur at the beginning of May. Success in sustainable development is only possible if we work hand in hand with the community, local elders and the administration. From the preparation for long-term food and water security to planning for resilient livelihoods, the energy and commitment of the people of Elnur are truly inspiring.

The project is set against a backdrop of high levels of poverty, limited access to healthcare services and significant social vulnerability. In many parts of the county, the distance to access safe drinking water exceeds 35 kilometers, which remains a major challenge.

In addition, high illiteracy rates, particularly among women, affect the health and social inclusion of women and girls.

Through an integrated approach combining food security, water management, technical training and local capacity building, the project aims to progressively strengthen the economic and productive autonomy of the communities in Wajir, reducing dependence on emergency aid and promoting livelihoods that are more resilient to climate change.

PHASE II BEGINS: CEBU COMMUNITIES PUSH TOWARD SUSTAINABLE SELF-RELIANCE

In the crowded coastal and hilly communities of Cebu City, where floods, fires, disease outbreaks, and poverty shape daily life, a new two-year initiative is aiming to turn vulnerability into long-term resilience for nearly 1,000 urban poor households.

The project, Empowering Communities for Sustainable Self-Reliance: A Two-Year Phase II Project, will run from 2026 to 2028 as a joint undertaking of CADIS International and Visayas Primary Healthcare Services, Inc., with funding support from the Italian Bishops' Conference (CEI).

The initiative builds on the achievements of the phase I (2023–2025) programs that reached 972 households across four informal settlements in Cebu City: Sitio Lawis in Barangay Pasil, Sitio Tierra Dulce in Barangay Inayawan, Sitio Wang Yu in Barangay Mambaling, and Sitio Nangka Ville in Barangay Quiot.

For two years, residents in these communities worked alongside humanitarian and health workers to organize disaster committees, train Community Health Workers (CHWs), improve sanitation systems, strengthen food security, and advocate for safer living conditions. According to the local partners, the next phase is about something more ambitious: ensuring communities can sustain those gains on their own.

“Communities have already demonstrated that they can organize, respond to disasters, and improve public health conditions,” project leaders claimed. “The challenge now is to institutionalize these gains so that residents can independently manage risks, livelihoods, and healthcare with minimal outside intervention.”

The Phase II project comes at a critical time for Cebu City's growing urban poor population. Informal settlements continue to expand along riverbanks and coastal zones as rapid urbanization pushes low-income families into hazard-prone areas. Most residents survive on unstable informal work such as vending, construction labor, or driving, while living in overcrowded homes built with light materials and lacking adequate drainage, sanitation, and access to healthcare.

In the four target communities, residents face recurring flooding, frequent fire incidents, and persistent health problems, including malnutrition, dengue, respiratory infections, hypertension, and waterborne diseases. Limited access to primary healthcare and insecure land tenure have further deepened their vulnerability.

The new project seeks to address those interconnected

challenges through five major objectives over the next two years. First, each of the four Sitios will develop and institutionalize comprehensive sustainability plans covering disaster management, healthcare, and livelihood programs. Organizers say these plans are designed to ensure that community-led systems continue operating even after external funding ends.

Second, the project aims to transform successful grassroots initiatives into formal policy by strengthening advocacy efforts with barangay councils, local government units, and partner institutions. The goal is to integrate community-led resilience programs into long-term local development planning.

Third, every community will launch at least one livelihood initiative aimed at generating sustainable income. These projects build on feasibility studies and project-management training completed during the earlier phase and are expected to strengthen economic self-reliance among residents.

Fourth, Community Health Workers will receive advanced and specialized training beyond basic healthcare. The expanded curriculum will include maternal health, child nutrition, dengue prevention, environmental sanitation, mental health, hypertension management, and disease prevention strategies.

Finally, the project will roll out targeted health campaigns focusing on some of the communities' most urgent public health concerns. These campaigns will address maternal and child health, dengue prevention, hygiene and sanitation, mental health awareness, and chronic diseases such as hypertension.



Project leaders say the long-term vision is clear: by 2028, the four communities should be capable of sustaining disaster preparedness systems, health services, and livelihood initiatives largely through their own leadership and resources.

For CADIS, whose humanitarian mission centers on disaster response and community health, the initiative reflects a broader shift from emergency assistance to locally driven development. Meanwhile, Visayas Primary Healthcare Services, Inc. continues to anchor the project through its long-standing work with Cebu's health sector and marginalized communities.

Organizers acknowledge that the first phase also exposed major challenges. Coordinating with multiple agencies, including the Bureau of Fire Protection, sometimes delays implementation. Sustaining community participation required constant engagement, while financial sustainability remained a pressing concern as external support neared completion.

Yet despite these obstacles, the project demonstrated what community-led approaches can achieve. Residents who once relied heavily on outside aid are now managing disaster committees, conducting health education sessions, and preparing livelihood ventures of their own.

The continuity project, advocates say, is intended to ensure those early gains do not fade.

“This is no longer just about recovery or disaster response,” project partners emphasized. “It is about enabling communities to become healthier, safer, economically secure, and fully capable of shaping their own future.”



"FAITH IN ACTION" IS FINALLY AVAILABLE IN ITALIAN

Ten years after its inception, CADIS International is publishing a new book "Faith in Action: a decade of compassion and resilience in CADIS's mission" in Italian. The book is not simply a chronicle of the journey of the Camillian humanitarian missions but a faith-experience and testimony of CADIS in the most complex humanitarian crises of the decade.

The book traces the first decade of CADIS's work, founded in 2015 to provide a structured response to global emergencies, drawing inspiration from the charisma of St Camillus de Lellis and the Camillian Fourth Vow: to serve the sick, the suffering and the most vulnerable, even at the risk of one's own life. In an international context marked by climate disasters, health crises, wars and forced migration, the book shows how CADIS has progressively developed a model of intervention capable of combining humanitarian professionalism, pastoral care and community development.

Through first-hand accounts, field analyses and international case studies, *Fede in Azione* documents the projects it has carried out in various geographical contexts: the response to the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, climate resilience and food security programmes in the Philippines and India, work in communities affected by drought and environmental crises in Kenya, health and psychosocial support following the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone, interventions during the pandemic in Tanzania, and support for Ukrainian refugees hosted in Poland.

The text explores the distinctive model of 'integral human care', which lies at the heart of the CADIS approach. Not merely immediate assistance in emergencies, but pathways to recovery and resilience built together with local communities, through access to water, food security, livelihood support, healthcare, psychological support and spiritual guidance. A vision that considers the person in their entirety — body, mind and spirit — and which aims to transform humanitarian aid into lasting processes of community empowerment.

The various chapters of the book also demonstrate how vulnerability to disasters is often linked not only to natural events, but also to poverty, social inequalities, institutional fragility and climate change. Against this backdrop, CADIS proposes an integrated approach in which resilience is not merely a technical response, but a human and community-based process founded on participation, dignity and solidarity.

More than a collection of operational reports, *Fede in Azione* offers a reflection on the role of faith-based humanitarianism in the contemporary world, showing how spirituality, scientific expertise and social action can converge in a concrete model of integral human development.

Buying the book also means directly supporting CADIS's mission. The proceeds will help fund humanitarian and resilience projects for populations affected by natural disasters, health crises and climate change, enabling the organisation to continue its work alongside the world's most vulnerable communities.



LET US CELEBRATE THE CAMILLIAN MARTYRS OF CHARITY – 25 MAY

Dear Camillians, collaborators, partners, and friends,

On this sacred occasion of May 25, we gather in spirit and mission to commemorate the Feast of the Camillian Martyrs of Charity—those more than 300 courageous witnesses who offered their lives in service to the sick, the wounded, and the forgotten, often amid wars, epidemics, and disasters. Their legacy is not merely a memory we preserve; it is a living call that continues to shape who we are and how we serve.

This year’s celebration carries a deeper resonance as CADIS marks its 10th anniversary under the theme: “A decade of compassion and empowerment: From crisis response to building resilient communities.” It is both a moment of gratitude and a time for renewed commitment.

The martyrs we honor today embodied a radical form of charity—one that transcended fear, self-interest, and even the instinct for self-preservation. They chose to remain at the side of the suffering when it would have been easier to step away. They remained committed to the evangelical imperative expressed in the words of Jesus Christ: “... whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Mt. 25,40).

Saint Camillus de Lellis recommended to his disciples “to see Christ in the sick person and to be Christ to them.” In doing so, they revealed the very heart of our Camillian charism: to serve the sick and the poor with compassion, competence, and unwavering dedication, even at the risk of their lives.

As we reflect this year, we cannot ignore the urgent cries arising from the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Entire communities are being directly affected by violence—families displaced from their homes, the wounded in desperate need of medical care, children deprived of safety and education, and health systems pushed beyond their limits. At the same time, the indirect consequences ripple far beyond the immediate zones of conflict: economic inflation, rising poverty, food insecurity, psychological trauma, disrupted livelihoods, and fragile host communities struggling to absorb those seeking refuge.

These realities demand from us not only empathy but a concrete, coordinated response. The needs are immediate and multifaceted: emergency healthcare for the injured, access to essential medicines, psychosocial support for those traumatized by war, protection for the most vulnerable, and the restoration of basic human dignity. Equally critical are the long-term needs—rebuilding community structures, supporting livelihoods, strengthening local health capacities, and fostering resilience among populations living in prolonged uncertainty.

Over the past decade, CADIS has sought to embody this comprehensive response. From rapid emergency interventions to sustained development programs, we have accompanied communities through some of their most difficult moments. Today, the situation in the Middle East calls us once again to intensify this commitment. It challenges us to act with urgency, while also thinking beyond immediate relief toward sustainable recovery and peace-oriented resilience.

This evolution—from crisis response to resilience-building—reflects a deeper understanding of our mission. Compassion is not only about being present in moments of acute suffering; it is also about empowering individuals and communities to withstand future adversities, to recover with dignity, and to rebuild their lives even amid ongoing instability. In this way, our work honors the martyrs not only by remembering their sacrifice but by extending their legacy into the most pressing realities of our time.

None of this is possible without the collective effort of the entire Camillian family and our collaborators. To the religious, lay partners, healthcare professionals, volunteers, donors, and community leaders: your commitment has been the driving force behind every life touched and every sign of hope restored. In the face of crisis, your solidarity becomes even more vital—not only through direct service, but also through advocacy, resource mobilization, prayer, and the promotion of a culture of peace.

As we celebrate this milestone, we must also confront the broader realities shaping our humanitarian landscape. The convergence of armed conflict, climate-related disasters, and global health challenges continues to intensify human

vulnerability. The example of the Camillian Martyrs of Charity reminds us that our response cannot be partial or hesitant. It must be courageous, coordinated, and deeply rooted in our identity.

Looking ahead, the next decade calls us to deepen our impact. This means strengthening local capacities in fragile contexts, investing in community-based health systems, integrating trauma-informed care, and building partnerships that enhance both reach and sustainability. It also means ensuring that our humanitarian action remains anchored in respect for human dignity, impartiality, and the unwavering commitment to serve those most in need—regardless of borders, backgrounds, or beliefs.

Today, as we remember the martyrs, let us altogether pray for justice and peace in the world. You may use the novena to the Camillian Martyrs of Charity, which will start on the 16th of May. Let us also ask ourselves and reflect: how are we called to embody their spirit in a world marked by complex and protracted crises? Where are we being invited to stand in solidarity, even when it is difficult or costly? These are the questions that will shape our fidelity to the mission entrusted to us.

As we give thanks for ten years of CADIS, we do so with humility and determination. The legacy we inherit is profound, but it calls for action—action that is compassionate, strategic, and steadfast in the face of today's realities.

May the witness of the Camillian Martyrs of Charity continue to inspire us. May their sacrifice guide our response to the urgent needs of our time. And may our shared mission contribute, even in small but meaningful ways, to the restoration of peace and dignity for all.

With gratitude and solidarity,
Bro José Ignacio Santaolalla Sáez



CADIS JOINS BUDDHIST TZU CHI FOUNDATION IN HUALIEN FOR HISTORIC 60TH ANNIVERSARY AND LEARNING TOUR

HUALIEN, TAIWAN – Representing the Camillian Disaster Service International (CADIS), delegates recently concluded a meaningful learning tour and participatory visit to Hualien, Taiwan, to honor the 60th anniversary of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity Foundation.

Held from May 10–11, the multi-day celebration marked six decades of Tzu Chi's global humanitarian excellence. It provided a profound space for interfaith dialogue, reflection, and the strengthening of cross-organizational partnerships.

The visit coincided with Tzu Chi's annual "three-in-one" celebration, which beautifully weaves together Buddha Day, Mother's Day, and Global Tzu Chi Day.

The dawn ceremony commenced on Sunday, May 10, at the Hualien Jing Si Hall—the very birthplace where Dharma Master Cheng Yen founded the movement in 1966. What famously began as 30 local housewives saving 50 cents a day in bamboo banks has evolved into one of the world's largest humanitarian forces, currently serving 139 countries and regions.

Under the theme "Remembering the Original Aspiration of the Bamboo Bank Era," more than 3,500 monastics, volunteers, and international partners gathered in Hualien, while tens of thousands more joined simultaneously across 42 countries.



As a partner organization, the CADIS Director witnessed the solemn Buddha-Bathing Ritual, where concentric circles of participants gathered in synchronized, silent prayer for global peace, climate harmony, and a disaster-free world. The ceremony highlighted the foundation's core pillars: charity, medicine, education, and humanistic culture—areas that deeply resonate with CADIS's own faith-based mandate to serve vulnerable communities.

On May 11, the anniversary events transitioned into a deeper experiential exchange as international humanitarian and religious representatives visited the Jing Si Abode.

For CADIS, the visit served as an invaluable learning tour. The itinerary allowed delegates to observe firsthand Tzu Chi's highly organized, community-driven disaster response models, eco-friendly relief innovations, and its deeply spiritual framework of "engaged Buddhism."

The event also drew prominent international and local figures, highlighting the global weight of Tzu Chi's work, including a rare visit from Vatican envoy Cardinal Peter Turkson (Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences), Taiwan Vice President Hsiao Bi-khim, and various global faith leaders.

During the cross-cultural dialogues, Master Cheng Yen reflected on the beauty of interfaith collaboration, noting that while world religions may differ in form and ritual, they share a singular, sacred purpose: guiding humanity toward goodness, love, and mutual care.

For CADIS, participating in this historic milestone was more than a celebratory gesture; it was a reaffirmation of a shared commitment to alleviating human suffering. The immersive experience in Hualien offered fresh insights into how grassroots volunteerism can be scaled into a global network without losing its "initial spirit."

As Tzu Chi enters its seventh decade of service, the bond between CADIS and the foundation stands as a testament to the fact that compassion knows no boundaries of religion or geography. Bound by a shared vow to protect the Earth and care for those affected by crises, both organizations look forward to continued collaboration in transforming collective empathy into

decisive, life-saving action.

The CADIS Director expressed his hope and wishes to Tzu Chi. That Tzu Chi will continue to strengthen community resilience by investing in people— especially the youth, as agents of change. Your example will continue to inspire a humanitarian approach that places dignity at the center, recognizing survivors not just as recipients but as partners in building solutions. That Tzu Chi will continue to be a bridge across cultures, showing that compassion is a universal language that unites us all.



A Journey of
Compassion

Since
1966

With boundless
gratitude for 60 years of
unwavering support.

Tzu Chi Foundation

The graphic features a large, stylized blue number '60' on the left. To its right is a collage of circular photographs showing various Tzu Chi activities, such as people working in a field, caring for the elderly, and community projects. The text 'A Journey of Compassion' is written in a serif font, and 'Since 1966' is in a smaller font within the collage. Below the collage, the text 'With boundless gratitude for 60 years of unwavering support.' is displayed. At the bottom left, there is a logo for the 60th anniversary of the Tzu Chi Foundation.

Hualien, Taiwan

FAITH IN ACTION

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON IN ITALIAN AND ENGLISH!

Fede in Azione

UN DECENNIO DI COMPASSIONE E
RESILIENZA NELLA MISSIONE DI
CADIS



A cura di
Aristelo D. Miranda, MI

CADIS INTERNATIONAL



CADIS

CAMILLIAN DISASTER SERVICE
INTERNATIONAL

CADIS INTERNATIONAL

Faith in Action

A DECADE OF COMPASSION
AND RESILIENCE WITH
CADIS

Edited by
Aristelo D. Miranda, MI



Scan the QR Code 

ORDER YOUR COPY AND SUPPORT THE CADIS
INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

Visit www.cadisinternational.org



