

Global Anti-Poverty Campaign
One Human Family, Food for All

International Prize
Women
Sowers of Development

**“It is necessary to broaden the space within the Church
for a more incisive feminine presence”
Pope Francis**

Invitation for Competition Submissions

Content

1. General information	3
1.1. Explanatory and motivational concept for prospective candidates	3
1.2. Awarding organisation	3
1.3. Form and organisation of the competition	4
1.4. Time schedule	4
1.5. International jury	4
1.6. Legal information	5
2. Participation and judging criteria	5
2.1. Participation criteria	5
2.2. Judging criteria	5
Annex 1. Template	
Annex 2. Ranking system	

Overview

It's frightening when you don't know how you will feed your family tomorrow. Around the world, the burden of this fear falls disproportionately on women. Millions of women watch their children go hungry and fall prey to illness.

Yet in many countries, women are part of the solution to hunger. By learning new farming techniques, by joining together to save money they can loan each other, and by working on projects that will help them grow more food, women are becoming "sowers of development."

To honour women who are agents of change – helping feed their own families and whole communities – Caritas will award a prize to two successful, exemplary programmes. With funding from the Fidel Götz Foundation, the prize will recognise women's groups that are making the Caritas slogan "One Human Family, Food for All" a reality.

I. General information

Sustainable growth can only occur when everyone – women, men and children – are involved. Caritas member organisations across the world work with both women and men to improve the cultural, social, political and economic participation of women and girls in their communities.

The background behind this initiative rests on the assumption that *"Women's dignity has often been unacknowledged and their prerogatives misrepresented; they have often been relegated to the margins of society and even reduced to servitude. This has prevented women from truly being themselves and it has resulted in a spiritual impoverishment of humanity"*.¹ For this reason, within the 'One Human Family, Food for All' global campaign coordinated by Caritas Internationalis, whose aim is to raise awareness of poverty and food insecurity and to mobilise around the implementation of the right to food, this prize is meant to recognise women who have distinguished themselves for their work in support of human development and food security.

By way of example, Caritas Nepal enables small farmers to practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques through farmer field schools so as to improve household food security and farm sustainability for marginalised people. In 2011-12, 1,498 people (78% women) attended training. We also know of other exceptional programmes, such as the Learning and Development Centre in Manila run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus, a Roman Catholic community of religious sisters. Under their guidance, the centre runs a cooperative with nearly 200 members, a variety of income generation projects and programmes to enable women to develop their talents.

I.1. Explanatory and motivational concept for prospective candidates

The objective of this initiative is to recognise, among other things, specific programmes ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food.

The award consists of two prizes for a total amount of €20,000 (€10,000 each) to be assigned in two categories:

1. Women and women's groups belonging to the Caritas network (e.g. Caritas programmes or projects run by women)
2. Women and women's groups working with, but outside, the Caritas network (e.g. associations, cooperatives, firms or other bodies linked to the Caritas network).

The name given to this year's International Women's Prize is '**Women, Sowers of Development**' to highlight the important role that women play in achieving food security and nutritional improvements for their families and the wider community. The prize is also linked to reaching the Millennium Development Goals and to promoting sustainable development.²

Caritas Internationalis resonates with the reasons, laid out by the UN World Food Programme,³ why empowering women is such an important part of hunger eradication:

¹ Letter of Pope John Paul II to Women, 1995, No. 1, 3.

² United Nations Women. Available at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/commission-on-the-status-of-women-2012> last visited on 17 February 2014.

³ Sources: "Women in Agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development" (Points 2, 3, 9, 10); "The role of women in rural development, food production and poverty eradication", UN Women, 2012 (Point 4); Committee on Food Security, FAO, 2011 (Point 5, 6); "Progress for Children: A World Fit for Children Statistical Review", UNICEF, 2007 (Point 7); "The Female Face of Farming", FAO, 2012 (Point 1, 8) available at <http://www.wfp.org/stories/10-facts-about-women-and-hunger>.

International Prize – Women, Sowers of Development

- In developing countries, 79% of economically active women spend their working hours producing food, working in agriculture. Women are 43% of the farming work force.
- Yields for women farmers are 20-30 percent lower than for men. This is because women have less access to improved seeds, fertilisers and equipment.
- Malnourished mothers are more likely to give birth to underweight babies. Underweight babies are 20 percent more likely to die before the age of five. Up to 17 million underweight babies are born each year.
- Research confirms that, in the hands of women, an increase in family income improves children's health and nutrition.

1.2. Awarding organisation

The awarding organisation is Caritas Internationalis. The Fidel Götz Foundation will be our partner in supporting this initiative financially given their mission and preference for women-oriented projects and their longstanding friendship with Caritas Internationalis. All relevant information will soon be available on www.food.caritas.org. Caritas Internationalis will manage the project and a CI officer will be working on the project throughout, whilst taking due regard of any advice provided by the funding partner and the objectives of this project.

1.3. Form and organisation of the competition

The women's award is a two-stage competition:

- First stage – Regional stages
 - Seven regional committees will be set up to collect the names and projects of those participating in the competition.
 - The names of all members of the regional committees will be announced to all members in the region as soon as possible after publication of this document.
 - The number of applications that every Caritas regional committee can submit shall not exceed three (3) per region.
 - The regional committee shall select the projects, organisation or initiative which stands out from the others, each weighted according to a ranking system (see Annex 2).
 - Each regional committee should submit the best entries by email to the CI General Secretariat by Friday 1st August 2014.
- Second stage – International stage
 - The international jury will consist of experts and specialists in food security and poverty reduction strategies. Caritas Internationalis can modify the number or the composition of the jury without any other prior advice. The members of the international jury will be announced at the international stage.
 - The applications selected by the seven regional committees will be sent through to the jury.
 - The jury shall select two projects or initiatives which stand out from the others, each weighted according to a ranking system (see Annex 2).
 - The same evaluation criteria as above will be used for the international stage.
 - The jury will select the two 2014 winners, to be announced by 16 October 2014.
 - The jury's decision is final.

The ranking system is meant to approve the selection of the preferred entrant based on the majority consensus between the jury members. Each voting member of the jury shall cast a vote for every single application.

Collection of applications will last from March 2014 to mid-June 2014. The deadline to submit applications is Monday 16th June 2014. The two winners will be invited to present their projects at the next Caritas Internationalis General Assembly, due to take place in May 2015 in Rome, Italy.

1.4. Time schedule

Distribution of invitations for competition submissions as part of an information event
8th March 2014

Closing date for registration for regional competition
Completed by 16th June 2014

Submission of the material for the international stage
Latest by 1st August 2014

International stage and award ceremony
The international stage of the competition will be held throughout September 2014

International Prize – Women, Sowers of Development

The exact date and location of the ceremony will be communicated to the two winners in due time as well as on www.food.caritas.org.

1.5. International jury

A panel of experts who will act as the jury will be made up of one member from the Caritas Internationalis Executive Board; a representative of the Fidel Götz Foundation; one or two experts in food security and poverty eradication; and the Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis.

The panel will convene at least once prior to awarding the prize in order to evaluate all submitted applications. This panel shall make a decision to award the prize based on the criteria listed in Annex 2. The jury and the board of evaluation will be supported by Caritas Internationalis at all times in order to analyse and evaluate all the applications. The board of evaluation has the right to collect relevant information from entrants, including interviews with the women involved in the project, in order to check on submitted data.

1.6. Legal information

Participants shall undertake that any information/data contained in their projects does not interfere with the intellectual property rights of any third party, and that they either own or have full authorisation to use and disclose such information/data.

Competition participants shall retain unlimited intellectual property rights on their projects. However, the participants to the regional stage or international stage competitions, regardless of their position, shall grant full and unrestricted authorisation to Caritas Internationalis, the regional committees and the Fidel Götz Foundation, free of charge, to use and publish their projects, project presentations and all material submitted by or representing the participants, including, but not limited to, photos or videos taken of the participants at the contest and/or material provided by the participants to the organiser for the contest, for an unlimited period of time and for all media publication used by the organiser.

Competition participants acknowledge that the decision of the jury is final.

By participating in the competition, the participants acknowledge and accept the conditions presented here.

2. Participation and judging criteria

2.1. Participation criteria

Eligible candidates shall belong to the two following categories:

1. Women and women's groups belonging to the Caritas network (e.g. Caritas programmes or projects run by women)
2. Women and women's groups working with, but outside, the Caritas network (e.g. associations, cooperatives, firms or other bodies linked to the Caritas network).

The objective of this initiative is to recognise, among other things, specific programmes ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food.

The organisations must have established procedures for implementing projects concerning hunger eradication in their communities, areas or dioceses. They must play a significant role in the development of social, cultural, political and economic activities, necessary to stimulate the development of their communities, areas or dioceses. These organisations must have an established management structure with at least two years in business since their founding. Individual applicants must be over 18 years of age to participate.

2.2. Judging criteria

- Consistency with the overall goals of the prize
- Improvements in food security and nutrition brought about by the project
- Use of innovative methodologies, techniques and procedures
- Social, economic and environmental sustainability of the project

International Prize – Women, Sowers of Development

- Activities and achievements that have changed social situations, public attitudes, structures or policies that may have caused hunger and food insecurity of the women affected
- The ways in which the women or the women's groups have demonstrated inspirational leadership

A plaque will be presented to the two award winners, engraved with the title: "International Caritas Prize for Women as Sowers of Development".

INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
WOMEN
SOWERS OF DEVELOPMENT

Application Form

The deadline to submit applications is Monday 16th June 2014

Applicants are kindly requested to observe the maximum word limit as indicated throughout the form. Should you require assistance in completing the form, please contact the General Secretariat of Caritas Internationalis on +39 06 698 797 18 or by emailing award@caritas.va.

General Information	
Name of organisation	
Field of activity	
Legal representative	
Type of organisation	
What year was the organisation formed?	
Address	
Postcode	
E-mail address	
Telephone number	
Fax number	

1. Consistency with the overall goals of the prize
<i>Please describe your project/organisation, including objectives, field of activity and issues addressed (400 words)</i>

2. How has your organisation improved food security in your area?
<i>Please give a full description of all your activities (400 words)</i>

3. In which ways is this project innovative in improving food security?

Please give a full description of the innovative methodologies, techniques and procedures currently being applied in your organisation (400 words)

4. Give some examples of ways in which this project has impacted the lives of the women involved in your area/community/region

Please describe what impact your project has made in your area, including the number of women involved

5. Sustainability of your project, programme or initiative

Please give a full description of the financial, economic and environmental sustainability of the project (400 words)

6. Activities and achievements that have changed social situations, public attitudes, structures or policies that have caused hunger and food insecurity in the lives of the women affected

Please give specific examples of experiences or situations

7. In which ways does your project give opportunities for women to use their talents as leaders?

Please provide evidence of beneficial leadership experiences

8. Do you know of any government subsidies that support projects like yours?

Do you receive technical or financial support from a social programme funded by your country / government?

9. Extent of collaboration with other organisations

Number of coalitions, networks and consortiums that your organisation is involved in

Please follow the next steps in order to complete your application submission process:

Participant groups shall submit their application by email to award@caritas.va or by post before 16th June 2014 with the following information:

1. Project description in electronic format or handwritten.
2. If at all possible, an electronic presentation of the project. If you choose the electronic option, please save your file as follows:
 - A PowerPoint presentation file
 - Extension PPT or (PPTX)
 - The file name should be: Country_Women's Prize (e.g. Ghana_Women's Prize)

Shipping address:
Caritas Internationalis
Policy & Advocacy Team
International Prize "Women, Sowers of Development"
Palazzo San Calisto
V-00120 Vatican City

3. Three jpg files containing pictures of the project in 300 dpi resolution.

These files will be used during the official presentation of the project in front of the jury.

Applications may be sent in as a Word document sent as an attachment, or written with a pen and submitted by post with the official application form.

Applications will be accepted from March 2014 to mid-June 2014.

A plaque will be presented to the two award winners, engraved with the title: "International Caritas Prize for Women as Sowers of Development".

The 2014 Women's Prize Jury looks forward to receiving many entries from all over the world.

Good luck!

Ranking system			
No.	Criteria	Parameters	Maximum points
1	Consistency with the overall goals of the prize	Description of project/organisation (objectives, sector, issues addressed)	14
2	Improvements in food security and nutrition brought about by the project	Documented activities	14
3	Creativity of the approach	Use of innovative methodologies, techniques and procedures	15
4	Social, economic and environmental sustainability of the project	Examples	14
5	Activities and achievements, which have changed social situations, public attitudes, structures or policies that may have caused hunger and food insecurity of the women affected	Documented evidence of changes to policies, situations, attitudes structures, etc.	15
6	Ways in which the women or the women's groups have demonstrated inspirational leadership	Provide evidence of beneficial leadership experiences	14

7	Extent of collaboration with other organisations	Number of coalitions, networks and consortiums the applying organisation is involved in	14
			100