



Global Report on Integral Human Development 2022 SYNTHESIS

The Catholic Church manages a network of more than 325,000 education, health, and social protection facilities especially in low income countries

According to the Global Report on Integral Human Development 2022, the Catholic Church and other faith networks are major contributors to efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promote integral human development. For the Catholic Church, this is done in part through a global network of more than 325,000 education, health, and social protection facilities, as well as through universities and other institutions of higher learning (*). The role played by the Church and other faith networks in basic education and healthcare is especially large in low and lower-middle income countries.

The Global Report on Integral Human Development 2022 uses multiple data sources to measure the contributions of Catholic and other faith networks to education, healthcare, and social protection. The report is produced by a volunteer team and co-sponsored by the four organizations that represent Catholic education at the international level: OIEC for schools, IFCU for universities, OMAEC for alumni, and UMEC-WUCT for teachers, as well as by the International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE (**)).

Key findings include the following:

- **Education:** The number of preschools, primary schools, and secondary schools managed by the Catholic Church increased by 54 percent from 1980 to 2019, from 143,574 to 221,144. The largest increase in the number of schools took place in Africa. Globally, 62.1 million students were enrolled in Catholic K12 schools in 2019, with an additional 6.7 million students in post-secondary education. When including other denominations, Christian education serves more than 100 million students. Islamic and other faith-based schools also have a large footprint.
- **Healthcare:** The number of healthcare facilities managed by the Catholic Church increased from 19,119 in 1980 to 24,031 in 2010, but fell back to 20,740 facilities in 2019. This includes hospitals, health centers, and leproseries. As for schools, the largest increase in facilities took place in Africa where Catholic facilities are often members of Christian Health Associations.
- **Social protection:** The number of social protection facilities managed by the Church increased from 42,084 in 1980 to 97,533 in 2010, with a reduction to 84,872 facilities in 2019. This total includes orphanages, nurseries, special centers for social education or re-education, homes for the old, chronically ill, invalid, or handicapped, matrimonial advice centers, and other institutions (these are the categories used in the statistical yearbooks of the Church). While for education and healthcare Africa accounts for a growing share of facilities over time, most social protection facilities remain located in the Americas and Europe. The Church also contributes to social protection locally through programs run by more than 220,000 parishes, and internationally among others through over 160 organizations member of Caritas Internationalis.
- **Reach to the poor:** Most Catholic schools and healthcare facilities are in low and lower-middle income countries, especially for primary education. By contrast, with the exception of orphanages and nurseries, Catholic social protection facilities are often located in high income countries, as is the case for universities. In Africa, across faiths, despite the fact that faith-based schools and healthcare facilities are often more expensive for households to use than public facilities (due to



no or limited funding from the state), they often manage to reach the poor to a substantial extent. Private secular facilities tend to serve better off households for both education and healthcare.

- **Market shares:** Globally, the market share of Catholic education is estimated at 4.8 percent at the primary level, 3.2 percent at the secondary level, and 2.8 percent for post-secondary education. In the case of healthcare, data for 140 countries suggest that the market share of Catholic facilities is at 6.3 percent for hospitals and 1.7 percent for health centers in those countries. For education and healthcare, the market shares of Catholic schools and facilities are higher in sub-Saharan Africa and low income countries, helping to fulfill the Church's mission to serve the poor.
- **Preferences, Satisfaction, and Quality:** Values and faith play an important role in the motivation of parents to send their children to faith-based schools, and for students to enroll in faith-based universities. By contrast, faith is often not a key factor in the choice of a faith-based healthcare facility. In sub-Saharan Africa, satisfaction is higher with faith-based schools and healthcare facilities than with public providers. This does not mean however that there is no need to improve services. In education especially, efforts are needed to end the learning crisis.
- **COVID-19 pandemic:** Faith-based providers of education, healthcare, and social protection have been affected by the COVID-19 crisis, as is the case for other providers. Supporting faith-based providers of critical services in times of crisis makes economic sense. The long-term cost for governments of not doing so could be much larger than the cost of providing support.

(*) Data for 2019 from the 2021 statistical yearbook of the Catholic Church.

(**) OIEC is the International Office of Catholic Education; IFCU is the International Federation of Catholic Universities; OMAEC is the World Organization of Former Students of Catholic Education; UMEC-WUCT is the World Union of Catholic Teachers; and BICE is the International Catholic Child Bureau.

The Global Report on Integral Human Development 2022 and other related resources are available free of charge at <https://www.globalcatholiceducation.org/global-reports>. The Report is published by the volunteer-led Global Catholic Education project (<https://www.globalcatholiceducation.org/>) which aims to connect Catholic education to the world, and the world to Catholic education. The project brings global knowledge on education and integral human development to Catholic schools, universities, and other organizations by sharing evidence-based good practices emerging from international experience. It also brings to the attention of the international community the work of Catholic schools, universities, and other organizations promoting integral human development.

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