



KM4Change Academy

Knowledge Management Academy for Change in Africa

Caritas Africa and Knowledge Management Academy engage in a partnership to advance Knowledge Management (KM) and Knowledge Societies through education, training, advisory and support services.

This concept note provides an initial framework for the further elaboration of a Memorandum of Agreement.

Introduction

Caritas Africa is a charitable and development organization that brings together 46 national Caritas in sub-Saharan Africa and the adjacent islands. Its goals of assisting the Church in its socio-pastoral ministry of spreading the charity and justice, supporting its members in their mission of charity, and promoting communion, collaboration, and cooperation, go hand in hand with the concepts of Knowledge Management, considering that knowledge is at the heart of human dignity, inclusive societies, and sustainable development. CA's mandate also includes capacity development in all key areas of work, Knowledge Management being identified as a new and relevant capacity for the members.

KM Academy is one of the world-leading training institutions in Knowledge Management, headquartered in Vienna, Austria, and acting globally, with a strong emphasis on Africa. It is the educational pillar of KM Associates, established in 2001. Due to its intensive work in the sustainable development in Africa, it provides the scientific foundation and practical experiences in the education of Knowledge Managers.

Rationale

The **Knowledge Management Academy for Change** in Africa is a joint initiative of Caritas Africa and the KM Academy. Through the delivery of knowledge services – education and training, advisory and support services – it shall strengthen the effective implementation and development of Knowledge Management and thereby the performance of all operations in the development work of Caritas Africa and related partners. KM is supporting the development, sharing, capturing and upscaling of knowledge of staff, organisations, sectors and countries as a whole. Knowledge is at the heart of human dignity, considering that a self-determined life of individuals, the effective operation of organisations, as well as the development of sustainable societies depends on the availability and good use of knowledge. Thereby, knowledge management is an instrument on the one side, but it is also a matter of development work itself.

Targeted outcomes and objectives

Finally, the KM Academy 4 Change in Africa targets happy, knowledgeable citizens, able to self-determine their lives and create decent incomes; to strengthen social as well as income-generating organisations to perform well through knowledge, as well as the transformation of African countries into sustainable knowledge societies.

The objectives include

1. Capacities of Caritas organisations and partners in Knowledge Management and knowledge-based development are adequate to achieve their full potential.
2. State-of-the-art approaches, standards, methods, and tools in Knowledge Management are applied in organisations through advisory and support.
3. Knowledge partnerships and other forms of community / sector /national / regional activities targeting the advancement of knowledge are established, professionally facilitated, and strengthened to achieve societal impact.

Services and products

Education and training services include webinars, face-to-face and blended trainings, as well as certification courses, and “KM4D Challenges”, combining educational with transformational elements.

Advisory and support services include the tailored knowledge transfer to organisations through experts and practitioners.

Advocacy services include the advancement of inclusive knowledge societies, the strengthening of knowledge in society for the benefit of all people.

Resources

Both partners will promote the joint initiative and develop it strategically through their own means and contributions.

Caritas Africa will specifically mobilise participants and projects within Caritas Africa.

KMA will provide expertise, educational programmes and curricula, international faculty, advisory service packages as well as approached and instruments for the advancement of knowledge societies.

The KM Academy for Change will be a virtual programme and not require a physical office on it’s own. People work from their respective workplaces and virtually together.

Services delivered need to be paid by the participants / receivers of the services and thereby finance the overheads which are created through the KM Academy 4 Change. Both partners can claim at least an overhead contribution of 10% each of the turnover created.

Governance

The decision of the KM Academy for Change shall be taken jointly by a management team representing both partners, Caritas Africa and KMA.

Learning and Innovation

On a quarterly basis, the management team comes together formally – beyond ongoing communication and collaboration – to review the progress and learn while acting to advance the

programme and innovate in its operations. On an annual basis, the management team reports to the Management of both Caritas Africa and KMA on the achievements.