

SAMAFALA



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EDITORIAL

This second number of Samafala comes out at the end of this year 2019 during a particularly joyful time for us Christians: the season of Christmas. This feast reminds us the closeness of God to all

humankind, particularly to the poor, the migrants, the refugees, the sick.

As you will see in these two pages our Caritas and other people who share the same spirit have tried to be close, to be near to people in need: they are in fact the first option for a social worker, and indeed they should be the first option for each human being, simply because they are the closest to God.

Our world needs committed people to serve those in need, not only because the poor need our help, but also because each one of us who may be healthy and wealthy find a sense of living, a purpose in life and joy, just in becoming near to people in need, as God has become near to humanity. The goods we have, be they economic, cultural, intellectual or simply of good health are to be shared: in sharing we find joy, in keeping them for ourselves we get sadness.

I wish all of you a generous heart and a spirit of love and service throughout the New Year 2020.

NEWS

21.10.2019 Nearly 40 per cent of Belet Weyne town has been affected by flooding with an estimated 72,000 people having moved to Ceel Jaale highlands and surrounding areas.

06.12.2019 Caritas has started collaboration with COOPI, offering food assistance to 1,000 vulnerable households affected by floods in Berdale, 55 Km northwest of Baidoa.

28.12.2019 More than 90 people have been killed in a truck bomb blast at a busy security check-point in Somalia's capital.

CARITAS' PROJECT



This chapter traces all projects that Caritas Somalia is following.

The “ My home... My Reer”

project was held on the 2nd September in Ali Addeh's camp. The Ali Addeh Refugee Camp, in Djibouti, hosts mainly Somali refugees although there are refugees also coming from the neighbouring countries such as Eritrea and Ethiopia. Caritas Somalia has arranged a drawing contest about the topic of migration on the occasion of the Global Week of Action on Art, with the goal to show how the Culture of Encounter transforms lives and changes mind-sets, combining art with policy advocacy.

Various questions were addresses to 20 young people: who are the migrants? Why do they migrate? It was astonishing to hear their answers: people migrate because of war and lack of education. Education for them is very important and therefore, when I asked about their dream, most of them answered that they would like to become a teacher. It was amazing to see in their drawings typical elements of their hometown's tradition like the flags or the typical trees under where elders sit to discuss.

Some of the young boys have described the violence in Lybia (surely they were told about that by family members who fled looking for a better future), the cruelty of some boat drivers who dump people into the sea, because the boat is too full, the destruction of houses due to the bombings or the difficult route made by migrants in order to find peace or simply to find a way to survive.



The competition ended with the hope that all the boys can realize their dreams and be above all peacemakers.

TESTIMONY

Eleonora: “To be born and to grow up in a refugee camp”.

The way to reach “Ali Addeh Refugee Camp” can be a mirror of the life of the thousands inhabitants who live in the camp: a winding road, totally unpaved, and apparently endless, tough to deal with. During our visit, we met some of the boys from the Camp: originally from Mogadishu, Merca, Chisimaio or Dagahbur, but which never had the chance to walk the crowded streets of their hometowns and that only know the history of their homeland through the stories told by their parents or relatives. These are precisely the stories representing the roots to a past never known, and that will probably never be experienced directly: a past made of suffered migrations, faced with a smile.



As if it were normal to be born in a ‘village for refugees’ and spend the whole life there.

The lightness and strength with which these boys, between 13 and 18 years of age, fight everyday life leave speechless and convey faith for the future. Because life cannot be that winding, tough and with an end hard to imagine. If you can keep hope alive, then also dreams become more affordable. And I sincerely hope that your own wishes, Amir, Ahmer, Nasir will come true and will be stronger than your past.

AnnalenaTonelli: stronger than death

Annalena Tonelli, is an Italian catholic lay missionary who sadly lost her life during her work in Boroma ("Somaliland")

Annalena had a degree in law and after her studies she decided to move to Africa with the "Committee for the fight against hunger in the world" based in Forlì (Italy).

At first she was a teacher in Kenya, then she got certificates on prevention of TB in Kenya, on tropical and community medicine in Great Britain and on leprosy in Spain.

In 1976 she became responsible of a pilot project of WHO for the cure of TB for nomadic populations based in Wajir in North Eastern Kenya and she developed a therapy adopted

later by WHO named DOTS.

She was always brave in defending the rights of the Somalis in Northeastern Kenya. In 1984 she moved to Somalia for a project against TB supported by Italy; in 1992 she went to Merca where she founded a hospital which was later taken over by Caritas Italy. In this hospital TB patients were treated with care and love. In 1995 she moved to Borama in " Somaliland ". In Borama she built up a hospital with 250 beds, a school for deaf, blind and disabled children, she started programs against female genital mutilation, for the AIDS cure and prevention and finally for the assistance to orphans and poor. In 2003 she was rewarded by UNHCR with the Nansen award for assistance towards refugees. Few months later on 5th October 2003 she was killed in her hospital by Islamic terrorists.



FROM OUR HISTORY

This chapter traces the history of Caritas Somalia from her foundation until nowadays.

1981: Caritas was involved in educational and health activities in refugee camps

As mentioned in the previous number, Caritas Somalia was born in response to Ogaden’s war emergency.

In 1981 Caritas Somalia was the first organization to intervene in the refugee issue. It has financed for one year a health team, consisting of a doctor and two nurses for the three camps of Qorioley. In the same year, it has built two dispensaries, two TB’s centers, three classrooms for a kindergarten and three classrooms for domestic science courses in Qorioley and Jalalaksi.

Caritas has worked in close collaboration with all other Christian and humanitarian organizations according an Ecumenical spirit.

In collaboration with Caritas Canada, Caritas Somalia has provided foods, medicines, clothes, books and wheel chairs to handicapped children in refugee camps.

Caritas has had very closed collaboration with Caritas Germany and with the “MalteserHilfedienst”. They have stipulated an agreement with the Somali government for water purification. Caritas has hosted and given all the assistance to people who came periodically from Germany to evaluate, plan and decide their activities.