

# SAMAFALA



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## EDITORIAL

This number of Samafala comes out in a particularly important season of the year for us Christians: the season of Lent. It is a season that invites us to “conversion”, to a “change of mind”, to a “change of behavior” in order to celebrate Easter in newness of heart.

This year Lent coincides with a particularly threatening moment for the whole world: the spreading of the “Corona virus” disease or COVID 19. It is a disease that has hit particularly some countries. But it is coming also to Africa. In Somalia one case has been registered, in Djibouti 2 cases are registered, in the neighboring countries more cases are registered. It is difficult to know if in Somalia there are more cases, since it is a quite big country with weak governmental institutions and already afflicted by other calamities like the torrential rains of some months ago and the big threat posed by the locusts.

All these calamities and in a particular way the COVID 19 invite us to a “change of mind”, to a “change of behavior”, to a “conversion”: we need to recognize that we are all one human family, despite our national, tribal or religious differences. This invisible enemy, COVID 19, can be defeated only if we put together our efforts, if we share the goods of intelligence, of creativity, of compassion, of faith, of economy. COVID 19 offers us the possibility of a heart renewal, of a humanity that is more fraternal, respectful of its differences and at the same time aware that we are “one family”, all brothers and sisters.

## NEWS

**1.02.2020** The Federal Government of Somalia declared the locust invasion an emergency

**26.02.2020** Somalia approved a new electoral law which introduces the system “one man, one vote”.

**16.03.2020** Dr. Fawziya Abikarm, the Somalia’s health minister, announced the first Covid-19 case in Somalia

## CARITAS’ PROJECT

“Emergency Response Deyr Rains” is an emergency project in collaboration with COOPI as operational partner to which Caritas Italiana gave a contribution. This project aimed to help 1000 vulnerable householders with food assistance in Berdale.

Berdale town is an agricultural town located approximately 55Kms northwest of Baidoa with an estimated population of 50,000 people, according to the local authorities. The current exceptional rains have displaced directly an estimated 35,000 people within the town and surrounding villages of whom an estimated 6000 people are IDPs within the town.

The effects of Deyr rainy season began in October with a heavy downpour causing flash flooding in Berdale town that affected the IDPs and host communities in the town. The floods were precipitated by the over flow or breakage of the river banks of the seasonal rivers in the district.

The distribution exercise made by COOPI’s staff, was carried out on the 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> of January, 2020. The different types of food items provided to each of the 1,000 target beneficiaries were: 25 kg of rice, 25 kg of flour, 10 kg of sugar, 5 Ltrs. of cooking oil and a box milk powder.

The end project evaluation survey was carried out from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2020. The evaluation shows that the 61% were female headed household; 100% of the households surveyed expressed their satisfaction in the selection criteria administered and registration process; the total average age of the respondents’ was reported to be 43.74 years; 100% of the surveyed households reported being comfortable with the distance to the distribution point saying it was not a pressing issue to them; all the interviewed households were aware of the food entitlements they expected to receive; all the 100 interviewed respondents (100%) reported to be



happy and satisfied with the quality and quantity of the food items received. The collaboration with COOPI has been a quick and successful choice.

## TESTIMONY

### **Margherita: my aim is to provide help for the poor and forgotten people in need.**

My name is Margherita Terzi and I am a teacher for German and English in Italy and Austria, especially for migrants and refugees, but I have always been working in other countries teaching and supporting street children and refugees. Few years ago I came for the first time as a tourist to Djibouti and I had the big chance to meet the Bishop Giorgio Bertin, a wonderful person, who showed me his schools and his great work in Djibouti. I promised to come back and to teach voluntarily and so I did.



Since about 1 year I have the great joy to support as a translator for English the great work of my amazing friend Sara and of our beloved Bishop Giorgio Bertin.

I try to go to Djibouti quite often during the year to do volunteer teaching and also to help with the English translations of the Samafala newsletter, but also I do it via email from Europe. My goal and my aim is to provide help for the poor and forgotten people in need, wherever and whenever I can and I think that everybody can give a contribution to that.

Being sure that the efforts of Sara and the Bishop will be rewarded in the future, I am going to continue helping them, even if it is only a little cooling drop on a hot stone in the Somali desert.

### **Maria Cristina Luinetti: the first martyr woman in Somalia**

Maria Cristina Luinetti was born on the 22nd of March 1969. The 16th November 1991 she got the Certificate of Red



Cross volunteer nurse. She did volunteering work as a Red Cross nurse for the Italian military and for the afflicted Somali population during the military operation IBIS 2. To avoid that an armed Somali citizen, who penetrated in the polyclinic, could kill innocent victims, she let him take her as a hostage. She was horribly killed by him and she died on the 9th December 1993. She was awarded with the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and with the Gold Medal of Merit for services rendered to the public health sector.

## FROM OUR HISTORY

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

**1983:** Caritas has completed his major project: the “Corioley Hospital”. This hospital was for 80 000 inhabitants of that agricultural area of Lower Shebele and for the 60 000 refugees. It was started on 21<sup>th</sup> August and completed on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1983. It had 2 dispensaries, a laboratory for analysis, an X-ray department, a maternity ward and a surgical ward.

Caritas Somalia has also helped a small Canadian organization that was taking care of over 250 refugee orphans. It has provided food, medicines, clothes and some equipment like tables, beds, etc.

Caritas has continued its work in collaboration with Caritas Italiana, Secours Catholique, Caritas Austria and Franciscans from Lombardy. Food received by these partners was distributed through two parish Caritas, missions of Kisimaayo, Merca, Gelib and 5 hospitals in Mogadishu where Consolata’s sisters were working.

Caritas’ work also was to take care about Somali Christians and for them it has organized projects to meet their needs. It had an educational, social centre where children and youth were helped with lessons after school and also have given professional training like tailoring and typing. Caritas Italian gave Lit 10.000.000 towards this centre.

**For more information and donation please contact**

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