

SAMAFALA



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EDITORIAL

Dear friends this Samafala comes out in a difficult moment for Somalia: once again drought is affecting millions of Somalis as well as other people in the Horn of Africa.

In fact it is with this problem in mind that together the Nuntio, Mgr Camilleri, Apostolic Delegate to Somalia (Vatican ambassador), that we made a visit to our partners in Mogadishu and were able to meet officially some of the Somali authorities. The situation of millions of Somalis inside Somalia is really dramatic and it needs a response from us and indeed from the international community.

However the situation in Somalia is so dramatic not only for climatic reasons. I share the opinion of some friends that in Africa, and so also and particularly in Somalia, we have to address some root causes if we want to seriously fight against drought. Three are the root causes that make of a “natural” problem a dramatic one. First: corruption; millions of dollars are taken from people in need for personal or family interests. Second: tribalism or “clanism”; instead of having in mind the national welfare, clans or regions fight each other at the detriment of the national community. Third: incompetence; offices are given to incompetent people, just because they are members of a given family, or friends or clans. Unless we address these causes, natural difficulties become a tragedy for most of the people living in our countries. May we be wise!

Fraternal greetings.

NEWS

15.05.2022 Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has been elected Somalia's president for four years, returning to the role he held between 2012 and 2017.

15.06.2022 H.E Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has appointed Mr. Hamza Abdi Barre as the Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Somalia.

04.08.2022 The Apostolic Nuncio Msgr. Camilleri with Msgr. Bertin and the director of Caritas Somalia, met the President

of the Somali Parliament and the special presidential envoy for drought response.

07.08.2022 A great majority of members of parliament approved the country's appointed cabinet by a show of hands.

CARITAS PROJECTS

Emergency response in Daynile- Mogadishu

In April 2022, Caritas Somalia, with the support of the local Ngo VAD, assisted 400 new IDP families from Las'anod and Qoryoley to settle in the Daynile area of Mogadishu. The assistance consisted of the distribution of tents, blankets and mosquito nets and essential material for emergency shelters.



The humanitarian intervention focused on families with the most vulnerable elements, including women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

The distribution took place in the Baydhabo Janay Centre complex, following a decision taken in consultation with camp leaders and local authorities.

The beneficiaries were satisfied with the quick response given by Caritas Somalia.

The local authorities have expressed their thanks to Caritas Somalia, especially as we have reached areas that are difficult to reach because of insecurity.

Development's activities in Mogadishu

In recent years, Caritas Somalia has fruitfully collaborated with the Civil-Military Cooperation Cell (CIMIC) of the Italian National Support Element.

In December 2021, Caritas Somalia, with the support of CIMIC, renovated and equipped a football field in the Shingani district. The intervention had been requested by the Deputy Mayor for Social Affairs, Mrs Basma Amir Ahmed.

The aim of this project was to improve access to sports facilities for young people in the district, promoting the practice of sport as a social activity among young people but also for educational growth. Furthermore, the implementation

of sports activities for young people can decrease the risk of them becoming the target of Al-Shabab's Islamist propaganda.

On 6 August 2022, Caritas Somalia, again with the logistical support of CIMIC, donated medical supplies to the MCH (mother and child health) Centre in Waberi, Mogadishu. The aim of the project was to equip the centre with specific equipment for gynecological examinations and obstetric examinations.



The ceremony took place at the International Camp in Mogadishu, in the presence of the director of the MCH Centre Waberi and two representatives of the directorate of health and human service of the Benadir region.

TESTIMONY

Gregory Fidel: "REALLY FAITHFULL"

Gregory Fidel was born in northern Somalia, present-day Somaliland. His father had converted to Christianity in the early 1900s. He belonged to the Issak tribe of the Habar jelow clan. He worked for years at Somali airlines. He later worked at UNICEF as treasurer.

He was married to a Somali Christian woman; they had two daughters and a son, but later separated. But he never wanted to divorce, he never wanted to break the bond. He was known for his righteousness.



When civil war broke out in Mogadishu, between late December 1990 and January 1991, he also had to leave Mogadishu, because he belonged to a *northern* tribe.

He wanted to do something for his people and in particular for 'Somaliland', destroyed by the April 1988 rebellion and the 1990 civil war. For this, Fidel, with the support of our Caritas, initiated a series of humanitarian projects. Thanks to Gregorio, Bishop Bertin was able to recover the church dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua and the adjacent house in Hargheisa, occupied by displaced people. Around the property, he built a wall that still stands today. He died on 14 February 2008 "after having served with dedication Caritas Somalia from 1991 to 1998 to provide relief to the poor in Somaliland". His body was buried next to the church.

FROM OUR HISTORY

This chapter traces the history of Caritas Somalia from its foundation until now

1986-1988: Emergency and development activities

In 1986 the 'water project' came to an end. A total of 100 wells were dug from scratch or reactivated in the districts of Jelib, Marka and Jamama. This project was carried out thanks to the support of various Caritas: Caritas Austria, Caritas Italiana, Australian Catholic Relief, Caritas Ambrosiana, Caritas Spain and Cafod. Other donations came from the Franciscans of Lombardy, Sophia university of Tokyo, Cor Unum and other Italian parishes.

17 August 1988 is a milestone date for Caritas Somalia. It is the date of its legal recognition by the Minister of Interior, dr. Mohamed Abdulle Baadle. In this same year, Caritas Somalia built its headquarters in the cathedral compound with Caritas Internationalis' financial support.

In 1988 Caritas intervened in the Wanle Weyne district (Dafet region), whose population was severely affected by the 1986-1987 drought. As a first action, Caritas made arrangements with the district authorities to implement both medium- and long-term projects to alleviate the suffering caused by the drought and help the population cope with the situation of recurring droughts. In particular, Caritas helped a group of hunters who lived in Dafet district in isolation and extreme poverty. During the project Caritas has distributed food sent by the EEC.

This last group that mostly suffered from the effects of the drought were the Eileh people (hunters). They were rejected by the other Somalis and moreover had lost their source of food, wild animals, which were decimated by the lack of rain. Caritas Somalia first built a village of 'arish', typical dwellings and provided them with a water supply. By the end of the year, 48 arish were built in Kulmis. In April 1988, Caritas arranged for two 6-hectare plots of land to be ploughed and cultivated with maize. These plots were given to the poorest 20 families from the Kulmis village, who received food in return for their work.

At the same time, Caritas Somalia also worked on cross-cutting issues such as the promotion of the status of women, access to basic education for minors and children with special needs. For example, 13 head nurses were trained in the Benadir hospital in Mogadishu.

Another important project carried out in this year was the creation of a farm of about 50 hectares in Beled ul-Karim (near Gelib in Lower Juba), which would allow all the inhabitants to use what nature offered to live on, in cooperation with muslim confraternity founded in 1932 by Shekh Nur Hussein. This experience was part of the inter-religious dialogue that has purposely been carried on by the local Church.

For more information and donation please contact

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