

Cesvi sUBIto UBI Banca supports Cesvi in the grave humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa

Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopian are facing their worst drought in 60 years which is causing a terrible food crisis and driving millions of people to flee the driest regions. According to the UN, it is affecting over 12 million people.

This year the rainy season just didn't come at all and this is causing severe hardship for the population. **Vincent Annoni**, Cesvi's regional co-ordinator for **Kenya, Somalia and Sudan**, who has been active in these countries for many years, confirms this: **"The loss of harvests has put the survival of families at risk.** It is also having serious effects on livestock because many families have lost half of their herds. **The situation regarding sanitation and water supplies is serious. Entire families have been walking for days and days desperately trying to reach one of the refugee camps"**.

The number of refugees is increasing continuously, with six thousand people arriving every month, in the Dadaab camp, on the border between Somalia and Kenya, where Cesvi is operating with public health and waste disposal projects. Living conditions in the camp are no longer sustainable (492 thousand refugees in a camp designed to take 90 thousand): they are mainly young people aged under 17 and elderly people over 60, two extremely vulnerable groups. Sixty percent are women. **The rate of acute malnutrition is over 25% and it is mainly children who are affected.** Adequate sanitation must be provided to prevent the outbreak of epidemics and infants need to be protected and supported with medical services and psychological and social assistance.

"After Pakistan, Myanmar and Bangladesh, once again the UBI Banca Group is enabling us to respond effectively to a humanitarian crisis" - said **Giangi Milesi, Chairman of Cesvi** - "Much remains to be done and it is also very important to work for the country's future. That is why we are working on projects to safeguard children and develop sanitation. **Today, thanks to UBI, everybody can help us** simply by going to one of the Group's branches. It really takes very little to help Somalia to start over again".

"Bangladesh, Myanmar, Haiti, Pakistan and now the Horn of Africa: when we look at these humanitarian tragedies which continue happen one after the other, it seems that what we are able to do is just like a drop in the ocean" – added **Emilio Zanetti, the Chairman of the Management Board of UBI Banca**. "Nevertheless, **small drops is what the ocean is made up of and therefore, no matter how small it may seem, our initiative has great value.** In the case of this famine in the Horn of Africa in particular, it is a tragedy which we citizens of the so-called developed countries must feel a little responsible for, because the underlying cause of those global climatic changes which have caused the worst drought in the region for 60 years is our model of development.

CESVI is once again in the front line with its dedicated and professional staff and UBI Banca is once again at its side with its contribution and with an appeal to the generosity of its customers".

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By going to one of the Group's 1,900 branches you can securely donate ten euro, with no charges, for a water collection and domestic sanitation kit for one family and 35 euro to support one child for a month (food, clothes, materials for school).

The credit transfer can be made at any of the branches of the banks in the UBI Banca Group without any fee or charge.

Donations to Cesvi are tax deductible or allowances may be claimed against them according to the legislation in force. Please send an email to donatori@cesvi.org or telephone the toll free number 800.036.036 for further information.

The Cesvi campaign (www.cesvi.org) falls within the framework of the initiatives co-ordinated by AGIRE (Italian agency for the response to emergencies) as part of the "Drought Emergency in East Africa" appeal. AGIRE (www.agire.it) co-ordinates twelve of the largest non governmental organisations which respond jointly to serious humanitarian emergencies.

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