



Abruzzo earthquake

6th April 2009

Update 27th October 2009

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1. INTRODUCTION

On 6th April 2009, at 3.32 a.m., an earthquake hit the town and district of L'Aquila causing more than 300 victims and heavy damages to private and public structures, especially in the city centre and in the surrounding villages.

During the first weeks of April the displaced population went over 66.000 units. In the following weeks they were hosted in tent-camps, hotels, private houses. On 25th October 2009 the Civil Protection declared that 24.000 people were still directly assisted:

- 2.234 hosted in 1.360 tents;
- 12.353 persons hosted in hotels (in Abruzzo, Marche, Lazio, Umbria and Molise regions);
- 1.164 persons hosted in police barracks;
- 8.685 persons hosted in private houses (in Abruzzo);
- 1.972 persons hosted in the government new villages;
- 377 persons hosted in other government temporary houses.



According to the CEI (Conferenza Episcopale Italiana - Italian Episcopal Conference) mandate, Caritas Italiana immediately activated a Caritas coordination centre (*photo*) with the task of assessing needs, programming actions, coordinating the resources and the necessary steps.

The solidarity expressed by singles, families, associations, groups, Italian and foreign parishes and dioceses, following the grants collection launched by CEI, allowed to collect (reference date: 20^h October 2009) more than 26 million euro (besides a 5 million euro contribution offered by CEI) which are used to realize activities in the whole territory, organized in 4 main categories:

- emergency and relief (tents, first emergency materials, listening activities, food...);
- accompanying actions to the population (volunteers, listening activities, animation in tents, needs assessment, etc.);
- reconstruction (community centres, various services structures, schools, etc...);
- socio-economical rehabilitation program (family credit support, small traders and small income production activities support, etc.).

According to the Caritas middle-long term accompanying activities presence, apart from first aid interventions, other intervention strategies are still implementing and outcomes will be visible in next months and years.

2. CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM (updated on 24th October 2009)

17 million euro will be dedicated to 18 priority structures, individuated within 1st of November (some already realized):

- n. 3 community centers
- n. 3 primary schools and kinder gardens
- n. 5 social housing structures
- n. 7 social, charity and diocesan services

COMMUNITY CENTERS *(to be finished within Christmas)*

Social pastoral multipurpose structures composed by wide multipurpose halls, accessible to everybody.

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>m²</i>	<i>Building technology</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Lucoli	Lucoli	288	wood	€ 642.000
L'Aquila	Bagno	252	steel	€ 640.000
L'Aquila	San Giacomo	304	steel	€ 495.000
		844		€ 1.777.000

PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND KINDER GARDENS *(to be finished within November 2009)*

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>m²</i>	<i>Pupils</i>	<i>Building technology</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Fossa	Fossa	1.280	168*	wood-steel	€ 2.169.700
Ocre	San Panfilo d'Ocre	1.276	168*	wood	€ 2.462.700
L'Aquila	Poggio di Roio	1.445	168*	wood	€ 2.598.000
		4.001	504		€ 7.230.200

*2 kinder garden classrooms and 5 primary school classrooms

SOCIAL HOUSING STRUCTURES *(planned to start within December 2009)*

Two floor structures, composed by 5 flats and common multipurpose spaces, which will be built in particular location where there is specific need of structure for weaker categories.

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>m²</i>	<i>Building technology</i>	<i>Cost</i>
L'Aquila	Pettino	914	cement-wood	€ 1.940.000
L'Aquila	San Marco di Preturo	576	wood	€ 1.000.000
L'Aquila	Monticchio	576	steel	€ 1.200.000
L'Aquila	Pile	288	wood	€ 670.000
L'Aquila	Roio Piano	710	steel-wood	€ 1.240.000
		1.490		€ 6.050.000

SOCIAL, CHARITY AND DIOCESAN SERVICES

Structures dedicated to reactivate services directly run by the parishes (listening centers, oratori, etc.), by diocesan Caritas (hosting structures, listening, counselling) or by specialized partners (associations, religious institutes) dedicated to specific society needs such as disability, and minors distress.

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>m²</i>	<i>Building technology</i>	<i>Cost</i>
L'Aquila	Coppito	188	Diocesan services center*	€ 235.500
L'Aquila	La Torretta	161	Minors distress center*	€ 245.500
Barisciano	Barisciano	51	Caritas center*	€ 44.300
L'Aquila	Pettino	51	Parish services center*	€ 18.800
L'Aquila	Civita di Bagno	480	Caritas warehouse	€ 490.000
L'Aquila	Paganica	450	AISM Rehabilitation center	€ 640.000
L'Aquila	Paganica	300	Caritas center	€ 580.000
		1.681		€ 2.254.000

*Realized structures

3. RECEIVED DONATIONS (updated on 24th October 2009)

More than 26 millions euro have been collected thanks to the solidarity of singles, families, associations, groups, parishes, Italian and foreign Dioceses. CEI has offered 5 millions euro, for a total amount of 31 millions euro to be dedicated to earthquake emergency relief.

<i>Total received donation</i>	
Dioceses and diocesan Caritas	€ 18.821.389
Private donations, parishes, congregations, foreign donations	€ 7.858.347
CEI (Conferenza Episcopale Italiana - Italian Episcopal Conference)	€ 5.000.000
	€ 31.679.736

4. MAIN “POPULATION SUPPORT ACTIVITIES” REALIZED

- Parish community support activities (support to priests, catechism and animation activities support, parish and displaced population link activities, pray and liturgical celebration animation activities, religious support for displaced population, etc...);
- adult population, especially elderly and sick, support (music, cinema, theatre and workshop, pilgrimages, home care service, etc..);
- activities for kids, teen-agers, younger (animation, summer animation camps, sport and playing moments, creative workshops, theatre, music, oratorio, pre-school activities, Italian language class, etc...) ;
- visits and sharing experiences activities between local communities and twinned diocesan communities.

<i>Main “population support activities” realized</i>	
RELIEF	€ 126.701
Tents, first emergency aid, families support, etc.	
SUPPORT TO DISPLACED POPULATION HOSTED IN TENT CAMPS	€ 614.726
Support to tent camps running, listening activities, animation activities, volunteer activities promotion	
FIRST RECONSTRUCTION	€ 2.160.890
First reconstruction realized interventions, etc.	
	€ 2.902.317

5. FIRST EMERGENCY DATA

During the first emergency months several goods have been distributed, thanks to the warehouse activated in the parish of S. Francesco in Pettino, run thanks to the Abruzzo and Molise Caritas volunteers’ activity:



- food (pasta, sauce, tins);
- water;
- personal hygiene products;
- blankets;
- cloths;
- tents;
- sleeping bags;
- beds.

More than 20.000 people have been reached through first emergency help.

6. VOLUNTEERS

More than 2.800 persons have been volunteering between April and September 2009, plus 50 volunteers who had the opportunities to spend part of their national voluntary civil service in Abruzzo. 2.000 volunteers are foreseen for the months between October and December 2009.

The volunteers mainly realized the following activities:

- community animation;
- pastoral parish activities support;
- families support;
- home care;
- listening;
- first need response;
- support in tents camp running.

7. CARITAS NETWORK COORDINATION

Several regional Caritas delegations activities' coordination and monitoring meetings have been organized:



- Caritas regional delegates meeting in Rome (19th May);
- Caritas Italiana presidency (29th April, 8th June, 15th-16th September) and national council (9th-10th June);
- 11 weekly "Z10" meeting between Caritas coordination center and regional Caritas delegation field officers (28th July, 3rd-12th-19th August, 9th-16th-22nd-29th September, 6th-13th-20th October);
- 3 monthly monitoring and programming meetings "G18" between Caritas coordination center and regional Caritas delegation field officers, if need be open to other actors (15th June, 18th July, 2nd and 3rd September);
- several bilateral meetings between Caritas coordination center and regional Caritas delegation field officers, with the participation of the parish priests.

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Communication with all the Italian diocesan Caritas is guaranteed through:

- update section of the Caritas Italiana website www.caritasitaliana.it;
- news and interviews on the monthly magazine *Italia Caritas*;
- periodic update from the Caritas coordination center on the twice-weekly newsmagazine *Informacaritas*.

Moreover the Caritas programs and experiences are spread by the twice-weekly newspaper *Volà* distributed in the Archdiocese of L'Aquila, and will be spread by a coming soon newspaper which will connect all the displaced population in the Abruzzo region.

**From left to right in the above photo: His Excellence Giuseppe Msgr. Merisi, President of Caritas Italiana; His Excellence Giuseppe Msgr. Molinari, Archbishop of L'Aquila; His Eminence Angelo Card. Bagnasco, President of the Italian Episcopal Conference.*