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 **EARTHQUAKE IN CENTRAL ITALY: THE COMMITMENT OF MISSION BAMBINI TOWARDS THE DAMAGED SCHOOLS**

*Mission Bambini has launched a fundraising campaign to collect donations to enable children to start the new school year in the best possible way.*

*30/08/2016.* **Mission Bambini Foundation launched its campaign for the people affected by the 24 August earthquake in Central Italy**. *“We want to make our contribution* – said **Goffredo Modena**, president of Mission Bambini Foundation – *to let children start the new school year in September in the best possible way, given in this tragic incident”*.

The Italian Minister of Education, Stefania Giannini, stated that **15 schools have been damaged by the earthquake, affecting a total of 750 students**. The Minister also added that for the moment the transfer of students in other schools is out of the question.

President of the foundation, Goffredo Modena continued: *“The authorities that are involved in the reconstruction and in the preparation of temporary structures for the school activities are the Ministry of Education, Universities, and Research and the Civil Protection. The aim of our fundraising campaign is to buy the schools materials – such as information technology and scientific equipment, interactive multimedia boards, computers, books for school libraries, and everything that is vital for the running of the schools in this moment of crisis”*. **The Foundation has already started an assessment** with the Regional School office of *Lazio Ambito Territoriale di Rieti* and the national association of *Head teachers* to understand the essential needs of the schools.

The decision of the Foundation to start this fundraising campaign was taken after **a visit to the affected area by Marco Bertaggia, a foundation volunteer** and coordinator of the Latina province for the Foundation. He also took part in the distribution of relief goods to the people in the tent camps of Accumoli and Scai organized by the associations Anget and Angeli della Misericordia. The institutions have recently stated that enough relief goods have arrived. So **the Foundation has chosen to focus its intervention on the area of education**, in line with its programs in Italy in favour of schools and against educational poverty, – in the last 10 years the foundation has supported more than 50 after-school clubs and 100 nursery schools and has also implemented maintenance activities in more than 30 school buildings.

*“We want to share our experience in the management of crises with the affected populations* – concludes president Modena – *as we have already worked in this emergency context in past years. In particular after the* ***earthquakes in L’Aquila and the Emilia region, where we listened to the people’s needs and, in answering these needs, the Foundation implemented different projects”***. In the province of L’Aquila Mission Bambini provided a pharmaceutical dispensary with a clinic in Fossa, a recreational centre in Gignano and a nursery school in Castelnuovo. Whereas in the Emilia region it provided a recreational and multifunctional centre in San Possidonio.

**[www.missionbambini.org](http://www.missionbambini.org).**