

## **Cassa Centrale Group: over €1.4 million collected for people affected by the flood in Emilia-Romagna**

**Trento, 14 December 2023** – With **more than €1.4 million**, the **fundraiser** to help the people and the companies hit hard by the **flood in Emilia-Romagna**, promoted by **the Cassa Centrale Group** since last May, has come to a close.

Thanks to the contributions of all the Affiliated Banks, of Allitude, Assicura Agenzia and Broker, Claris Leasing and Rent, NEAM and Prestipay, the cooperative partners and Group customers, the solidarity initiative made it possible to achieve a significant result, supporting practical action to help the affected areas recover and assisting people and micro-enterprises in their recovery, following the emergency phase.

Based on the real needs of the communities involved, a well-structured plan of special initiatives was drawn up, which will be implemented through **Caritas Italiana**, the **Affiliated Banks** located in the affected areas and the **Federation of BCCs (Cooperative Credit Banks) of Emilia-Romagna**.

More specifically, thanks to its widespread presence in the local area and its long-established relationship with the Group for other important solidarity initiatives, Caritas Italiana will be able to implement a number of **economic support initiatives** addressed to **individuals** and **micro-enterprises**, through Caritas' Listening Centres in the 5 most affected Dioceses (Cesena-Sarsina, Forlì-Bertinoro, Imola, Ravenna-Cervia and Faenza-Modigliana).

**Structural work** has also been planned to restore meeting places for disadvantaged categories. The restoration works of the "Don Carlo Cavina" Nursing Home and the "San Francesco di Assisi" Charity Foundation have already started in the town of Lugo, as well as, in Castel Bolognese, the replacement of furniture, systems and the re-plastering of the Cinema Teatro Moderno. Numerous other projects are currently being defined.

Based on the reports received from the BCCs located in the flooded areas, the structural initiatives already confirmed concern:

- the restoration of use of the parish schools "San Giuseppe" in Bagnara di Romagna and "Don Evaristo Venturini" in Giovecca in Lugo;
- the refurbishment of the Youth Centre managed by the "San Seba - Giovani in campo" Project in Solarolo;

- the purchase of an equipped pick-up vehicle to aid the Public Assistance Service of Monterenzio;
- the purchase of a 4WD vehicle for the Bologna Committee of the Italian Red Cross for the Loiano site that serves the Apennine area affected by the flood.

Further initiatives are being defined in collaboration with the **Federation of BCCs of Emilia Romagna** and the associated BCCs that are part of the Cassa Centrale Group.

"We are proud to have achieved this important milestone, thanks to the collective commitment of all the players involved and the local roots of the Group, which will take the form of important solidarity initiatives to help the people affected – stated **Giorgio Fracalossi** and **Sandro Bognesi**, **Chairman** and **Chief Executive Officer of Cassa Centrale Banca**. - The Group banks established in the affected areas will continue to represent a point of reference for households and businesses, in continuity with our modus operandi and our values, to make an effective contribution by making a real system with institutions and third sector entities that tackle difficult situations".

*In Emilia Romagna, the Group has 7 Cooperative Credit Banks (**Banca Centro Emilia, Banca di Bologna, Banca Malatestiana, BCC della Romagna Occidentale, BCC Felsinea, BCC di Sarsina, Romagna Banca**) which together have 153 branches and which employ 1,273 people. Direct funding exceeds €7.2 billion, overall funding €12 billion and loans €6.3 billion. Equity (CET1) amounts to €953.5 million.*

*The Cassa Centrale - Credito Cooperativo Italiano Group includes 67 BCCs - Rural Banks - Raiffeisenkassen and 1,478 branches across Italy, more than 11,900 employees and over 470 thousand Cooperative Partners. With balance sheet assets of €91.1 billion as at 30 June 2023, the Group ranks among the top 10 nationally.*