



CNEWA-Pontifical Mission

the papal agency for Middle East relief and development

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CNEWA - PONTIFICAL MISSION

FUNDING PROPOSAL

1. **Project Name:** “Healthy Homes for Healthy Mothers and Children”
2. **Donor:** KHS-Holland – Bishop’s Appeal
3. **Project no.:** J2518

4. **Problem Analysis:**

Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian territories negatively affects the Palestinian economy contributing to high unemployment and poverty rates which devastates the socio-economic fabric of Palestine both in the immediate and long-term. Bethlehem Governorate – one of 16 Governorates in Palestine, currently has the highest unemployment rate with a rate of 21.3 percent¹ where most households live at or below the poverty line. Unemployment and poverty is also highest in occupied East Jerusalem compared to other cities and towns in Israel; 76 percent of East Jerusalem Palestinian residents and 83.4 percent of East Jerusalem children live at or below the poverty line².

The Palestinian labor force is one of the largest sectors of the Palestinian economy and is directly affected by Israel’s occupation; there were 1.3 million Palestinian Muslim and Christian laborers in 2016 where 844,600 laborers are from the West Bank. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), there are currently 360,500 unemployed Palestinian laborers (in 2016) where nearly half or 153,700 of those are from the West Bank. The number of unemployed laborers has increased over the last few years as Palestine’s economy remains unstable. In fact, Palestine’s job market is highly competitive with few jobs available resulting in the high number of unemployed but highly skilled workforce. Many laborers also face the challenges of the occupation, waiting in long lines at all hours of the morning and night to cross Israeli checkpoints to reach places of work. The work is arduous and depending on the type of work and employer, is usually low-pay.

Household income remains incredibly low for most Palestinian families living in Bethlehem Governorate. A typical Palestinian household consists of a mother and her children where the head of the household is most likely unemployed but still looking for work. Other vulnerable households also include single-family households (most likely female-headed households and her dependent children). According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), 11 percent of all Palestinian households (West Bank and Gaza Strip) are female-headed households; 12.1 percent of those are in the West Bank. Although the number of women that are working today (19.3 percent) compared to 2001 (10.3 percent), the participation rate is still low compared to the global rate.

Households - especially those of single-family and poor households have resorted to donor aid programs and subsidies to cover basic household needs (food, water and other

¹ PCBS, Labor Force Survey 2016.

² Association for Civil Rights in Israel, East Jerusalem Facts and Figures 2017.

utility bills, school fees and healthcare services). It is important to note that the West Bank lacks a national. For other families, limited household income leaves minimal for additional household costs such as home maintenance and repair. As a result, families postpone rehabilitation projects resulting in haphazard home environments (such as faulty electrical wiring, failing infrastructure, mold and mildew build-up and water leakage). These poor living conditions overtime affect the health and safety of the entire family, especially for young children. Poor housing conditions increase the risk of severe ill-health or disability by up to 25 percent during childhood and early adulthood. development and growth in both the immediate and long term. In fact, according to studies these children are more likely than other children of higher income households their age to suffer from respiratory problems and infection or have mental health problems in their childhood and adolescence. Children living in poor or overcrowded conditions are more likely to have respiratory problems, to be at risk of infections and have mental health problems. Housing that is in poor conditions or overcrowded also threatens children's safety. The impact on children's development is both immediate and long-term; growing up in poor or overcrowded housing has been found to have a lasting impact on a child's health and wellbeing throughout their life.

According to local Churches in Bethlehem, Palestinian Christian families including those with mothers and children are in desperate need of aid to help improve their homes. Without a safe and healthy home and other factors that affect quality of life, Palestinian Christian families have no choice but to emigrate. In fact, the community continues to face an emigration crisis as the number of families emigrating has significantly increased in the past few years and is now threatening the community's existence in the Holy Land.

5. Proposed Project:

As a direct result of the Israeli occupation and the absence of a just peace between Israel and Palestine, Palestinian livelihoods continue to be gravely affected. Working opportunities are extremely limited within the current political and economic hardships dominating the West Bank, which impacts the lives of Palestinians, especially children. The impact of unemployment and poverty is poor housing conditions. The term "poor housing" can be defined as dwellings that were cold and damp, overcrowded, or badly designed and built.

In terms of the Christian community, it becomes extremely challenging for some Christian families to provide the means to upkeep and maintain their home without a stable source of income. Overtime, the living environment of the home worsens, causing health hazards that affects the entire family.

CNEWA- Pontifical Mission for Palestine (PMP) can help address the needs of poor and underprivileged households, specifically the needs of Palestinian Christians and most importantly, female-headed households. The proposed rehabilitation project for Christians targets the needs of mothers and children, "*Healthy Homes for Healthy Mothers and Children*". The project intends to rehabilitate the homes of Palestinian Christians who are living at or below the poverty line, with limited to no source of income and living in dwellings that are defined as "poor housing". The project will provide the financial means to rehabilitation the home while providing temporary employment for unemployed laborers.

This project scheme was successful in the last rehabilitation project phase, as 20 homes were rehabilitated (4 homes in Beit Jala, 10 homes in Bethlehem, and 6 homes in Beit

Sahour), and at the same time, created job opportunities for 21 laborers and 72 family members.

Over the next year, the proposed project intends to provide 1,050 workdays for 17-20 skilled and unskilled laborers, contracting 15-20 local suppliers and subcontractors that generate work and income for the labor sector. The project would ensure that laborers work in a work environment with fair wages. Through the project, 15-20 homes of poor Christian families (estimated 100 beneficiaries) consisting of mothers and children and living at or below the poverty line will benefit. The housing rehabilitation project typically includes wall and ceiling plastering and painting, door, window refurbishment or painting, reparation work to floor tiles, rehabilitation of bathroom fixtures and facilities, etc. Families will be selected based on selection criteria:

- Families including mothers and children, living at or below the poverty line; those families with members that have severe illness or are physically challenged (e.g. cancer, wheelchair-bound family member, etc.) or newlywed couple and/or with children that are unable to complete work on their home due to financial difficulties.
- Living conditions that have negatively impacted the family's social, physical or psychological health (e.g. infestation, severe mold and mildew, water leakage and exposure to the elements, over crowdedness, etc.).

Partners:

PMP will oversee the work implemented throughout the duration of the project in partnership with a new project partner ATS Pro Terra Santa. ATS pro Terra Sancta is a non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) serving the Custody of the Holy Land. The projects of Association Pro Terra Sancta are aimed at providing support and training for the Christian communities, preserving and enhancing the Holy Places, and carrying humanitarian aid to those in need in the Holy Land.

Last project phase, the PMP worked with the Holy Land Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF) however the institution was disbanded. PMP will also partner with local Christian institutions (Franciscan Social Service Office, St. Vincent de Paul Social Work Department and Caritas Baby Hospital Social Department) for the beneficiary selection process (social cases that include the profile of each family prioritizing those families consisting of mothers and their children). ATS Pro Terra Santa will supply the laborers, the engineer and the supplies to conduct the work at the beneficiary homes.

Planned activities:

Social worker assessment: During the social worker's visit the potential clients complete a survey that includes the following information about the applicant; type of home, address, number of members per family, income level/employment record and aid dependency and if any previous loans taken as well as required rehabilitation (identification of homes: This includes analyzing and classifying the surveys into the following categories: inhabited homes, uninhabited homes, extensions, and completion of renovation work). Once compiled, this information will be shared with PMP for review and the selection process. PMP and partners will determine eligibility of families and select final list based on the assessments.

Technical evaluation: the technical staff will make a visit to the beneficiaries to assess the technical viability of the rehabilitation solution proposed.

Approval for work: Applications and homes that have been assessed and visited and are found to have a valid rehabilitation scope are approved for work and a construction budget is prepared for the rehabilitation project. The projects will be implemented thereafter.

PMP will partner with ATS Pro Terra Santa and consultant engineer in the planning and implementation of each rehabilitation project, to examine and oversee the technical specifications of the project. Jointly, PMP and ATS Pro Terra Santa will select and contract 17-20 skilled and unskilled unemployed laborers and tradesmen for 1,050 days of work: carpenters, electricians, masons, and plumbers; select and contract local suppliers and transportation companies and establish a local management team responsible for implementing, supervising, and evaluating the work conducted under the program. The project will ensure that quality work environment and fair pay is provided for all contracted laborers.

6. Project Budget:

PMP seeks financial support from KHS-Holland (Bishop Appeal) in the amount of **€69,500** towards the project, *“Healthy Homes for Healthy Families: Providing employment, renovating homes and giving hope to mothers & children in Bethlehem”*. The following table highlights the proposed project budget in greater detail:

Program Time Frame: Start Date: March 1, 2019
End Date: December 29, 2019

**KHS-Holland Bishop Appeal 2018
Project Budget (One year)**

No.:	Program Items:	Total Cost in Euro:
1.	Rehabilitation Costs (Materials, Supplies, Transportation) - estimated cost per home €2,314	35,100
2.	Labor and wages - estimated cost per home €1,850	28,000
3.	Supervising engineer, financial control and management - estimated cost per home €450	6,400
	Total Project Cost:	69,500
	Requested Amount:	€69,500.00