



CNEWA-Pontifical Mission

the papal agency for Middle East relief and development

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Pontifical Mission - Jerusalem

Funding Proposal

1. **Project Name:** Emergency assistance to support the elderly at Antonian Charitable Society, Bethlehem
2. **Donor:** Dutch Lieutenancy
3. **Project no.:** J2584

4. **Problem Analysis:**

Considered one of the most difficult conflicts in history, hostilities between Palestine and Israel have been ongoing sporadically since the formation of the Israeli state in 1948. The impact of the conflict has left the Palestinian health system in a chronic state of disarray. Palestinians have always been forced to rely on charitable institutions and local medical clinics to provide primary and secondary healthcare. In fact, the role of the state is granting system entitlements to its citizens which is an important part of the sustainability and liability of the system. However, since the signing of the Oslo Peace Accords in 1993 and the establishment of the Palestinian Authority (PA), there has never been an integrated comprehensive social security system; only an authority to administer stewardship over some health care establishments. As a result, most Palestinians rely heavily on charitable institutions and medical clinics for almost all their healthcare and welfare needs. Elderly Palestinians (who are above the age of 65 years old), are not only left without healthcare coverage but also lack an old-age pension fund which raises the risk of increased poor health and economic poverty. The immediate families of the elderly are also at risk of greater economic burden caring for their elderly relative. Economic, social and health burdens have a greater impact on these families as they face lowered income and higher living costs, emotional and physical toll for daily caregiving and in the case of medical emergencies, forgo medical treatment and hospitalization. In such cases, there is a particular risk of the elderly suffering from isolation or even abandonment in Palestine.

The proposed project intends to involve a locally operated non-profit, non-governmental institution that has served the elderly since 1942 in Bethlehem governorate. The Antonian Charitable Society has assisted the elderly who are usually living at or well below the poverty line, recently widowed and unable to afford their living or abandoned and at risk of malnutrition and other health or mental issues. Currently, the society has a total of 28 elderly residents, cared for by the society's Sisters and staff including on-call nurses and physiotherapists. The Antonian Charitable Society relies heavily on the income from the Saint Antony Hotel, which provides modest accommodation for Christian pilgrims in Bethlehem; half of the income of the hotel helps cover the operating costs of the society including utilities, staff salaries and medical supplies.

5. **Proposed Project:**

Emergency Assistance for the Antonian Charitable Society

On March 5, 2020 following the first cases of COVID 19 discovered in Bethlehem, the PA declared a State of Emergency in Bethlehem, in fear of an uncontrolled spread of the coronavirus that would cause serious complications for local health institutions throughout

the governorate. Since the lockdown, all incoming and outgoing tourism – which was already having a record year in 2019 and 2020, was completely shut-down resulting in losses of millions of NIS. Local businesses, hotels and restaurants had begun laying-off staff, sharply increasing the unemployment rate.

During the crisis, the Antonian Charitable Society was also overwhelmingly affected by the emergency crisis. The society experienced a cessation of income almost immediately from the losses at Saint Antony Hotel, directly affecting the society’s ability to cover operating costs and staff salaries. Utility expenses were already owed to the electric and gas companies as the winter season which entailed high demand for electricity and gas.

A previously funded project to provide emergency support to the Antonian Charitable Society was successfully delivered from CNEWA-Pontifical Mission (PMP) and ATS Pro Terra Santa, covering salaries of nurses, supplying masks and medical gloves, sanitizer, food and covering utility bills. This effort helped support the society directly and ensured all 28 residents’ access to services and healthy meals.

As the emergency lockdown of Bethlehem continues through the month of April 2020, the society seeks donor funding to cover basic expenses in order to keep the society operational. It is fundamental that the society continues to provide services and care for its residents who have no other alternative residence or care in their area. The society is in dire need to cover utilities, employee salaries, transportation costs, food, and medicine/treatment for elderly residents.

PMP will be the project holder for the proposed project, overseeing all work in partnership with ATS Pro Terra Santa. ATS pro Terra Sancta is a non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) serving the Custody of the Holy Land and works directly in the Bethlehem governorate.

6. Project Budget:

PMP seeks financial support from the Dutch Lieutenancy towards the project, **“Emergency Support for the elderly of the Antonian Charitable Society”** for a total of **€10,000**. Please find the project budget listed below:

Project: Emergency Support for the Elderly of the Antonian Charitable Society

No.:	Project Item:	Total Cost in EURO:
1.	Salaries – Employees	1,500
2.	Transportation Expenses	1,000
3.	Food Supplies	3,000
4.	Utilities	3,000
5.	Emergency Medication & other material	1,500
	Total Project Cost:	10,000
	Requested Amount:	10,000

