



STIFTUNG KORBGEMEINSCHAFT
HILFE FÜR SYRIEN

„Bread for Syria“ Construction of a regional bakery in Maaruneh

The foundation [“KorbGemeinschaft – Hilfe für Syrien”](#) has prepared this information sheet to reach out to humanitarian aid agencies and to charitable individuals who are willing to take the instruction of Jesus "They do not need to go away, YOU give them something to eat!" (Mt 14:16) seriously. Sharing bread with the poor is one of the strongest symbols of true Christianity. If we understand that the bread comes by the grace of God, it needs open hands to receive and pass on this grace. The desperate call of the Syrian Christians to the world is "Help us stay in our home country in order to witness to Christ here!" Such a project would perfectly correspond to this request.

Description of the current situation:

A large portion of the Syrian population is facing bitter poverty after the long years of war. In the meantime, the rural population has no longer access even to good bread. They mostly get bread of poor quality, – occasionally even of an unsafe hygienic condition, often as a result of corruption. The planned regional bakery is to provide the population of Maaruneh and the neighbouring villages with good, healthy bread at a low price. These are about 20,000 people, including many internally displaced persons, as Maaruneh almost miraculously remained undestroyed despite its location close to Duma. For the poorest among them (including orphanages and retirement homes) it is intended to provide the bread for free. In Syria, a meal without bread is unthinkable. Bread is a firm component of any meal. This is the case even more so now, with meat and fruit having become unaffordable for most people.

Basic project data:

The regional bakery is being built in the Christian village of Maaruneh, 22 km northeast of Damascus, and will have a production capacity of 8,000 flat breads per hour. It is envisaged for the production of good, healthy bread at a price of 10 Euro-Cent per kilo. The management of the bakery will be entrusted to Christian hands, so that the jobs created will be based on ethic and truly Christian principles.

Since the state permits were issued with an expiry date, the project must be implemented promptly to avoid that they are issued to someone else, thus slipping out of the Christian hands.

Organisational key data:

- The building plot has been provided by the local Melkite parish of St. John Baptist.
- The project is carried out in the name of the Greek Catholic Patriarchate in Damascus.
- All the required permits for the operation of a regional bakery have been granted by the Syrian state, subsidized flour and energy are will also be provided by the state.
- The project consists of three phases, namely the regional bakery itself and later extensions to add a restaurant and guest house, respectively.
- In light of the large scope of the envisaged total costs, the regional bakery will be set up and put into operation as the first project phase. The later extensions are intended to serve as a meeting place with a welcoming atmosphere in the Christian spirit. The income from these project extensions is to ensure the sustainable financing of the regional bakery.
- The bakery machines are produced in Lebanon (a detailed quote has been submitted).

KorbGemeinschaft-Hilfe für Syrien
Pratergasse 9
1090 Wien
Österreich
Tel: 0043 (0)1/3103843-904
Email: office@korggemeinschaft.at
www.korggemeinschaft.at

Bankverbindung in Österreich:
KorbGemeinschaft-Hilfe für Syrien
Erste Bank
IBAN: AT942011182857556000
BIC: GIBAATWWXXX

Bankverbindung in Deutschland:
missio - München
Liga Bank
IBAN: DE96 7509 0300 0800 0800 04
BIC: GENODEF1M05
Verwendungszweck: 58159 Ghoneim/Syrien

Planning details:

- First project phase: Construction of the regional bakery and installation of the machines and equipment to put the bakery into operation.
- Co-financing by several aid agencies and private donors.
- The building plot comprises an area of 2,300 m²
- The building area of the bakery is 585 m²
- The bakery will be located in the basement, but given the slope of the building plot it will remain open to the outside.
- The garage (on the ground floor) will have a direct driveway from the street.
- The later phases of the project (restaurant and guest house) are planned on the upper floor.

Cost breakdown for the first part (up to and including the putting into operation of the bakery)

- Building costs:
Foundation (for the entire building in one go) and bakery building (referred to as Levels 1 & 2 in the plan, construction area 2,780 m²), according to the expert's estimate: about €250,000.
- Machinery and equipment: \$ 208,000 = approx. € 190,000.
The training of staff for the operation of the equipment is included in the price, but the price is quoted ex factory in Lebanon.
- Delivery (from Lebanon) and installation of machinery and equipment, travel expenses of the technicians are estimated at about € 10,000.
- Installation material and working time for the professional assembly and installation of the devices (chimney connections, ventilation, fuel tank, water tank and filter unit for the water, cabling, etc.): approx. € 30,000.
- Total cost of the bakery: approx. **€ 480,000** (info status as per April 2019)
- In order to avoid wasting valuable time, we plan to start immediately with the foundations and proceed further step by step in line with financial means being made available.

Important note: Prices may be exposed to significant fluctuations in the current situation in Syria, not only due to exchange rate changes but also on account of shortages in raw materials and supplies.

Expected impact and target groups:

This project aims to create jobs that will be entrusted primarily to members of the Christian community. The bread produced, however, will feed Christians and non-Christians alike and will support those who live in extreme poverty, regardless of their denomination.

Why this project is particularly worthy of your generous support:

Apart from the profoundly symbolic Christian value of sharing bread, this project will create jobs and will thus – jointly with other rebuilding projects – encourage people to stay in Syria or even to return from abroad to their war-damaged country. It will enable Christians in Syria to serve as excellent examples of true human sharing and caring, as a shining illustration of what Christian hands can achieve.

The "Bread for Syria" project will demonstrate to Christians in Syria that they have not been forgotten by fellow Christians abroad. This will strengthen their faith and create an atmosphere of optimism and hope. Wherever we are ready to share, we will be able to feel the presence of Jesus.

Further information:

To ensure that all participants and supporters can track the latest project developments, the plans and the construction progress will be regularly updated on the website of the foundation

["Korbgemeinschaft – Hilfe für Syrien"](#).