

Project Plans 2024

As far as possible, we intend to design projects in the form of “help for self-help” so that the support will have a positive impact in the longer run.

For all projects mentioned below, there are partners on site for close cooperation with *Korbgemeinschaft*. Given the rapid economic fluctuations, it is neither feasible nor advisable to calculate precise project budgets ahead of time. For many projects, the scope of the work will necessarily depend on the amount of aid made available. In our opinion, there are virtually no upper budget limits because the needs are enormous and widespread. We also see no lower limit for Christian support, since any amount granted will help to alleviate the suffering. Every Euro entrusted to *Korbgemeinschaft* is used for the suffering people on a 1:1 basis.

As soon as we receive concrete signals of support from aid organizations for specific projects, we will work out and submit detailed project applications.

The following list is neither exhaustive nor cast in stone, but is rather meant to invite active participation (contribution of ideas, suggestions, supplementary project elements, etc.). Since it is a declared goal of *Korbgemeinschaft* to help as quickly and unbureaucratically as possible in emergency situations, some of our assistance necessarily remains unforeseeable. Examples of this have been numerous emergency packages quickly put together during the Covid crisis and a considerably increased number of humanitarian goods containers sent to the earthquake-affected areas since February of last year. Apart from the continued collections and shipments of **humanitarian goods**, we see the following main needs:

❖ Focus on women:

- Counselling centres for women in difficult situations (widows, single mothers, sole parents of families with small children, women caring for old, sick or disabled family members): emergency help, advice, career development assistance
- Creation of meaningful work opportunities, ideally those that can be done at home, so that small children, the elderly, the sick and the disabled do not have to be left alone unattended
- Provision of tools, work equipment and materials, e.g. sewing machines, equipment for refining and processing agricultural products; support towards a greater self-sufficiency of households: Vegetable seeds, trellises and other aids for vertical cultivation in order to optimally use every piece of land, no matter how small, for better supply of vitamins; Where there is space for a small enclosure, mesh material and a few small animals such as chickens, ducks etc. to provide the families with basic proteins, since meat has become more or less unaffordable

Objective: Safeguarding the dignity of women, protecting them from sexual and other exploitation; Providing children, the elderly, the sick and the disabled with a well-cared environment, improving the reliability of basic food supply directly to the families;

❖ **Focus on youth**

- Support for attending schools and further training courses (learning materials, school and study fees, travel costs)
- Promoting highly gifted children in very poor families so that their potential is not lost
- Creating meaningful and fair work opportunities for the working young
Objective: Protection against exploitation and abuse, protection against sliding into crime (drugs, etc.); Investing in the future of the country through education support;

❖ **Agricultural projects**

- Search for unused, fallow land, especially plots of land belonging to the church
- Creating development of management plans with the involvement of local expertise
- Support for purchasing equipment and materials (well-functioning second-hand items as well as affordable new items)
- Provision of good-quality, reproducible, mainly non-hybrid seeds
Objective: Creation of meaningful, long-term, self-sustaining jobs; Raising the awareness of church decision-makers that the church has a responsibility to use the available land in the spirit of creation and for the benefit of those in need; Protecting the diversity of nature and remaining economically free from the dictates of the seed industry, using as far as possible reproducible seeds (rather than sterile hybrid seeds);

❖ **Supporting staff in church institutions (schools, kindergartens, etc.)**

- Due to high inflation, the salaries that the church can pay are no longer sufficient to even remotely cover the basic needs of daily life.
- Nevertheless, many employees generally like to work in church institutions because they offer a more humane working atmosphere;
Objective: To be able to retain employees so that they do not have to look for slightly better paid work somewhere else; to counteract the ever-present dreams of emigration; to keep Christians and socially minded people in the country;

❖ **Renovation of church kindergartens, purchase of educational materials**

- The need for renovations is omnipresent: repairs of structural building damage, repairing plumbing and electrical systems, repairing and adding furniture, and providing basic educational materials
Objective: Depending on the severity of the renovation need, the intended purpose may range from avoiding locking down an institutions owing to dangerous building damage, to repairing part of the installations or to contact some other renovations; Small children

who have only experienced war and post-war times in their entire lives deserve our special compassion;

❖ **Renovations and technical equipment for parish centers**

- Here, too, the need is widespread, as hardly any parish is able to repair damage and make improvements on its own

Objective: Enabling priests to fulfil their pastoral tasks; Motivating believers to be actively involved in social parish activities; assistance for continued catechetical work; Cohesion of the parishes;

❖ **Supporting the mobility of priests:**

- Due to the lack of functioning or affordable vehicles, the mobility of priests, especially in widely scattered parishes, is a major challenge; The extremely high gasoline prices make occasional taxi rides almost impossible and public transport has also become irregular, unreliable and expensive due to gasoline prices

Objective: To help care for parish members who are disabled, bedridden, sick or dying, where the priest should somehow be able to get to the families; enabling the administration of Christian sacraments;

❖ **Various projects for the disabled:**

- Renovation of and equipment for church schools caring for children with special needs
- Supporting the salaries of pedagogues in such institutions
- Renovation of guest houses for families with disabled children in the vicinity of Tartous

Objective: Analogous to the aid projects for kindergartens and schools, with the additional focus on the fact that handicapped children and their families particularly need our Christian compassion;

❖ **Help for urgent medical treatments, surgeries, medications:**

- Financial assistance for people who cannot afford urgent medical examinations and procedures and who suffer tremendously because even painkillers have become unaffordable for them

Objective: Taking a conscious look at the plight of those who, in all the misery, are additionally plagued by illness and pain; If, for example, the family earner is permanently incapacitated as a result of pain, the misery quickly spreads on to the children and other dependent family members;

❖ **Social markets:**

- Completion of the social market in Maarouneh (an add-on to the “Bakery of Grace” building)

- Establishment of additional social markets, especially in the earthquake-affected areas of northern Syria
 - Objective: Purchasing staple foods and other basic everyday products at wholesale prices and selling them at the lowest possible prices without a commercial profit margin; ideally with a small margin to keep the cycle of purchases and sales going (while at the same time creating some meaningful jobs)

- ❖ **Participation in the “Mary’s Meals” campaign** (lunch boxes for undernourished and malnourished school children)
- ❖ **Cooperation with KOO initiatives (international cooperation on the part of the Austrian Bishops' Conference)**
- ❖ **Other Christian social projects for which proposals are submitted**