

## A heartfelt thank you for your charitable love

Dear friends and supporters,

**Christ is risen. He is truly risen. Hallelujah.**

At a time when many people in Syria are living in despair and don't see and prospects for improvement in the foreseeable future, when poverty is creeping into every corner, and hunger is afflicting countless families, we managed – with the support of *Korbgemeinschaft's* donors and benefactors – to bring great Easter joy to some 3,500 families.

This action demonstrated that Jesus is indeed alive, especially among those in need.

On behalf of *Korbgemeinschaft* and in the name of all the



recipients of this Easter support, we extend our deepest thanks for this tangible charity and for the admirable solidarity with impoverished people in Syria. The families' reactions were touching. Some said, "You have saved us," others rejoiced, "God has heard my prayers," and



still others expressed relief by the words "After a long time, I can give my children some meat to eat."

It is impressive how many warm-hearted people respond to calls for help. We are grateful to God for such people, who truly demonstrate the power of Christ in a world where wars, famines, and social injustices are spreading like a plague.



For me personally, your charity demonstrates that we Christians must never lose hope or give up. When I see so many of you responding with compassion to the plight of the people in Syria, I am confident that - despite everything - there is still hope for better times. This encourages me to carry on my efforts in the service to those numerous people who are suffering.

This Easter project was also partnered by the Social Markets (SOMAs) that are gradually emerging. In order to make this rebuilding project sustainable, ongoing support for the SOMAs is very valuable and important. The underlying idea of the SOMAs is widely accepted and generates great enthusiasm, as it provides meaningful work for some young people and, at the same time, is a source of sustainable food for poor families. Although the project is currently still in its start-up phase and offers relief from hardship only in a few locations, we intend to proceed step by step. This form of aid extended at eye level actively involves people, their ideas, and their energy. It moves toward the most sustainable form of support, namely helping people to help themselves.



*Photos of the third Social Market, in Mashta Azar*



In this context, one of the next steps planned is to provide development assistance for small farming projects and other family-run businesses. Locally produced goods will thereby enrich the SOMAs' product range: seasonal, fresh, regional, and as environmentally friendly as possible, without long transport routes. We trust that we will continue to receive ongoing help of our friends and supporters also for this purpose.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you who help through donations and prayers, and who often inspire others to contribute – for example in the form of parish cafés, flea markets, lectures, bequests, donations instead of birthday presents or instead of flowers for a funeral, and other collection activities in various parishes.

Your support is a clear demonstration of deep charity. It shows that Christian values are still alive in Syria. I am confident that the love of Christ, which he has given us through his life in our world, through his suffering and death, and through his resurrection, will ultimately triumph, no matter what may happen in this world.

In this love of Christ, I remain united with you.

Your Fr. Hanna

Vienna, May 2, 2026