



CNEWA - Pontifical Mission

the papal agency for Middle East relief and development

P.O. Box 6495, Amman 11118, Jordan • Tel.: +962 (6) 464-9240, Fax: +962 (6) 464-9282 • pm.amman@pontificalmission.jo

Funding Proposal to Caritas Committee, OESSH Netherland

Project title: The Community Center in Ader, KERAK
Developing of an open air playground including new paly instruments

Project ID: M3336-2

Applicant Name: CNEWA/Pontifical Mission

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Task and position: Ra'ed A. Bahou, Regional Director

Description:

Al-Kerak governorate's estimation consists of 316,629 inhabitants, approximately 30% are inhabiting in Kerak city. In the south, according to parishes' priests, there are approximately 1200 Christian families (6,050 individual), the Greek orthodox about 500 families, Melkite 400, and Latin 300 families. Most Christians are living in the city of Kerak, Ader, Hmoud, Raba and Smakieh. There are a total of nine churches in the south. Three churches in Kerak (Latin, Melkite and Greek Orthodox), one in Raba for Greek Orthodox and a hall used to celebrate mass for the Latin and Melkite, two churches in Hmoud for Melkite and Orthodox, three churches in Ader, and two in Smakieh for Latin and Melkite.

The town of Ader is in the south of Jordan about 120 km. from Amman, situated about 950 meters about sea level and a short distance from the north east of Kerak city. Excavations, which have taken place in the area revealed the walls of a large ancient city, which existed many years before Jesus Christ. Ruins of a temple can be seen in the town today.

The name of Ader is believed to come from a Syriac name meaning "the farm or the place of harvest". There has been a Christian presence here from the first century AD, and this is confirmed by the existence of crosses, dating from that century, etched on the walls of a grotto inside the Latin Convent. In AD 134, the Roman Emperor Adrian visited Ader when he inaugurated the road between Aqaba and Jerash making the transportation of goods between the south and north much easier.

The surrounding area is under development with the majority of the population relying on agriculture for a living, though some find employment in the public sector.

Ader Parish:

As mentioned, there are three churches for Latin, Melkite and Greek Orthodox in Ader. St. Gorgeous, the Roman Catholic Church is one of the oldest churches in the province of Kerak,

this parish serves around 45 families in addition to 140 families (832 Individual), including Latin and Greek Orthodox living in Ader, and approximately 200 families (900 individual) in



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the surrounding areas of Ader. This church has a wide area surrounding it and owned by the Roman Catholic Church, which gives it the opportunity to embrace and attract all Christians living in the same area, in addition to the surrounding villages and cities, as it has a strategic location. Therefore, it is a very active parish, with several activities throughout the year, and more lively in summer holidays for children, youths, women's group, catechism on Sundays/or Fridays, and for the whole family.

In the past, CNEWA along with the parishioners had contributed in the renovation of St. Gorgeous Church in Ader, under the supervision of the parish priest, Rev. Boulos Baqa'een.

This Current year 2017, with the support of CNEWA, the necessary renovation of the house was completed, it is located behind the church and built in 1932. Currently, this house of a four big rooms, kitchen are being used for the catechetical program for the children and formation of the youth, also used when the priest needs to meet with his parishioners, youth and children as well as a place to stay when he needs, as he actively serves both Ader and Kerak parishes.

Also, CNEWA-PM Community Center in Amman, will help in establishing a small library by providing books, periodicals... in addition, they can cooperate in conducting workshops to teach the science of library (how to classify, use, keep, find, search, use technology...) as they continue to do for the teachers, mainly for librarians of the Catholic schools in Amman.

Currently, to complete the work in Ader's Community Center to become a multi task center, serving all Christians in the southern part of Jordan and invite others from other governorates, it is important to achieve the followings:

Renovate the open air playground, including new play instruments:

Ader and the surrounding areas lack such places for children, youth and adults. Therefore, it is valuable to renovate the available space to become a suitable open air playground for sports activities, and other religious, cultural and social activities.

This land, was donated by Ader's parishioners, and it is part of the church territories, it is around 800m², which make it very suitable to renovate to an open playground that will accomplish the following objectives: 1) it will provide a safe environment for all different ages, to practice their hobbies, away from the streets. 2) Create a special space for the girls who are living in a conservative environment, and rarely leave their houses, they can practice some sports for their health. This will also create a place for older people to meet and entertain, along with their children, grandchildren and families, 3) by conducting games and competitions, youth will be trained and improve their skills to communicate and socialize with others, 4) will assist in keeping the area alive, flourish and preserve Christianity at that part of southern Jordan, if CNEWA-PM Amman office, Parish priest and parishioners worked together constantly.



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5)

Deepening and strengthening the spirit of unity among all churches through several activities.

The first step is to rehabilitate the land by laying artificial lawn or grass, install fence on the surrounding walls for more protection from intruders, then add sunshades and stadium instead of chairs, two basketball boards and balls, football balls.

The smaller children will have their own safe space to play and enjoy their time, under the protection of the church, parents, older brothers and sisters, as they also lack such places for children in the area. Therefore, this small playground in front of the house is suitable to be fixed by installing artificial green grass and to replace the unsafe play instruments with safer one, specially the swing-Seesaw. This small playground will provide active and healthy body and mind for all children.

More than 1000 children (throughout the year and in different activities), teenage and youth of both genders will benefit, in addition to other churches, clergies, nuns who will be attracted to leave the busy and crowded city to conduct their multi-activities in an inviting area with available facilities.





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Itemized Budget:

2) Renovate the open air playground, including new play instruments		
Stadium: Layer of compacted base 20cm thick	200 sq.* 20 thick	2,825.00
Artificial grass for the open air playground	600 m * 18.36	11,016.00
Fence along the street side	40m*6m*14.1	3,388.00
Sunshades (Umbrella)	200m*21	4,200.00



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Two basketball boards	2*565	1,130.00
balls, football balls	4*20	80.00
Artificial grass for the children playground	200m*18.36	3,672.00
New play instruments		2,118.00
Total		28,429.00

Rev. Boulos' note: "this is a very important project for the whole Christian community in the Region, therefore, as we desperately wish to accomplish it, our parishioners are ready to contribute and cover the remaining amount to make this dream come true."