
JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION

for dialogue,
cooperation
and development



Bishop Luciano Giovannetti established in Florence the Foundation John Paul II in 2007 to advocate peace and social justice in the Middle East and the Mediterranean countries through interreligious dialogue and cross-cultural encounters. The Foundation is the result of decades of cooperation and sustained commitment of the dioceses of Fiesole and Montepulciano – Chiusi – Pienza in collaboration with several other dioceses, church organisations and economic institutions. The Foundation's network is characterised by cooperative relations between ecclesiastical, secular, corporate and institutional organisations. Since 2015, the John Paul II Foundation has held consultative status at the UN.



IDEAS AND OBJECTIVES

We demonstrate our commitment to peace by promoting and securing the social, economic and cultural development of nations, not only in the Holy Land and the Middle East but also in other regions of the world and in our own country.

DEVELOPMENT AND SOLIDARITY

We welcome projects that promote humanitarian aid, education and vocational training, economic development and sustainable rural health services. These projects are a lasting and effective investment in the skills and competences of the local population. Creating socio-economic prospects makes it easier to improve living conditions and strengthen civil society in the medium and long term. We achieve this by closely integrating the projects in various locations and maintaining a comprehensive network of expert partners and staff.

STORIES AND
IDENTITY



LOCAL ASSISTANCE AND INTEGRATION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

Since the start of the war in Syria, around 1.2 million people have fled to Lebanon, where more than 719,000 children seek asylum. Besides the pain of destruction and the loss of family members and friends, these child refugees are exposed to sustained violence, abandonment and deprivation as well as being excluded from any kind of education. At such a young age, when their need for protection, care and love is particularly acute, it is almost impossible for them to deal with such tragic experiences alone.

The branch office in Switzerland was established in 2012. It promotes social development with a focus on the needs of children, adolescents and their families through education and health projects.

To assist the social integration of families and orphans from Syria in the Lebanese refugee camps, the John Paul II Foundation has set up an aid programme in cooperation with the local partner organisations, the Custody of the Holy Land and the INSAN human rights organisation.



WATER EMERGENCY AND HYGIENE ASSISTANCE

To address the sanitary and health emergency in ten refugee camps, the Foundation has organised a water transportation system comprising water tanks and basins. Trucks with 7,500-litre tanks deliver drinking water. The distribution of water including the delivery of sanitary kits has helped to establish a drinking water and hygiene system, ensuring household hygiene for the Syrian families and children in the refugee camps. The Foundation also delivers basic foodstuffs.



MOBILE PLAY BUS

Once a week, two mobile play buses equipped with toys and school supplies visit ten refugee camps in the villages of Deir el Ahmar in the Bekaa Valley, Kfar Zabad/Zahlé and Menjez on the Syrian border, as well as the Bourj Hammoud district of Beirut and the Tyre region. The support team on board supplies children and young people with pens, books and writing pads to use while visiting the local schools. Fun activities and discussions are designed to ease the children's emotional pain and help them play, learn and laugh again despite the war.

FAMILY HOUSE FOR CHILDREN

The Family House project offers child refugees who have been left behind or orphaned a place to grow up in a community. Small groups of eight to ten children live together with houseparent. The members of each family house share common cultural, historic and religious roots. Together they will find a way to rebuild a social and human environment, establishing a firm foundation for a dignified childhood and future for the orphans. The interior of the Franciscan monastery of the Custody of the Holy Land in Tyre, Lebanon is also currently being renovated.



DONATIONS

You can share your social commitment with us by making a personal or corporate donation:

- by bank transfer to the John Paul II Foundation
St. Gallen branch office;
IBAN: CH800025425415420701Y
- by credit card at the website
www.johannespaul2.ch
Details of the projects are available at
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