The Lutheran World Federation is responding to the need for affordable housing for Palestinian Christians in Jerusalem by building apartments on LWF land in Beit Hanina, Jerusalem.

Christians are leaving the Holy Land

The Palestinian Christian presence in Jerusalem has been steadily declining since the beginning of the 20th century, from 23.6% of the total population in 1922 to only 1% in 2020.

Churches (among them the ELCJHL) have identified the lack of affordable housing as one of the main causes of the Christian exodus from the city.

“I can assure you in the last ten years the number of Christians in Jerusalem has gone down and the situation is not improving.”

— Sani Ibrahim Azar, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)

The ELCJHL Jerusalem Congregation is heavily impacted by the lack of affordable housing

Housing prices in East Jerusalem are skyrocketing. In East Jerusalem, housing prices have jumped 192.5% from 2007 to 2011 (East Jerusalem Housing Review, 2013 - IPCC). This lack of affordable housing affects hundreds of Jerusalem families and is a serious problem that contributes to Christian emigration from the city.
LWF response

In 2020, the LWF began a new phase in its enduring effort to provide affordable housing for Palestinian Christian families in need in Jerusalem.

The LWF, through its World Service Jerusalem Program, is advancing plans to develop between 45-50 apartments on LWF property in north Jerusalem, adjacent to the LWF Vocational Training Center and its sports facilities.

Your support is needed!

Together, the LWF, the ELCJHL, and partners around the globe can build a housing project in Jerusalem that will help to alleviate the shortage of housing and strengthen the dwindling Christian presence in Jerusalem.

One of the main costs of the project – acquiring land that is zoned for residential use – is already covered! LWF-owned property in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Beit Hanina will be the site for the project. Also, approximately 30% of the funds needed to complete construction have been raised. Please consider contributing to this project and becoming a partner in realizing this much-needed housing project.

For more information or to donate to the project:
Visit our website: https://jerusalem.lutheranworld.org/content/financial-support-91

About us

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a global communion of 148 churches in the Lutheran tradition, representing 75.5 million Christians in 99 countries. LWF World Service works in over 20 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

LWF is partnering in this new project with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) to increase access for Palestinian Christians to affordable housing in Jerusalem.

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