

Holy Land Project

Project Name: Health control for pregnant women and newborn babies

Institution: Beit Sahour Cooperative – Shepherd’s Field Hospital

City: Beit Sahour (near Bethlehem)

Responsible for this project: CNEWA Canada

1. Organization Profile:

The Beit Sahour Cooperative Society for Health Welfare is an organization established in 1959 that seeks to develop health welfare systems based on its cooperative principle, providing affordable quality health care for residents of Bethlehem Governorate. The society operates out of the Shepherd’s Field Hospital in Beit Sahour having a small surgical unit, 18-bed maternity ward, outpatient clinic, small 24-hour emergency clinic, laboratory and pharmacy.

Around 200 families or 1,000 people are members, paying a registration fee of approximately \$135 /yr. and \$1.3 monthly fee thereafter for each member of the household. In return, families receive all clinical checkups for free, pay only 40% laboratory services, surgery and prescribed medicine. In fact, the society’s health care package costs the average family 50% less than the private sector and many health care providers throughout the Governorate. Additionally, contributions from the community, national and international donors enable the society to provide its low cost – high-quality health care services for poor families.

The society also works in cooperation with Caritas Baby Hospital, Bible College and the Latin Patriarchate to relieve local social cases of costly medical care. These respectable institutions refer the social cases to the society where both institutions then share 50% of the medical costs per social case. In 2010, the society received around 45-50 social cases on a monthly basis or around 600 cases that year.

2. Project Description:

Mother and child health care services are a significant part of the society’s health care program. Pregnant women, new mothers and newborn babies are vulnerable groups in Palestinian society, as statistics show that the number of iron-deficient babies and pregnant women are significantly high in the West Bank and preventative measures can be easily introduced to lower this statistic.

Regular monthly check-ups for women during pregnancy, the costs of delivery and the follow-up check-ups of newborn babies are all too costly for poor Palestinians, especially those from rural, isolated villages. In addition, many lack access to preventive health programs, medical and specialized treatments and health education for both mother and child.

The society is seeking financial support that will enable it to conduct preventative tests, distribute the necessary supplements and offer specialist check-ups at its clinic in Shepherd’s Field Hospital.

Beneficiaries: Patients of the clinic: 300 women and 300 newborn babies from Bethlehem Governorate (including Beit Sahour, Beit Jala, Bethlehem and 23 eastern and western villages of Bethlehem Governorate).

3. Budget Details:

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET = \$20,000.00

This project will include:

- Blood sugar lab tests for pregnant women
- Distribution of Vitamin B12, folic acid & iron for newborn babies and mothers
- Follow-up, supervision and reporting
- Iron deficiency lab tests newborn babies
- Clinical check-up by specialist doctors for pregnant women