

### Sustainable Development Application Form

**Submitting Partner:** Global Ministries

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**Project Name:** Improving the Psychological Well-Being of Children in the Jalazone Refugee Camp

**Local Partner:** YWCA-Ramallah and the Jalazone Community Centre

**Location:** Jalazone Refugee Camp, Ramallah-Palestine

**The person at DOM responsible for and accountable for this project:** Peter Makari

#### **Partner's History/Relationship with the Project:**

The YWCA of Palestine, a partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through Global Ministries, is an ecumenical grassroots movement serving women of all faiths. It is affiliated with the World YWCA, which unites 25 million women and girls in over 100 countries. The YWCA derives its commitment of service from its Christian faith, and the motto is *"With Love Serve One Another."* The main aims are to promote women's full and equal participation at all levels of society through leadership opportunities and training; to work for social and economic justice through development and advocacy programs; and to mobilize women's collective power for action on issues of vital concern: women's rights, justice, equality, freedom, the dignity of human beings, and integrity of their environment. Programs include vocational training programs; training courses in computer skills, hairdressing, and language; children and youth activities such as summer camps; social and cultural activities; income-generating projects; and advocacy work in areas such as human rights. The YWCA headquarters are in Jerusalem. There are three local associations in Jerusalem, Jericho, and Ramallah, and three centers in refugee camps: Aqabat Jabr, Jalazone, and Kalandia.

This project will be run and supervised by the YWCA of Ramallah, one entity under the umbrella of the YWCA of Palestine registered locally as a non-governmental association affiliated with the World YWCA movement. It was first initiated in 1893 by informal groups of Christian women who were meeting in Jaffa and Jerusalem as YWCA groups and consequently established officially in Jerusalem in 1918. The YWCA – Palestine is managing a wide range of programs and projects to empower women and girls and improve their status by enhancing the accessibility of educational and cultural activities, creating and developing economic opportunities, raising awareness, and advocating for their individual and national rights.

The YWCA of Ramallah develops its program and interventions within the overall YWCA's strategic framework, which is grouped under the following areas: Economic Justice; Social Innovation/Youth Leadership and Civic Engagement; Children's cognitive learning and Peace and Justice.

For the last 70 years, the YWCA of Ramallah has been running a Community Centre and a Kindergarten at the Jalazone Refugee Camp to the north of Ramallah, which caters to the needs of over 80 children and their families within the Camp. This project will serve such communities by providing awareness and counseling to improve their psychological well-being.

#### **Description of Project**

**Description of Project (agricultural, health, water, micro-credit, education, community development, etc.):**

The project titled “Improving the Psychological Well-Being of Children in the Refugee Camp Through Awareness and Counseling Sessions” focuses on the community development and child development within refugee communities of the Jalazone Camp.

This project will provide care for the psychological well-being of Palestinian refugee children through group activities, a new play area, counselling sessions, and summer camp activities, the YWCA of Palestine seeks to walk with children who have experienced trauma in their daily lives.

Palestinians continue to suffer the injustice of the longest military occupation in the history of mankind. Gaza, the world’s largest open-air prison, remains under siege and more Palestinians, especially women and youth, are arrested and killed by Israeli forces every day. Palestinians in refugee camps across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, struggle to meet their everyday needs and live a life of marginalization and exclusion. On top of that, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the already dire humanitarian and socio-economic situation, making life unbearable.

The YWCA of Palestine is committed to building a better future for Palestinian women, youth, and children. They strive to create a democratic society that promotes justice and equal rights for all. Yet they are challenged every day to fulfill that commitment amid the ongoing Israeli occupation.

**Target Population (children, women, farmers, urban poor, etc.):**

Children ages 4-6 years old and their parents will be the target population for the project running from 2023-2024.

**How many persons are/will be served? (please give as specific a figure as possible)?**

It is estimated that at least 75 children and their parents will be served under the project.

**Key Objectives:**

The primary objectives are:

- Improve the holistic ministries of the established creative learning center in YWCA Kindergarten located at Jalazone Refugee Camp.
- Care for the psychological well-being of children in the refugee camp through awareness and counseling sessions.

**Key Activities:**

- Provide support and guidance for children who live under pressure from social and family issues.
- Offer counseling sessions to enhance and reduce the emotions they suffer from, to help children avoid suffering from a similar crisis.
- Work on developing children’s intellectual ability through play.
- Enhance and modify the behavior of children.
- Offer capacity building and training opportunities for Kindergarten teachers through newly acquired teaching methodologies and techniques to promote and enhance the psychological well-being of children.
- Build and improve the outdoor play area by furnishing and equipping it with educational toys and tools.
- Activating the center in social activity for children by offering a summer camp.

*\*A chart of these activities in detail and with estimated time commitments are included at the end of this proposal.*

**Duration of Project:**

It is estimated the project will take place over seven months, with an estimated start in September 2023 and run through March 2024.

**Project Budget**

**Total Budget:** The budget for all YWCA children's programs and Kindergarten school is covered through the YWCA of Ramallah; however, the budget for this proposal to Week of Compassion totals \$12,500.

**Amount Requested from Week of Compassion:** \$12,500

**Is this a one-time request or an ongoing request?** This project will build on the work supported through the Spring 2022 sustainable development grant.

**Is the project financially supported by ecumenical or outside partners? If so, what percentage does it cover for this project?** The YWCA of Palestine, including the kindergarten programs, are supported profoundly by ecumenical and outside partners across the North America and Europe. The activities listed within the budget attached are specific to the request for support through Week of Compassion.

**Please list partners who are funding this project:** N/A

**Does this project/partner receive funding from UCC OGHS, if so how much?** N/A

**What is the overall percentage of funds requested that will be used for administration/overhead?**

Approximately 17% (\$2,100) of the funds requested will be used to support a portion of the project coordinator's salary to ensure the administration, evaluation, and completion of the project.

**Please attached a detailed, itemized budget and cost breakdown for the requested funds.**

Attached is the detailed, itemized budget and cost breakdown for requested funds.

**Dates and project names of previous proposal submissions:**

The YWCA of Palestine received a sustainable development grant of \$12,500 in Spring 2022.

**How do you plan to monitor, evaluate, and report back to Week of Compassion? (Please note that future funding is contingent upon reporting. In addition to reporting, please provide stories of transformation and photos.)**

A full detailed report will be submitted at the end of the project and an evaluation of outcomes will also be submitted once an evaluation is completed. Records of activities under the project will also be provided. Adaptive planning and realignment of the strategies for the successful implementation of the activities will be reviewed and developed by the YWCA Team.

In line with the description of activities, a feedback-tracking tool documenting participants' opinions and suggestions through key interviews and continuous dialogues will take place throughout the project's implementation. The YWCA of Palestine media team will also ensure proper coverage of key activities. Testimonials captured from targeted beneficiaries will be documented and included in the report.

**If granted, is there a deadline by which to receive funding?**

As soon as funds are available, preferably before the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.

<b>Key Activities Elaborated</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Details of Activities</b>	<b>Number of Sessions Per Group</b>
Psychological Support for Children Sessions	Holding general sessions for children aged 4-6 years (75 children) to address the prevailing societal problems (bullying, sexual harassment, violence of all kinds, other problems) through creative means (drawing, music, dance, role-playing, etc.)	45 hours/3 groups/15 sessions for each group
General psychological support sessions for parents of children	Holding psychological support and guidance sessions for the parents of the targeted children (30-40)	Six hours
Training workshops for kindergarten teachers	Holding training for kindergarten teachers (10) on modern educational methodologies and techniques that will improve the psychological state of children	9 hours (3 days)
Rehabilitation and development of the kindergarten's outdoor playground	Rehabilitation and brushing of the classrooms, the internal building, and the outer fence of the kindergarten. Supply and lay artificial grass for the backyard of the kindergarten. Supply of tower game (Sahsila, swings) for the playing ground. Supply of wooden seats for children	The interior of the building plus the outside wall  40 square meters  2 swings and one Sahsila 2 chairs
A Special Christmas Party for Children with presents	Buy gifts and Christmas sweets for children. Children's Theatrical Show	96 presents for children and teachers Children's Theatrical Show