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*Dear Friends,*

Thanks to your generosity we were once again able last year to fulfil our mission and support over 5,000 projects. The publication of the most recent *Religious Freedom in the World* report has prompted media interest as never before, and inspired interest and real concern in many different countries.

Pope Francis constantly reminds us that we can all be “Artisans of peace”. Our contribution here consists in praying for one another, informing people about the situation of our persecuted brothers and sisters, and giving practical help. We are quite certain that the combined efforts of you, our generous benefactors, along with our own committed staff and co-workers, together ultimately serve the cause of peace. But peace does not just mean the absence of war, but the peace that God alone can give us, and which has been the constant theme of the Scriptures during the Easter season.

Rest assured, we are determined to continue our mission as a pastoral charity at the service of peace and will indeed do so, with your help!

With our grateful thanks and good wishes,



**Thomas Heine-Geldern,**  
International  
Executive President



**Neville Kyrke-Smith,**  
National Director

*Thomas Heine-Geldern* *Neville Kyrke-Smith*

## Where your help went:



*The figures below relate to projects funded by all 23 of ACN's national offices in 2018.*



\*e.g. help for refugees and other emergency aid provided via the local Catholic Churches.

- **2,470 Construction projects around the world**

We funded or co-funded chapels and churches, convents, retreat houses and seminaries, also helping repair and rebuild hundreds of houses for returning Christian refugees in Iraq and Syria.

- **1,421,001 Mass Offerings**

1.4 million Masses: Every 22 seconds, somewhere in the world, Holy Mass was being offered for the intentions of one of ACN's benefactors, which means 40,569 priests in 87 countries were supported, spiritually and financially, in this way. Most of these Mass intentions went to priests in India, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Venezuela.

- **11,817 Seminarians supported**

Thanks to you, we were able to support one in every 10 seminarians worldwide. Most of these were in Africa (5,600), Asia (2,391) and Latin America (2,375). Special emphasis in their formation was placed on the areas of human maturity and spirituality.

- **11,046 Religious Sisters supported in their apostolate and/or training**

This equates to one in every 60 women religious worldwide. In most cases this was support for basic formation or further studies.

- **370 cars, 189 motorcycles, 342 bicycles, 2 buses, 2 lorries, 2 boats**

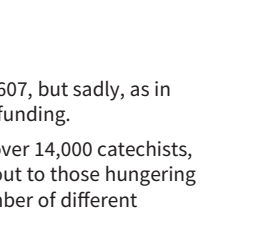
During 2018 most of the vehicles went to Ukraine, India and Belarus.

## You supported a total of 5,019 projects during 2018

Overall, the number of requests and applications for support rose slightly, to 7,607, but sadly, as in every year, we had to turn down many projects – 2,089 in this case – for lack of funding.

You helped in 139 different countries and 1,160 different dioceses. You helped over 14,000 catechists, above all in Latin America and Asia. On your behalf we were also able to reach out to those hungering for the Word of God by sending out over 1 million religious books in a huge number of different languages.

As in previous years, overall the biggest proportion of our aid was spent on building projects. The number of such projects has, in fact, doubled because of initiatives such as the reconstruction programmes we are supporting in the Middle East.

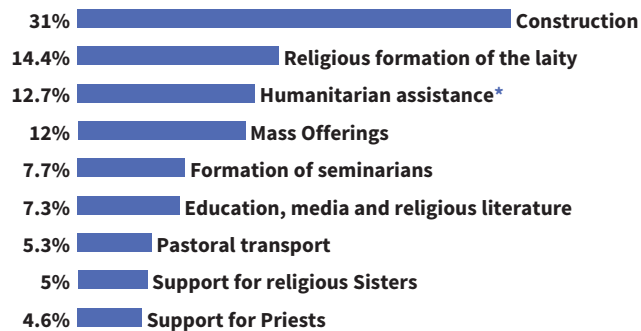


Credit: Archdiocese of Bamako



These figures relate to aid projects funded by the UK office of ACN in 2018.

## ACN (UK) figures

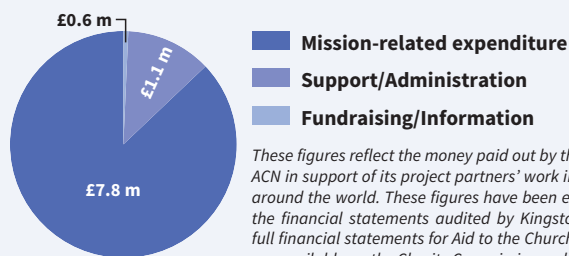


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ACN's 2018 Westminster Event: The UK's national director Neville Kyrke-Smith (far right) stands with Sister Luma from Iraq, and friends and family of Asia Bibi – the first woman to be sentenced to death for blasphemy in Pakistan.

## ACN (UK) detailed use of funds



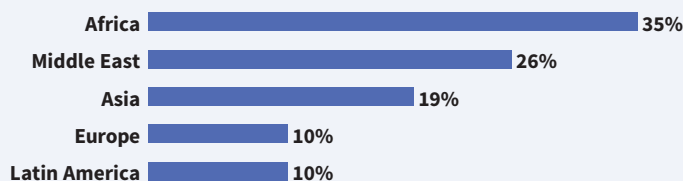
These figures reflect the money paid out by the UK office of ACN in support of its project partners' work in 80 countries around the world. These figures have been extracted from the financial statements audited by Kingston Smith. The full financial statements for Aid to the Church in Need (UK) are available on the Charity Commission website.

## Mission-related expenditure



Mission-related expenditure is expressed as a percentage of total charity income, excluding trading and legacies receivable.

## Aid allocated per region



Thanks to you, the UK office of ACN was able to allocate a total of £7.8 million – 87.4 percent of our annual income – for mission-related expenditure, specifically project work and evangelisation, communication and advocacy. Although the charity's income was down in 2018, meaning we could fund fewer projects, we were very grateful that your faithful support meant we were able to help 385 vital projects around the globe. God bless you for your love.

## Worse than ever before

Much of our help has gone to Africa and the Middle East – between them they received over half the total aid paid out both by the UK office and internationally. In these regions the needs of Christians are growing, and we have been able to help directly through the local Church.

In Syria and Iraq alone, ACN's 23 national offices supported a range of projects amounting more than £13 million in 2018. The Middle East as a whole received a quarter of our total aid budget. One of ACN's key concerns was repairing and rebuilding of the homes and houses of Christians in Iraq who had been driven out by extremist group Daesh (ISIS) – another was emergency aid for Syrian IDPs and refugees. The continent of Africa, where the Church has also been ravaged by extremist groups, received £17.5 million (27 percent of the total). Within Africa, many aid requests came from Nigeria, Madagascar and Ethiopia. Other countries that received significant international aid from the charity included India (£4.5 million), Ukraine (£2.9 million) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (£2.5 million).

In 2019 and 2020 our aid for the Christians in the Middle East, and especially in Syria, will continue to be absolutely necessary. Their situation today remains very serious. Although the fighting has subsided, so has the amount of global publicity, houses are ruined and the hospitals lack even the most basic equipment and medication.

Meanwhile, many of the major aid agencies have pulled back. At the same time there is still a pressing need to continue supporting the Church's catechetical mission in Asia, where persecution is rising, and Latin America, where the activities of various sects have caused great harm to the faithful.



'Thank you' – from the renovated kindergarten of the Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Aleppo, Syria. Their gratitude is echoed by so many other religious, children and persecuted Christians around the world.