

Annual Report 2019



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM

Visit our website:
www.acnuk.org

12-14 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4DA ☎ 020 8642 8668

Dear Friends,

Mercy is the mark of God's nature, as it is precisely in God's mercy that his almighty power is revealed. This is reaffirmed again and again each year in our papal charity. God demonstrates to us, above all through your generosity, that he does not abandon his children, his Church, in times of trial. His mercy is greater than our every need.

We can only look back with great humility on the past year when, through your generous love, we supported 5,230 projects in 1,162 different dioceses around the world – more than in 2018 – and so were able to let God's mercy work in the world. Despite many economic difficulties in the countries where our national offices are based, the level of your donations remained high. But there is certainly no reason to look back with complacency or self-satisfaction, as we all know that this year the need will be greater than ever as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic. There will be even more requests and appeals for help, for the living charity and deeds of mercy that are the hallmark of this papal charity, and of the Church too. More than ever today the Church, and the world, need the signs of God's almighty power.

United in our trust in God, and with heartfelt gratitude to you all,

We remain,



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

Thomas Heine-Geldern



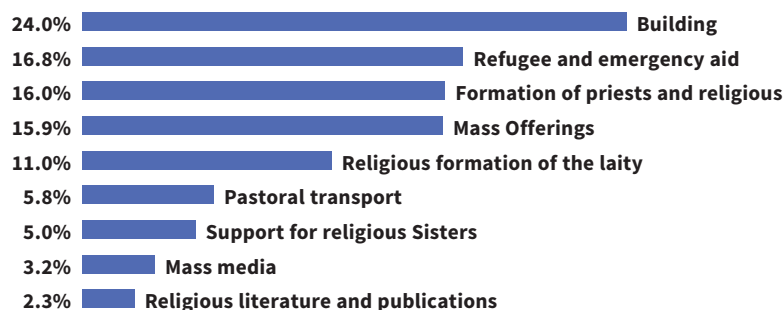
**Neville
Kyrke-Smith,**
National Director

Neville Kyrke-Smith



Where your help went:

(Projects funded by all 23 of ACN's national offices)



• 1,315 Building projects

A good third of all our construction projects were in the Middle East and involved the rebuilding and repair of churches, religious houses, pastoral centres and family homes for the returning Christian refugees. Most of the other projects for churches, religious houses and retreat centres that we supported were in Africa.

• 1,378,635 Mass Offerings

Almost 1.4 million Masses – that means that Holy Mass was celebrated approximately every 23 seconds somewhere in the world for the intentions of our benefactors. At the same time, we were able to help roughly 1 in 10 of the 414,582 Catholic priests around the world. Around 38% of these Mass offerings went to the Church in Africa.

• 16,206 Seminarians supported

Altogether there are 115,382 Catholic seminarians around the world. One in seven of them receives support from ACN: the majority of these are in Africa (8,039), followed by Latin America (3,061) and Eastern Europe (3,254). Once again, this year particular emphasis was laid on formation and growth in maturity.

• 13,862 women religious supported in their apostolate or training

ACN supported the religious formation of 4,416 Sisters and 1,035 novices. We also provided subsistence aid for 3,529 religious Sisters and 2,190 contemplative nuns – not to mention other forms of help.

• 663 means of pastoral transport

This included bicycles, motorcycles, cars and boats. In 2019, as before, most of these were for priests, religious Sisters and catechists engaged in the pastoral and missionary outreach.

Altogether we supported 5,230 projects in 2019, 211 more than in the previous year.

Overall, the number of requests and applications rose slightly (to 7,154) but sadly, over one in four of these projects, or 2,041 in total, had to be declined. The average cost of the projects supported was €14,535.

We were able to provide help in 139 countries and 1,162 dioceses – over one-third of all the 3,017 dioceses in the world. We helped over 24,000 catechists and other pastoral workers. And we supplied some 1.7 million Bibles and other religious books in numerous languages, thereby helping millions of people to come to know God better, to pray to him, sing his praises and deepen their personal faith. Once again, this year most of these books and publications went to Latin America and Africa.

24% of the total aid given was for construction projects, followed by emergency aid, particularly for refugees, and support for training and formation.

All figures on this page relate to the UK office of ACN in 2019.

ACN (UK) Facts and figures

- Income from donations, legacies, and trading **£10,286,615**.
- Additional **£1 million** from accrued legacies and other reserves.
- 526** projects supported in **94** countries.
- 8.4%** of charity income went on fundraising.
- 82.3%** of charity resources applied to aid payments.
- 90.3%** of charity resources spent on aid payments and mission-related communication.

Income from donations, legacies and trading came to £10.3 million. Together with £1 million from legacies accrued previously and other reserves, a total of £11.3 million was available for the work of the charity.

82.3% of charity resources (£8.8 million) was spent directly on aid payments enabling us to support 526 projects in 94 countries. A further 8% was spent on mission-related communication, which included raising the plight of the persecuted and suffering Church at the very highest levels (£0.9 million).

Essential support costs accounted for 5.6% of charity income (£0.5 million), while fundraising costs made up 8.4% (£0.8 million) and trading activities costs a further 2.8% (£0.3 million).

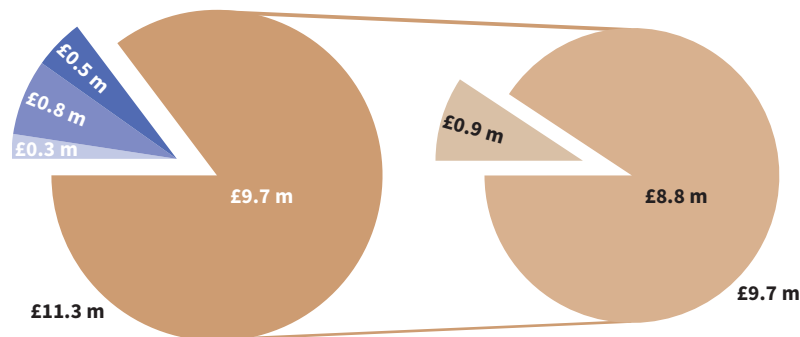
Once again in 2019, legacies accounted for a significant proportion of contributions for support of the Church (£2.4 million or 23.4% of income in 2019). Together with our project partners in the suffering church, we remember those departed benefactors with gratitude.

The Annual Report and Accounts of Aid to the Church in Need (United Kingdom) have been audited by Moore Kingston Smith and are available on the Charity Commission website.

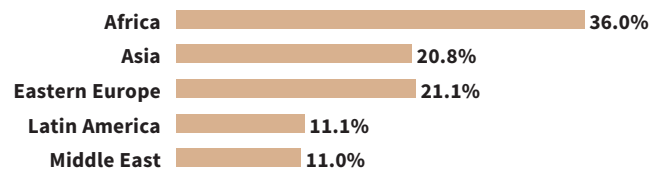
Although percentages are calculated using different denominators, the pie charts below shows the make-up of expenditure in 2019, whatever the funding source.

Detailed breakdown of expenditure

- Aid payments plus Mission-related communication
- Support costs
- Fundraising
- Trading activities



Aid allocated per region



Aid payments plus Mission-related communication

- Aid payments
- Mission-related communication

Standing with the suffering Church

New and dangerous trends are now emerging in Africa. In the north of Nigeria they are already a Church of martyrs and throughout the Sahel region many missionaries and catechists have also paid with their lives. ACN has supported Christians not only in Nigeria but also Cameroon, Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of the Congo among other countries.

Asia has seen new threats. In Pakistan and India, religious extremism has struck the lives of Christians. ACN also provided support in Sri Lanka following the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings. Fr Nishantha Cooray came to the UK last October to speak at the launch of ACN's 2019 *Persecuted and Forgotten?* report about his experiences ministering to victims.

In the Middle East we have helped rebuild communities in Iraq and support the most vulnerable in Syria, working with project partners like Sister Annie Demerjian. In Latin America aid has included helping build the Faith in the face of aggressive proselytising by fundamentalist sects.

Through events like #RedWednesday 2019, which included the Foreign and Commonwealth Office being lit up red for the first time, we have stood in solidarity with those suffering for their Faith, drawing attention to those whose plight might otherwise be ignored.

