

# Annual Report 2021



Aid to the  
Church in Need

A registered charity in England and Wales (1097984) and Scotland (SC040748)

**ACN UNITED KINGDOM**

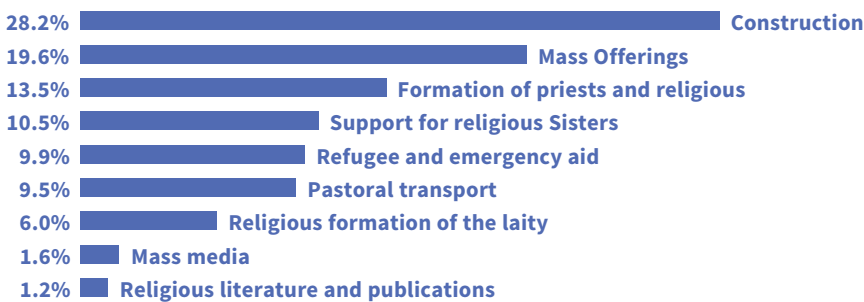
Visit our website:  
**[www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org)**

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## Where your help went:

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



### • 949 construction projects

Churches and chapels accounted for one-third of all construction projects. The remainder included presbyteries, monasteries, pastoral centres and seminaries. More than 37 percent of all construction projects took place in Africa, but we also supported initiatives in Eastern Europe, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. *(For one example of ACN's work in this area, see St Kyriakos Church, Batnaya, over).*

### • 2,095,677 Mass Offerings

Nearly 2.1 million Masses were celebrated in 2021, which means that one Mass was celebrated every 15 seconds somewhere in the world for the intentions of ACN benefactors. One in eight of the world's 414,336 priests was helped in this way, particularly in Asia where 19,313 priests were sustained by your Mass stipends.

### • 13,381 Seminarians supported

One in every eight of the 114,058 seminarians currently in training received help from ACN. Most of these seminarians were in Africa (7,654), followed by Latin America (2,461) and Asia (1,724). The main emphasis was on helping these young men develop psychologically and spiritually. *(See Andrij's story over).*

### • 18,473 religious Sisters supported in their apostolate and/or training

ACN helped one in every 34 of the 630,099 religious Sisters in the world today (in 2020 the figure was one in 35). Most of these Sisters – both active and contemplative – received subsistence aid and support for their apostolate. Additional aid was given for basic and ongoing formation for Sisters and novices, and also for spiritual retreats.

### • 1,338 vehicles for pastoral work

These included 539 cars, 539 bicycles, 245 motorcycles, 7 boats, 5 buses and 3 trucks. Once again in 2021 most of the cars, bicycles and motorcycles were destined for Africa, Asia and Latin America.

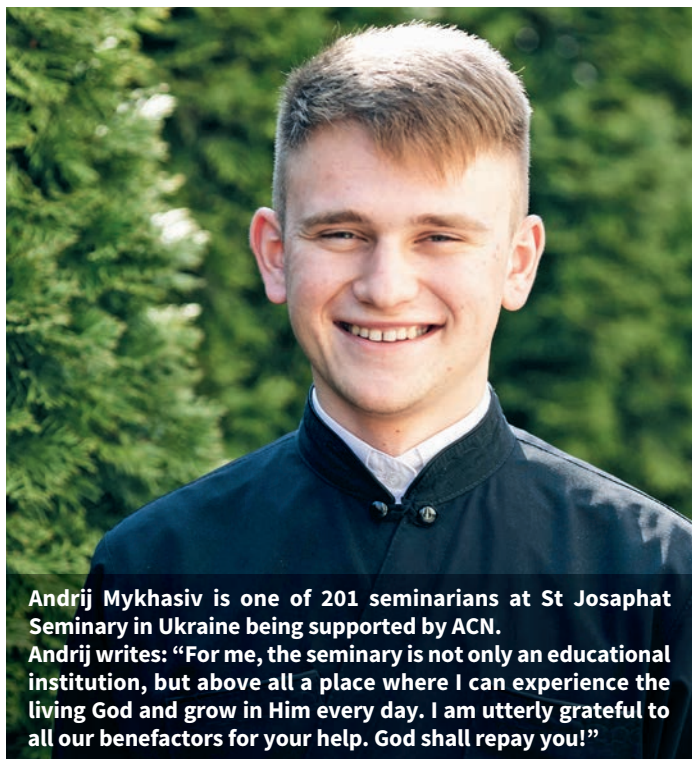
### • 583 coronavirus-related projects

Helping the Church cope with the pandemic required an exceptional effort, and accounted for €9,668,237 supporting 583 individual projects. Much of the aid went to priests and Sisters ministering in Asia and Eastern Europe.

### In 2021 ACN funded a total of 5,298 projects.

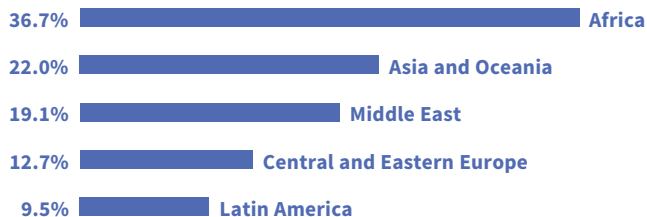
This was 540 more than in 2020. Unfortunately, as in previous years, we had to turn down a considerable number of projects (735); but in percentage terms, that meant fewer negative decisions than in previous years. Overall, the number of requests increased (6,782). The average sum awarded per project was €17,158, ranging from the smallest (posters for catechetical work in South Africa) to the largest of all: Al-Tahira Catholic Secondary School in Qaraqosh, Iraq. In all we helped in 132 different countries and 1,181 different dioceses – over one-third of all the 3,026 Catholic dioceses in the world. And we helped 37,745 catechists and other pastoral workers, over half of them in Asia. By contrast, half of all the books, Bibles and religious literature went to Latin America.





# ACN (UK) Facts and Figures 2021

## Aid allocated per region



In Africa, the spread of Islamist violence and the number of vocations make it a priority region, receiving over 36 percent of the UK office's project aid. The Church was badly affected by COVID-19 in Asia, so your Mass offerings were a lifeline for Indian priests and their people amid overwhelming needs. Overall, our support of the Church in Asia increased to 22 percent of our aid.

In the Middle East, which received £1.8 million – 19.1 percent of the total – our priorities were Iraq and Lebanon, where our projects were aimed at safeguarding the survival of Christian communities. Eastern Europe received 12.7 percent of our aid, with help going to Ukraine – even before the war. 9.5 percent of funds went to Latin America.

May God reward your generous help in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**We are grateful to you for blessing ACN (UK) with almost £11.6 million in 2021. This allowed us to support mission-related work, helping our suffering brothers and sisters, amounting to £10.2 million.**

88.5 percent of these resources were allocated to mission-related expenditure, of which 83 percent supported 334 projects in 76 countries. A further 5.5 percent helped us with activities such as advocating for suffering Christians, like Maira Shahbaz, at the very highest levels.

An exceptional item was our help to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, and we gave emergency aid to India's Trivandrum Archdiocese among others.

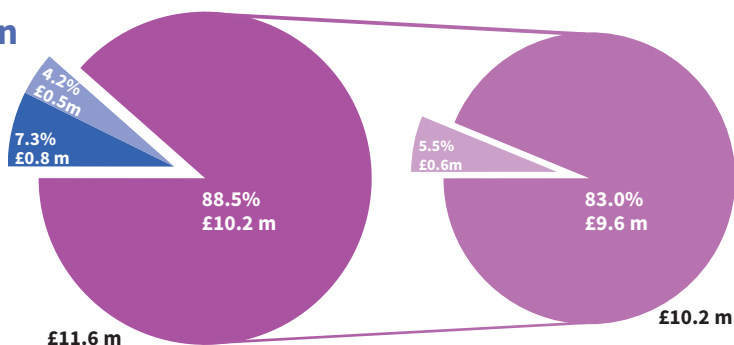
Essential support costs accounted for 4.2 percent of total outgoings, while fundraising and related activities accounted for 7.3 percent.

Once again in 2021, legacies and bequests made up a considerable proportion (£2.7 million) of our support for the Church in need. Together with our suffering brothers and sisters we therefore gratefully remember all our deceased benefactors in our prayers.

You can find a detailed report of our activities at: [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org). These international financial statements have been audited and certified by PwC (Price Waterhouse Coopers).

## Detailed breakdown of expenditure

- Mission-related expenditure
- Support costs
- Fundraising



## Mission-related expenditure

- Aid payments (see above for regional breakdown)
- Information, Evangelisation and Advocacy

St Kyriakos Church, Batnaya, is one of the churches on Iraq's Nineveh Plains that were devastated by Daesh (ISIS) when it seized the area in 2014. Today it is being rebuilt thanks to more than £169,000 from ACN. Bishop Thabet Habib (right) thanked benefactors for their support for the Christians of northern Iraq, which is breathing life back into ancient communities that were driven out of their homes and villages by extremists.

In terms of the different types of projects, construction made up more than 28 percent of the total international aid, because of the high cost of such projects. But these vital projects are helping to rebuild communities.

