



Aid to the
Church in Need

Impact Report

2023



Dear Friends,

This report provides us with the opportunity not only to thank you for your love towards the suffering Church, but also to present you with facts and figures that show the impact of what you've done.

Here we will show how much we received in donations; how much we spent on aid projects; and how much it has cost us to be a bridge of love between our benefactors and beneficiaries.

Every year, when we look at these figures we see a miracle, the miracle of your love making the funds we need available – and this is why this report is essentially an opportunity to thank Our Lord.



Regina Lynch

Regina Lynch
International Executive President



Caroline Hull

Caroline Hull
National Director

Image: Ismael Martinez Sánchez/ACN

Where your help went

(Data for projects funded by all 23 of ACN's national offices)



1,744,410 Mass Offerings

40,767 priests around the world benefited from your Mass stipends which we forwarded to them – all 1.7+ million Mass requests! You supported one in every ten priests worldwide. On average, Mass was celebrated every 18 seconds for the intentions of our benefactors somewhere in the world.

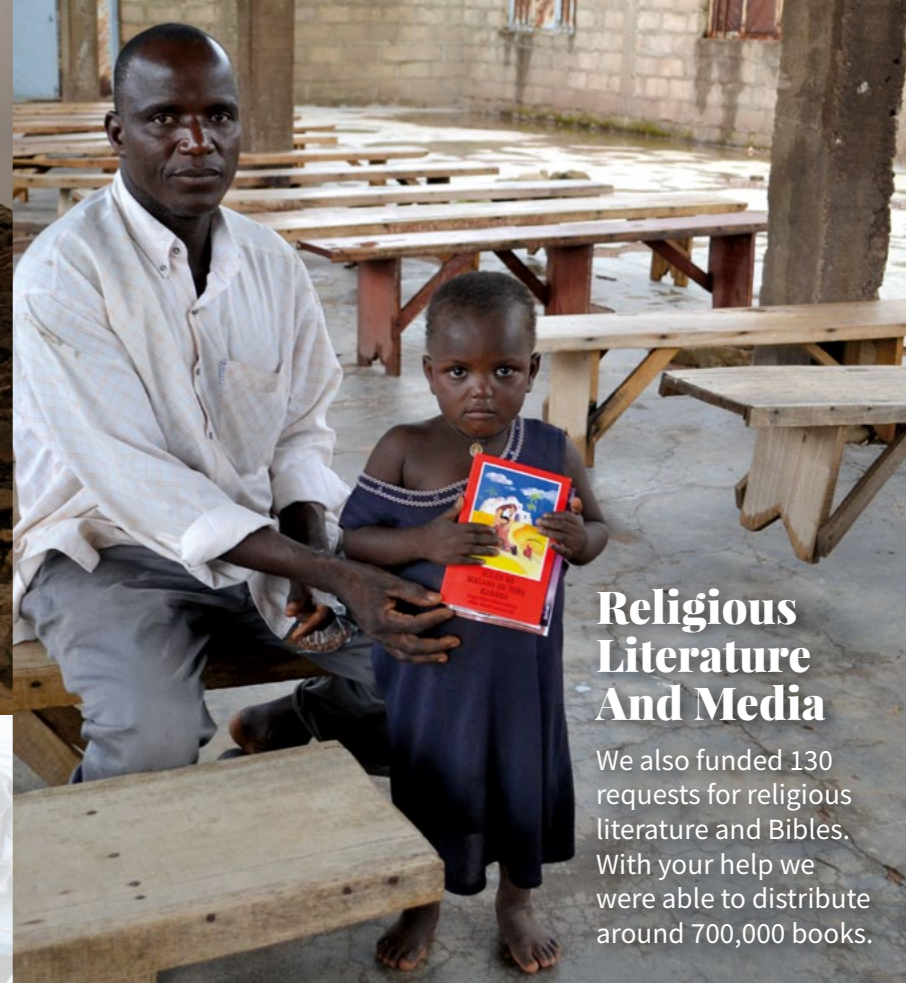


Image: Ismael Martínez Sánchez/ACN



969 Construction Projects

Almost a third of the building projects we supported were churches or chapels. We also helped with the construction and renovation of convents, seminaries, parish houses and pastoral centres. Many of these projects were in Africa, where more than 36 percent of our building projects took place, but we also helped fund construction work in Latin America, Asia, Eastern Europe and the Middle East.



Religious Literature And Media

We also funded 130 requests for religious literature and Bibles. With your help we were able to distribute around 700,000 books.



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Once again you stood faithfully by your suffering brothers and sisters last year, enabling us to support 5,573 projects in 138 different countries.

Increasingly, our help is shifting towards pastoral support for people in war zones or facing persecution, who have suffered trauma as a result. We also focused on the Sahel region, where jihadist terrorism is spreading and Christians are increasingly suffering from extremist violence.

1,041 Projects Supporting Vehicles For Pastoral Work

We helped provide 515 cars, 340 motorcycles, 175 bicycles, six minibuses and five boats for pastoral ministry. We also funded 21 projects repairing pastoral vehicles.



Image: Ismael Martínez Sánchez/ACN

10,991 Seminarians Supported

One in every ten candidates training for the priesthood was supported by ACN in 2023. Most of these were in Africa (5,793) where priestly vocations are the most numerous, followed by 2,103 in Latin America, 1,996 in Asia and 1,099 in Europe, including over 600 seminarians in Ukraine.

930 Projects Supporting Religious Sisters

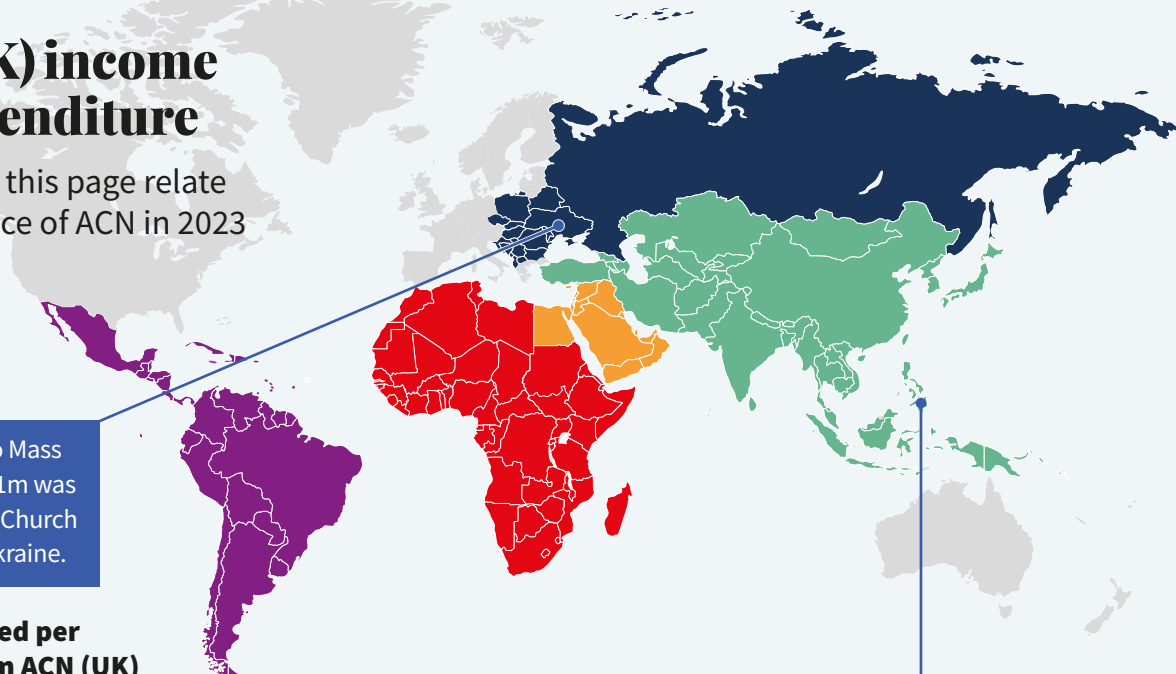
Around 10,000 Sisters received subsistence aid, while the rest of our aid helped with the training of new vocations, for retreats and other essential aspects of their religious life. In Africa we supported 380 projects, in Asia 285, in Latin America 173, and in Eastern Europe 90. Two were intercontinental.



Image: Ismael Martínez Sánchez/ACN

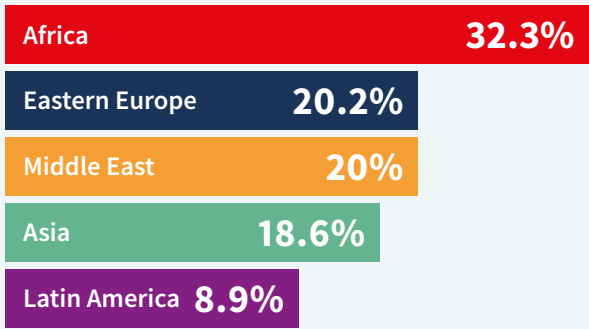
ACN (UK) income and expenditure

All figures on this page relate to the UK office of ACN in 2023



In addition to Mass stipends, £1.1m was given to vital Church projects in Ukraine.

Aid allocated per region from ACN (UK)



In 2023 the combined income from donations, legacies and a small amount in reserves from previous years, fell just short of £11.7 million, meaning we were able to support mission-related work – including projects directly helping our suffering brothers and sisters – with £9.9 million.

84.8 percent of these funds was allocated to mission-related expenditure. Of this, £8.9 million was spent on aid projects, enabling us to support 250 projects around the world. Africa again received the largest proportion of our aid, with just under one-third of our project aid going there – including help for a Eucharistic Adoration Centre in Sokoto Diocese, Nigeria. The adoration chapel will be set up in memory of the Church's recent martyrs – like seminarian Michael Nnadi who was killed by his kidnappers – and the faithful can come to seek healing and strengthen their Faith there. With the spread of Islamist violence causing real concern across the continent the needs have never been greater.

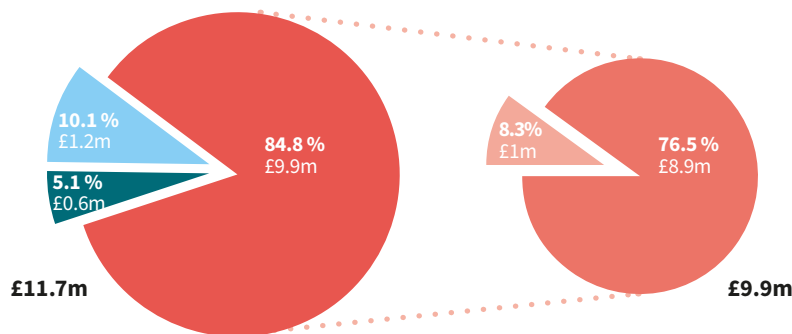
The remaining 8.3 percent was allocated to raise awareness about the plight of our suffering brothers and sisters, proclaiming the Faith and advocating on behalf of persecuted Christians in the UK parliament. This included bringing Margaret Attah to the UK to speak to parliamentarians about the attack on St Francis Xavier's, Owo, Nigeria on Pentecost Sunday 2022. Margaret, a nurse, lost both legs and an eye when extremists opened fire and detonated explosives in the church during Mass. 41 died and more than 70 were injured, including Margaret.

Essential support costs accounted for 5.1 percent of total outgoings.

Once again last year, legacies made up a substantial proportion of our support for the suffering Church (£5.2 million). Together with our brothers and sisters in need around the globe, we gratefully remember all our departed benefactors in our prayers.

Detailed breakdown of expenditure

- Mission-related expenditure
- Support costs
- Fundraising



Mission-related expenditure

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