

Annual Report 2018



Aid to the Church in Need

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www.aidtochurch.org

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 report on “Religious Freedom in the World” 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. Not merely peace as the absence of war, but peace such as 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

Bernard Toutounji,
National Director

Thomas Heine-Geldern Bernard Toutounji

Where your help went:



- **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 our ACN 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 Seminararians supported**
Thanks to you, we were able to support one in every 10 seminararians 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**
Or one in every 60 women religious worldwide. In most cases this was support for basic formation and 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

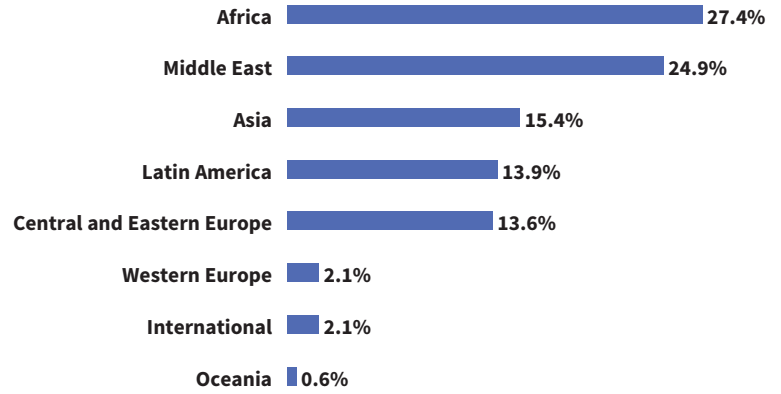
Overall, the number of requests and applications for support rose slightly, to 7,607, but sadly, as in every year, we had to turn down many projects – 2,089 in this case – for lack of funding. The average cost of the projects supported was AUD\$23,779. You helped in 139 different countries and 1,160 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 construction projects. The number of such projects has in fact doubled, above all owing to the reconstruction programmes in the Middle East.



Facts and figures

- Offices in **23** countries
- More than **330,000** benefactors worldwide
- AUD\$**175,518,611** donations, legacies and other income
- Additionally AUD\$**4.4** million surplus from previous years used in 2018
- Project partners in **139** countries
- **5,019** supported projects worldwide
- **80.1%** of the donations used are allocated in mission-related expenditures

Aid allocated per region



During 2018, we received 7,607 requests for support from all over the world. Thanks to our generous benefactors, we were able to allocate a total of AUD\$174.5 million in aid monies.*

The great majority of this – 80.1% – was for mission-related expenses, specifically project work, information and media work as well as spiritual initiatives. We endeavoured to keep our essential expenditure on administration and publicity to a minimum, with figures of 8.5% and 11.4% respectively.

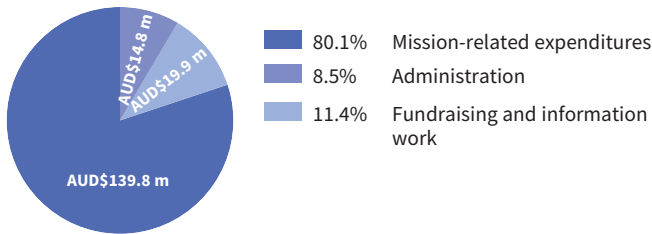
We were able to support 5,019 projects in 139 countries in 2018 with a total of approximately AUD\$119.3 million. We spent a further AUD\$20.5 million providing information on the situation of the persecuted and

suffering Church, spreading testimony of its martyr witness and speaking out for the rights of Christians in the political arena.

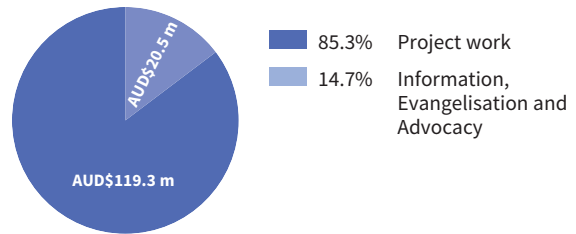
The annually fluctuating income from legacies fell by approximately AUD\$18.5 million during 2018 with respect to the previous year so that we were, accordingly, able to fund fewer projects as a result. We were all the more grateful, therefore, for the fact that – thanks to your fidelity – our ongoing income from donations has remained steady, so that we can build upon this in our project work going forward.

These international financial statements have been audited and certified by KPMG.

Detailed use of donations



Mission-related expenditures



*In addition to this, ACN provided funding of approximately AUD\$5.4 million for self-funding projects, such as the sale of religious books and articles. Figures have been converted from Euro at the average exchange rate for 2018 (1 Euro = AUD \$1.5797) and rounded to 1 decimal place.

Worse than ever before

Africa and the Middle East are the regions where the great majority of our help has gone, between them over half the total. These are regions where the needs of Christians are growing, and where we are able to help directly and consistently.

In Syria and Iraq alone, ACN last year supported a range of smaller and larger projects to a value of approximately AUD\$23.9 million. The Middle East as a whole received AUD\$28.6 million – a quarter of our total aid budget, while Africa received close on AUD\$31.6 million (27% of the total). The great majority of these projects were for the repair and rebuilding of the homes and houses of Christians in Iraq (thereby doubling the total number of construction projects) or for emergency survival aid in Syria. On a country by country basis, these two countries head the list, followed by India (AUD\$8.2 million), Ukraine (AUD\$5.2 million), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (close to AUD\$4.6 million) and Brazil (close to AUD\$4.3 million). Within Africa, many aid requests came from Nigeria, Madagascar and Ethiopia.

Both this year and next, our aid for the Christians in the Middle East, and especially in Syria, will continue to be absolutely necessary. Their situation today is worse than ever before. Although the fighting has subsided, and with it the amount of world publicity, the structures 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, and on top of all this, there is still a pressing need to continue supporting the catechetical mission of the Church in Asia and Latin America, where the activities of the sects have caused great harm to the Church and the faithful.



'Thank you' – from the renovated kindergarten of the Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Aleppo. It speaks for so many other religious, children and persecuted Christians around the world.