



Pakistan

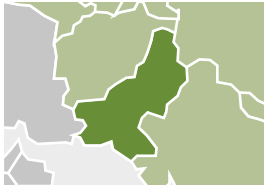
Number of projects

 132
Funded projects

Type of projects

-  48
Construction/reconstruction
-  25
Means of transport
-  6
Mass stipends
-  8
Emergency aid
-  3
Media help
-  4
Bibles & books
-  14
Training of priests
-  4
Subsistence aid
-  20
Formation of faith

Head of Section
Marco Bachmann



The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has 225 million inhabitants, 96.4% of

whom are Muslims. Christians and other religious minorities face

intense pressure from both the state and Islamist extremist groups. The majority of ordinary people also believe that only Muslims are fully-fledged Pakistani citizens. In this challenging situation, it is crucial to advocate for oppressed Christians in the country and to protect them as much as possible from discrimination and violence. ACN stands by the Church in Pakistan in this endeavour.



During a Mass in the Parish of St Luke, Baldia Town, near Karachi.

The continued rise in cases of abduction, forced marriage and forced conversion of Christian and Hindu girls was a concerning issue during the reporting year. Although this phenomenon is not new in Pakistan, it has intensified in the recent past. The state is also responsible for this. Underage girls and women from religious minorities lack adequate legal protection, and even the existing legal measures are not fully enforced. On the contrary, the perpetrators generally go unpunished.

Bishop Samson Shukardin, President of Pakistan’s Catholic Bishops’ Conference,

Holy Mass in the Catholic Church of St John in Youhanabad.

Children from Ghartal Parish pray the Rosary in Chak Jhumra Town.



>> Many Christians in Pakistan are falsely accused of blasphemy and imprisoned. <<

Shagufta Kausar, victim of false blasphemy accusations

Visitors to a parish in Lahore being forced to undergo a security check.



viewed the Supreme Court's rejection of a government report on the attacks in Jaranwala on the grounds of inadequacy as a positive development. It was the first time that anti-Christian attacks have been taken so seriously. On the basis of false blasphemy accusations against two Christians, a mob of over 7,000 people destroyed 26 churches and chapels and hundreds of Christian homes in Jaranwala in Punjab Province on 16 August 2023.

Despite being a minority, Pakistani Christians possess a strong faith. The local Church is very lively and is developing dynamically. The churches are full of predominantly young believers. In addition to priests, catechists also play an indispensable role in proclaiming the faith. ACN supports their training and promotes various pastoral programmes aimed at strengthening the faith, such as in the youth ministry. ACN also provides Mass stipends to many priests and enables them to participate in spiritual retreats, ensuring they do not experience burnout amidst their numerous challenges. Further funds were channelled into the procurement of vehicles for pastoral care and the construction and renovation of church buildings during the reporting year.



ACN helps to build protective walls against violence

Unfortunately, attacks on churches, in which angry crowds storm church properties and wreak havoc, occur repeatedly in Pakistan. In order to better protect the faithful, security measures need to be expanded and strengthened. Due to the particularly

dangerous situation, ACN is providing exceptional financial aid to implement more effective security measures in churches, monasteries and seminaries. This includes the construction of protective walls.