



GAZA:

DESPERATE FOR HOPE

Christians of the Gaza Strip Parish of the Holy Family during the war

“Thank you Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) and benefactors, for helping our Church to continue to live, despite the emergency.” - Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

It has been more than a year since the start of the war in Gaza and the few Christians remaining there are exhausted and traumatised. The war continues to leave a trail of devastation and despair.

As we begin 2025, being the Jubilee Year of Hope, now is the time to shine a greater light of hope on our brothers and sisters who are being affected by this ongoing crisis. By supporting life-saving projects by Aid to the Church in Need (Malta), you can help bring hope and relief to countless families in need.

During a visit to the Holy Land by Aid to the Church in Need, representatives of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (LPJ), which oversees the operation of a Catholic parish in Gaza, told ACN that less than 400 Catholics remain in the territory.

“Every week we lose somebody, not necessarily because of military action, but because of lack of medication” says Sami El-Yousef. “The elderly pass away senselessly”, he told the ACN delegation.

The Director of the Projects’ Development Office of the LPJ, George Akroush, explained to ACN’s representatives that the living conditions



Displaced Christians in Gaza receiving food packages

in the Catholic compound are difficult and crowded, with up to three families living in a classroom. “Some of the families are lodged in the lower levels, near the septic tanks, but that is unhealthy, so they rotate every few weeks. With this atmosphere, naturally, tensions run high”.

The Parish Priest of the Holy Family Church in Gaza City has made it a priority to ensure that children in the community continue to receive “remedial” schooling.

He says: “We began to have classes for the children, teaching them at least Arabic, English, Maths and Science. We had to suspend lessons because there were so many rockets landing nearby, but meanwhile we began some of them again”.

Your kind donation today will support ACN to continue providing:

- Food, water and medical aid to Christians suffering the effects of the war;
- Job assistance and cash help to Christians who have lost their livelihood due to war;
- Support to Priests and Sisters so that they can continue their vital work and
- Remedial education for displaced children.

Every donation counts. Your kind generosity provides hope where it is desperately needed. ✚

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Aid to the Church in Need

ACN MALTA

**MOZAMBIQUE:****“THEY HAVE NO FOOD, NO HOME...”**

As we celebrate this Jubilee Year of Hope, Pope Francis encourages us to be tangible signs of hope to our brothers and sisters who are crying out for it. Our brothers and sisters in Cabo Delgado, northern Mozambique, are indeed crying out for hope, following what Bishop António Juliase of Pemba Diocese described as a “frightening destruction” caused by Cyclone Chido.

In a region already burdened by the shadows of violence from ongoing Islamist insurgencies, the cyclone has caused unimaginable destruction. Dozens of lives have been lost, and thousands have been left homeless, their hopes and dreams swept away in a matter of hours.

Sister Maria Aparecida Ramos, an Aid to the Church in Need project partner in Pemba Diocese, said that the region was experiencing much “pain and despair”. She told ACN, “They have no food, no home, no belongings. What will become of us? We have lost everything.”

But in this Year of Hope, we can be the beacon of hope they so desperately need. Your prayers and generous donations can help rebuild shattered lives and restore hope to the people of Cabo Delgado. The

Church, with the support of Aid to the Church in Need, is committed to providing emergency aid, pastoral care, and essential support to those affected by this calamity.

Imagine the positive benefit your contribution could make. With your kind donation, you can help provide shelter for families who have lost everything, food

for those who are hungry, and support for the reconstruction of schools and churches that serve as pillars of strength in these communities.

This Jubilee Year, support the work of ACN (Malta) and together let us help bring hope back to our brothers and sisters who need it most in Mozambique. 🙏



Devastation caused by the Cyclone Chido in Cabo Delgado, Pemba, 15th December 2024





SYRIA:

BRING HOPE TO SYRIA

The streets of Aleppo, Syria (Credit Jacob/ACN)

In the heart of Aleppo, a main city in Syria, hope is flickering like a lightened candle in the dark. As Bishop Magar Ashkarian told us, "the future is bleak, we don't know what we're going to do." But your prayers and your kind generosity have the power to change this.

Aid to the Church in Need is making an urgent appeal for prayer and support for the Christian community and all residents of Aleppo as well as for other parts of Syria. These Christians are facing a worsening humanitarian crisis. Although the new Government in Syria has promised freedom of religious worship, the situation remains unclear.

ACN's International Executive President Ms. Regina Lynch says: "As a Catholic foundation, we remain dedicated to supporting relief and reconstruction efforts for Christians in Syria."

"Our projects will continue to focus on providing essential aid, Christian education, and spiritual support to the most vulnerable Christian minority, while promoting reconciliation and hope."

Your kind gift today will provide:

- Emergency help to Christians still suffering after the earthquakes;
- Camps for children to escape violence and chaos;
- Repair to Christian homes and churches damaged by war and earthquakes and
- Funding to allow Catholic schools to remain open.

Thank you for your kindness and compassion for our brothers and sisters in Syria who face an uncertain future. We could not continue to fund critical projects like these without your support. 



Boy praying the holy rosary at St. Michael's Greek Melkite Church in Aleppo





BE A BEACON OF HOPE

acnmalta.org/beacon-of-hope



LEBANON:

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR POOR CHRISTIAN CHILDREN

Children in a Lebanese Catholic School supported by ACN

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, we have a chance to offer poor children a brighter future through ACN's educational projects which ensure over 200 catholic schools in Lebanon stay open and thriving.

Sadly, the collapse of the Lebanese economy has left many Catholic parents unable to provide basic necessities like food and education for their children. Rising prices and widespread unemployment have put 74% of families into extreme poverty.

Aid to the Church in Need is currently working with over 200 Catholic schools in Lebanon to support children with tuition, hot meals, sandwiches at breaktime, and other school supplies.

ACN (Malta) would like to extend the appeal by Mother Maguy Adabashi, General Superior of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Sacrament, also to benefactors in Malta and Gozo. She said that their current urgent request to you, dear benefactors, is to help them continue their service and mission towards the neediest and poor Catholic students of Lebanon. If these poor students are not supported, they won't

be able to continue their education. She concluded that these Catholic children count on God's help and on your kind support.

Children are the touchstone of any society's future. Investing in their education is investing in a brighter Lebanon.

Your kind donation will help restore hope among the Lebanese Christian community, and will ensure that no Christian child is left behind. ☕



ACN supports children of this school belonging to the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul



Aid to the Church in Need

ACN www.acnmalta.org

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