



Pakistan

Number of projects

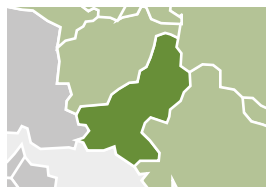
79 77

Type of projects

20 16 5
8 1 1
7 3 16

Head of Section

Reinhard Backes



In the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, where 96.4% of the 208 million inhabitants

are Muslims, religious minorities often suffer massive discrimination.

Particularly worrying is the rise in cases of abduction, forced marriage and forced conversion of Christian and Hindu girls. In addition to classic aid projects, ACN therefore especially supports measures of the local Church that protect girls at risk.



Archbishop Joseph Arshad of Islamabad-Rawalpindi distributing food to the needy in Chakwal.

At least 1,000 Christian and Hindu women and girls between the ages of 12 and 25 are abducted, raped, forcibly married and forced to convert to Islam in Pakistan every year, and it is assumed there is also a high number of unreported cases. The perpetrators usually go unpunished. This phenomenon is not new, but it has increased considerably in the recent past. There is a range of reasons for this. On the one hand, there are no adequate laws against these crimes, and on the other, existing precautions to protect underage girls and women belonging to religious minorities are simply ignored or not implemented.

Distribution of food parcels and warm clothing to those in need.

» Where the state fails, the Church becomes an advocate for religious minorities to protect them from discrimination and violence. «



A faith capacity building seminar for Catholic students.

ACN is aware of the difficult minority situation that young Christian women face in Pakistan. That is why we support the campaign to protect and safeguard the rights of vulnerable girls from religious minorities of the National Catholic Justice and Peace Commission in Lahore. The campaign includes consulting with politicians, promoting social awareness of the problem and providing legal aid to victims. In addition,

ACN is sponsoring a programme to support young Christian women living in extremely difficult circumstances. We were able to provide further funds to the Pakistani Catholic Church in the year under review for COVID emergency aid, training aid for candidates for the priesthood, religious and lay people, as well as for building projects and the procurement of vehicles.

Christian girls from rural areas at a Bible study class in Faisalabad Diocese.

