

Christian victims of war and violence: Infographic

Ecumenical humanitarian assistance by Aid to the Church in Need

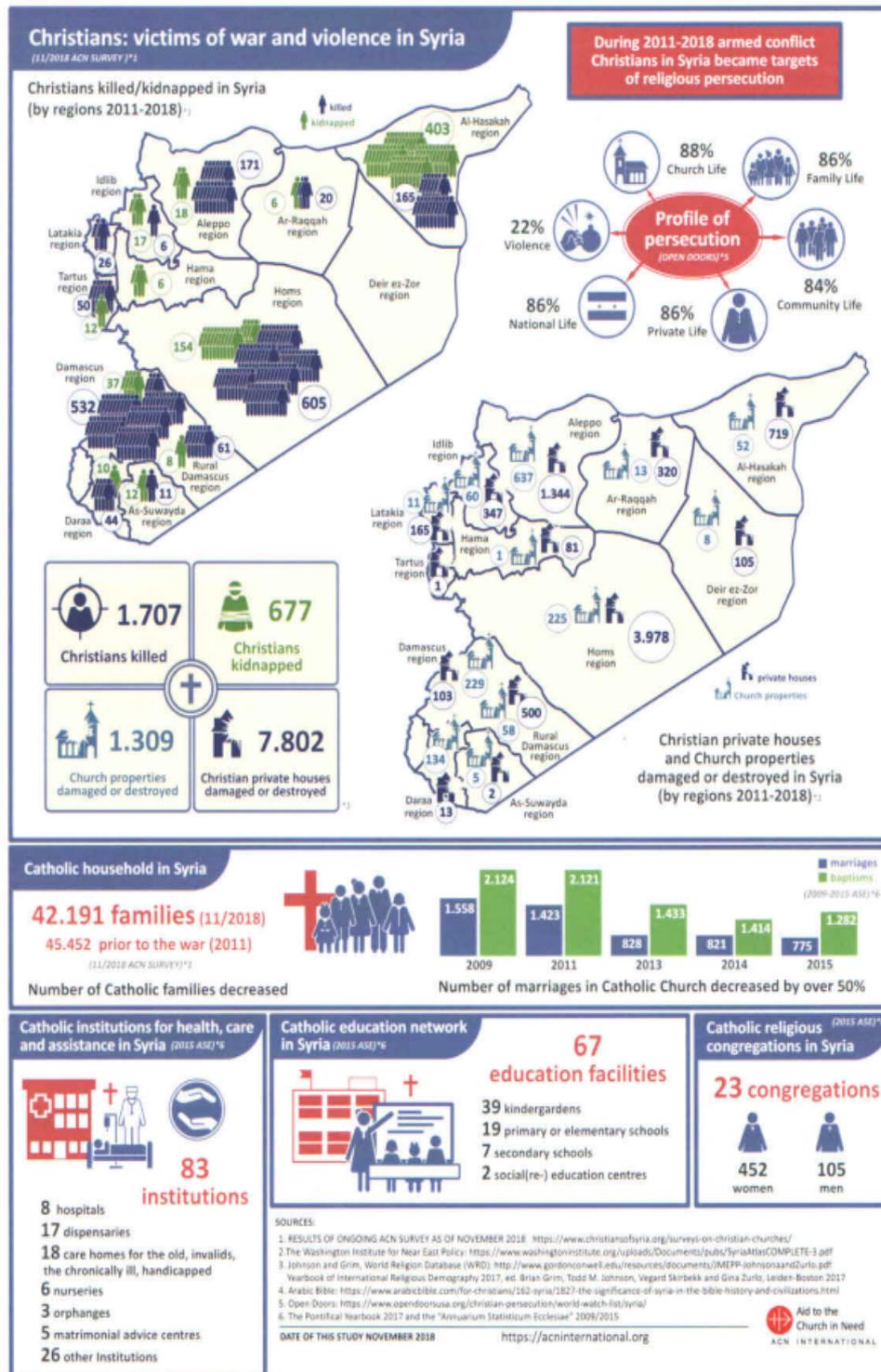


Image via: Aid to the Church in Need International

HRWF (20.04.2019) - According to a survey covering the period 2011-2018 carried out by *Aid to the Church in Need*, the number of Christian victims as of March 2019 was as follows:

Killed: 1889

Kidnapped: 664

Church property destroyed or damaged: 1249

Christian houses destroyed or damaged: 9855

On the eve of Easter, it was reported that tens of thousands of ruined homes in Syria cannot be repaired or restored because they are damaged beyond repair or, in some cases, unrecognisable by their owners who have gone back home.

Such conditions are not conducive for large-scale returns of refugees from Syria but *Aid to the Church in Need* supports the few who are voluntarily returning.

To stabilise the country and put Syria on the path to recovery, it will be necessary to construct new housing, rebuild infrastructure and public services, create jobs, restore the education and health sectors, and find a way to demobilise armed groups in a safe and sustainable manner. Syria's agricultural sector and food supply, which were decimated over the years of military strife, also need a boost. It is an enormously expensive undertaking, but funding is nowhere in sight.

Since the beginning of the conflict, in March 2011, and up to the end of 2018, *Aid to the Church in Need* has allocated **29.5 million EUR for 738 projects** to support the local churches in need throughout the country.

The projects were implemented by various Christian Churches: **Roman Catholic Church, Melchite Greek Catholic Church, Maronite Catholic Church, Chaldean Catholic Church, Syrian Catholic Church, Latin Catholic Church, Armenian Catholic Church, Armenian Orthodox Church, Syrian Orthodox Church, Greek Orthodox Church;**

with the cooperation of 130 project partners on the spot:

Homs (11,458,069 EUR)

Aleppo (8,719,775 EUR)

Damascus (4,347,646 EUR)

Tartus (3,148,846 EUR)

Al-Hasakah (777,459 EUR)

Damascus countryside (403,721 EUR)

Latakia (269,070 EUR)

Daraa (154,240 EUR)

Hama (95,400 EUR)

where high numbers of Christians were living.

Some 80% (23.5 million EUR) were in the form of emergency aid, among them some 308 for basic necessities of Christian families who have not left the country.

Some 11% for construction projects and 3% for pastoral aid. The rest was devoted to mass stipends, subsistence aid, religious formation, vehicles and transport, religious literature, media apostolate...

Aid to the Church in Need devoted over 3 million EUR for reconstruction projects in the following governorates:

Homs: 1,442,031 EUR
Aleppo: 753,700 EUR
Latakia: 540,800 EUR
Damascus/ Rif Dimashq: 218,600 EUR
Hama: 18,000 EUR
Al-Hasakah: 20,000 EUR
Tartus: 10,000 EUR
Daraa: 10,000 EUR

Without emergency massive reconstruction projects of general infrastructure and restoration of public services (education, health...) by the UN, the EU, donor countries and humanitarian NGOs, refugees in the Middle East and in Europe will not be interested in going back to Syria.

The participation of other religious charities around the world (Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim and others) in reconstruction programs will contribute to slow down and stop the flow of refugees as well as to the voluntary return of those who have left Syria since 2011. Incentives to their return and strong signals are urgently needed.

Source of the infographics, statistics and data: Aid to the Church in Need International (Giving a Hope for Peace - The Middle East Complex Situation in the Magnifying Glass of Syria, Fr Andrzej Halemba)