



# CSI International Annual Report 2025

# About CSI

## Mission statement

CSI is an international Christian human rights organization, campaigning for religious liberty and human dignity, and assisting victims of religious persecution, victimized children and victims of catastrophe.

## Principles

- “For we are all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body... If one part suffers, every part suffers with it.” 1. Cor 12: 13, 26
- The Parable of the Good Samaritan: Luke 10: 25-37
- The UN Declaration of Human Rights, Article 18: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.”

## International structure

Christian Solidarity International (CSI) is a membership association registered and headquartered in the canton of Zurich, Switzerland.

### International Council:

The International Council is the highest governing body of CSI. Its membership is made up of delegates of all the national affiliates. There are CSI affiliates in the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. CSI's President, Dr. John Eibner, presides over the International Council.

### International Coordinating Committee:

The International Council elects an International Coordinating Committee (ICC). The members of the ICC are: Dr. John Eibner – President; Angélique Gourlay – Treasurer; Monika Kahancová; Martin Halef; Rev. Peter Fuchs; Markus Weber (until April); Sam Mason (from April)

### International Management:

S. Biedermann – Executive Director; Markus Weber (until June) – CFO; Joel Veldkamp; Simon Brechbühl

### International Advisory Council:

Msgr. Obiora Ike, Nigeria; The Hon. Pascale and William Warda, Iraq; Dr. Nabil Antaki, Syria; Msgr. Michael Nazir-Ali, United Kingdom; Prof. Dr. Habib Malik, Lebanon; The Hon. Sarah Ochekepe, Nigeria; Prof. Dr. Mariz Tadros, Egypt/UK; Vishal Arora, India; Godfrey Yogarajah, Sri Lanka; Yamini Ravindran, Sri Lanka

# ■ Introduction

Welcome to CSI's Annual Report for 2025.

CSI has remained laser focused on mission fulfillment throughout the past year.

What is that mission? It is to stand in solidarity, in word and deed, with Christians who suffer because of their faith and identity, and with other victims of oppression.

CSI's mission rests on two Biblical pillars.

The first is an image the Apostle Paul upheld in I Corinthians 12: All Christians, throughout the world, constitute the multifaceted Body of Christ. He concluded with an obvious truth, that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other:

"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

The second pillar is the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10. We are called to help victims of violence regardless of race, religion or gender. All human beings merit the dignity that flows from having been made in the image of God.

2025 has witnessed a surge of anti-Christian religious persecution and of global conflict. It is waxing rather than waning.

In this report you will catch a glimpse of how CSI has addressed these crises through dynamic advocacy and frontline humanitarian actions, plus propagation of the core Biblical values on which CSI stands. You will also find powerful testimonies of impact.

Please feel free to let me know if you have questions about what CSI does and what it stands for. I look forward to facing the enormous challenges of 2026 together with you.

May the Almighty bless and keep you,



Dr. John Eibner  
International President  
Christian Solidarity International (CSI)

# ■ Contents

■ MAP OF PROJECT COUNTRIES   REGIONS	4
■ SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	6
South Sudan	
Sudan	
Nigeria	
■ MIDDLE EAST	8
Syria	
Egypt	
Iraq	
■ CAUCASUS	10
Armenia   Nagorno Karabakh	
■ SOUTH ASIA	12
Pakistan	
Bangladesh	
Nepal	
Sri Lanka	
India	
■ SOUTHEAST ASIA	16
Myanmar	
Indonesia   West Papua	
■ EMERGENCY AID	18
■ ADVOCACY ACTIONS	20
■ FINANCIAL INFORMATION	22
■ DONATIONS	23

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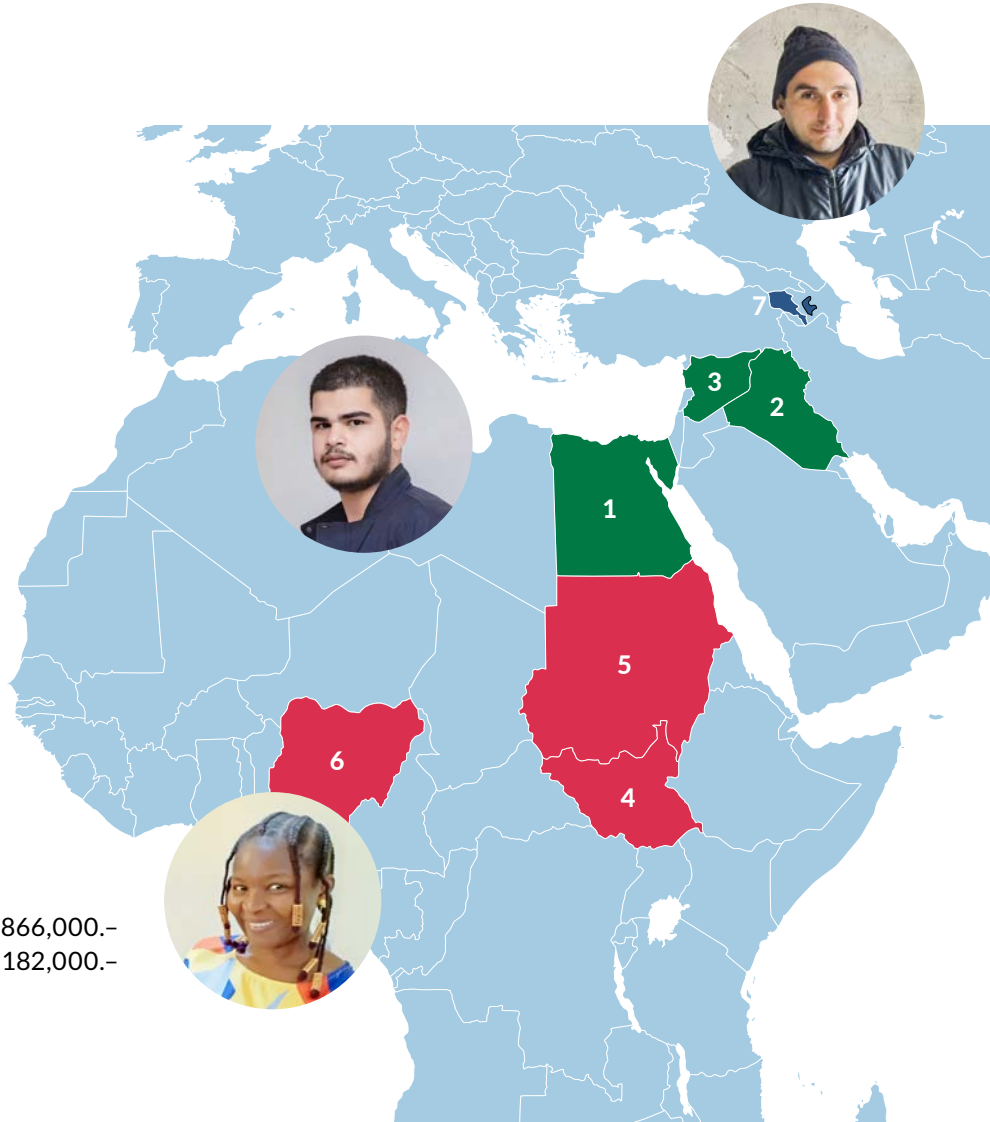
# PROJECT COUNTRIES/REGIONS

## Middle East

■ Egypt 1	USD 106,000.-
■ Iraq 2	USD 186,000.-
■ Syria 3	USD 443,000.-

## Sub-Saharan Africa

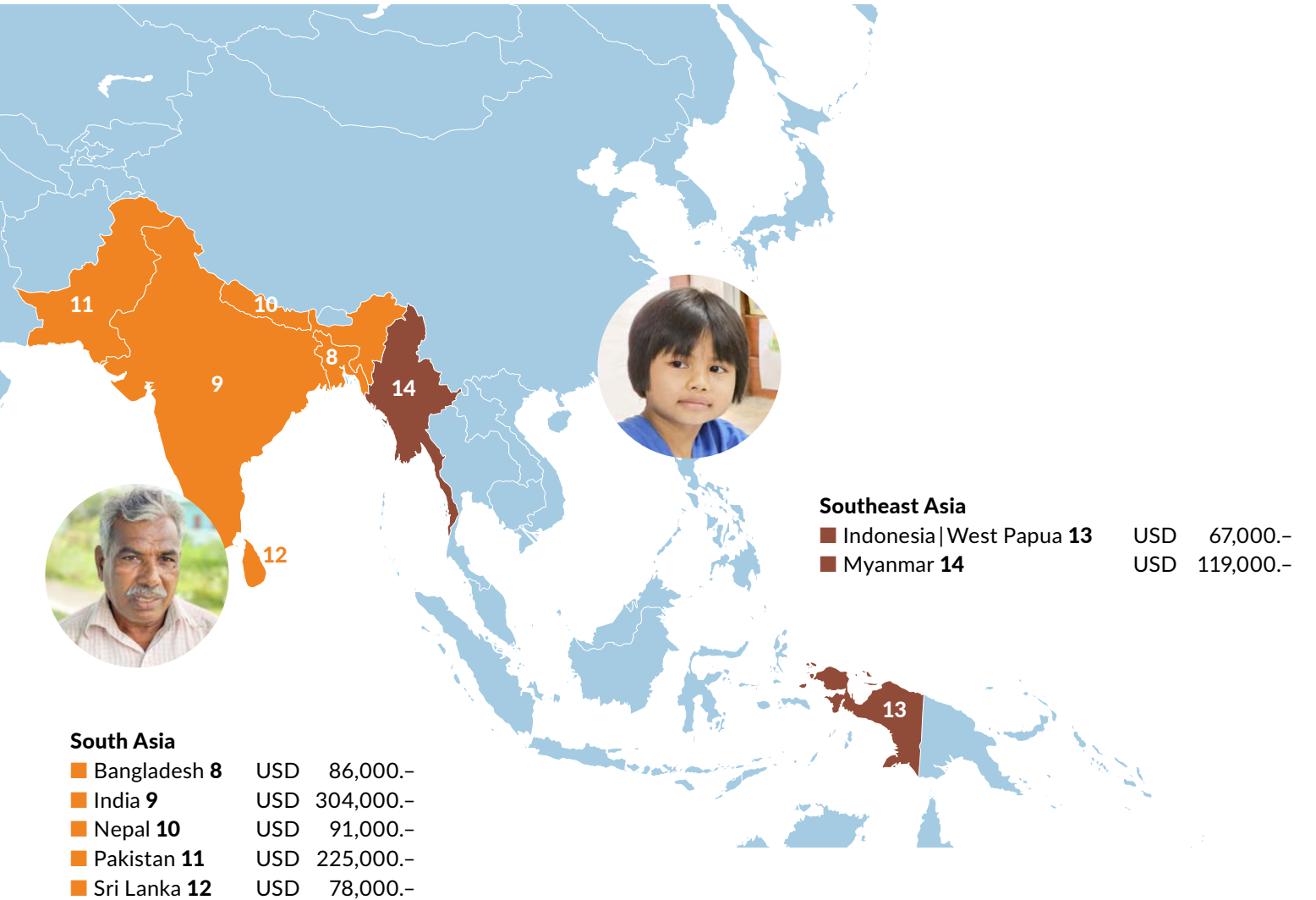
■ South Sudan 4   Sudan 5	USD 866,000.-
■ Nigeria 6	USD 182,000.-



In 2025, CSI was active worldwide. It conducted advocacy work and implemented projects adapted to the local context to defend, free and empower Christians and members of other religious minorities. The figures next to the country names represent the total sums contributed by Christian Solidarity International as a whole.

## Caucasus

■ Armenia | Nagorno Karabakh **7** USD 193,000.-



■ Emergency aid

USD 448,000.-

■ Human rights work | religious freedom

USD 694,700.-

## ■ SOUTH SUDAN 160,000 people led to freedom



CSI project manager Franco Majok distributes food to former slaves. [csi](#)

**D**uring the devastating Sudan civil war of 1983-2005 Islamists loyal to the government abducted tens of thousands of Christians and followers of traditional religions to the north, where they were enslaved and forcibly converted to Islam.

CSI began liberating slaves in 1995, returning them to what is now South Sudan. To date, over 160,000 formerly enslaved people have regained their freedom.

At a celebration on March 11, 2025, marking 30 years of slave liberation, a former health minister of South Sudan's Northern Bahr el-Ghazal state highlighted the significance of CSI's work and its "profound impact" on his compatriots' struggle for independence.

*"CSI's work played a central role in South Sudan's struggle for independence" Tong Deng Anei*

Tong Deng Anei expressed gratitude for CSI's ongoing efforts to free southern Sudanese from slavery and enable them to make a new start in South Sudan. "CSI is keeping its promise to stand by those who have suffered and give them a future," he said.

Returning slaves recount shocking stories of abuse in Sudan. "My master forced me to become a Muslim, beat me and raped me repeatedly. I was circumcised against my will," says Alek Akol Malual, who was born into slavery. One day at the market, Alek met a slave liberator working for CSI; it was the beginning of a new life. Alek is one of around 1,500 South Sudanese who regained their freedom in 2025. ■

*CSI priorities ■ Slave liberation and repatriation ■ Support for liberated South Sudanese to start a new life (survival pack, goat) ■ Medical care for freed slaves ■ Aid programs for the local population, including food aid*

## ■ SUDAN

### Christian families fight for survival

In war-torn Sudan, displaced Christians are among the most vulnerable population groups. Tens of thousands have fled to the embattled Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan state and predominantly Christian Blue Nile state where living conditions are dire. On a visit to one of the rapidly growing camps for the internally displaced, CSI project manager Franco Majok was deeply moved by what he saw. "The new arrivals are hungry and traumatized by their war experiences," he says. "Every day people displaced by the fighting arrive at the camp in the town of Yabus, in Blue Nile, where everything is in short supply." They come with nothing and sleep under trees. Despite the precarious security situation and logistical challenges, CSI was able to distribute food, as well as blankets, mosquito nets, and plastic sheeting to those in need. ■

*CSI priorities ■ Distribution of sorghum and other essential food supplies ■ Emergency supplies including roofing sheets, blankets and mosquito nets ■ Medical support and essential medicines ■ Educational materials for schools*



*Many of the displaced have lost everything. csi*

## ■ NIGERIA

### The sectarian crisis escalates

In 2025, Islamist groups Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorized the northeast and northwest respectively, while Fulani militants drove thousands of Christians from their villages in the Middle Belt. Plateau was one of the Middle Belt states most affected by violence. During Holy Week, suspected Fulani militants killed at least 56 villagers in the state. In July, 27 people were killed and a church burned down and in October, 25 Christian villagers were slaughtered within a week in Plateau. CSI teams were on the ground shortly after these attacks to assess the needs of survivors. Clergy were frequent targets for abduction by militants, and in June a CSI partner, Father Alphonsus Afina, was kidnapped by Boko Haram in northeastern Nigeria. The abduction dramatically highlighted the dangers faced by CSI's partners in carrying out their humanitarian work. In an answer to prayer, Father Alphonsus was released on July 21. Against the backdrop of increasing insecurity, CSI's focus was on meeting the most pressing needs of displaced people and survivors for foodstuffs and medical provision. ■

*CSI priorities ■ Food distribution and medical care for IDPs ■ Financial start-up assistance for displaced people ■ Scholarships and material support for the children of victims of violence ■ Advocacy for Nigeria and other Subsaharan states*



*A mother sits at the hospital bedside of her injured son. csi*



## ■ SYRIA

# Relief gives way to fear

The Assad regime has fallen, but Syria is still far from being a democracy. In March 2025, Islamists linked to the interim government carried out massacres of the Alawite population, in which thousands of civilians were killed. On June 22 it was the turn of Christians: attackers detonated a bomb and opened fire on worshipers in an Orthodox church in Damascus, killing close to 30. This was followed in July by a wave of violence in the south of the country targeting Druze communities.

President Ahmed Al-Sharaa has neither consistently condemned the violence nor taken measures to prevent it. This raises fears among minority groups including Christians over their future under the new regime driven by an ideology of Sunni supremacism.

Meanwhile, the economic crisis in Syria continues, with devastating consequences for the population. Many families are unable to meet their basic needs or pay for their children's education.

Through local partners, CSI supports aid programs for the elderly, helps with small business creation, pays for medical treatment for impoverished families, and promotes educational and recreational programs for children. Twelve-year-old Hamza, whose family was displaced by the civil war, is one of the beneficiaries. In Tartus, Hamza regularly attends the CSI-supported learning and care center where children receive a good education and thus the chance of a better future. The center is an oasis of calm for boys and girls who have lived through years of war. "I'm really learning something here," Hamza says.

In addition to its humanitarian efforts, CSI raised awareness of Syria's threatened minorities through international advocacy. This included an event held at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on July 1,

*Minorities fear for their future under the new regime driven by an ideology of Sunni supremacism.*



*Hamza is thankful to be receiving an education at the learning center in Tartus. csi*

# ■ EGYPT

## Empowering the Christian minority

Domestic violence, oppression, and lack of educational opportunities characterize the everyday lives of girls and women in rural Upper Egypt. Strict traditional gender roles continue to apply. More than four out of five women have been subjected to female genital mutilation. Local CSI partners offer training courses for women and men aimed at educating them about the potentially fatal consequences of female circumcision and encouraging men to treat their partners with respect. The Christian minority continues to be disadvantaged in Egypt. Restrictive licensing procedures for church buildings and controversial blasphemy laws expose Christians to systematic discrimination. Human rights defenders are active in upholding religious freedom but are often prevented through imprisonment or travel bans from carrying out their work. CSI-run programs offer support to those affected and open up new perspectives. ■

*CSI priorities* ■ Material and psychosocial support for underprivileged Egyptians ■ Workshops on important social issues (FGM, early marriage, first aid etc.) ■ Educational programs for children and young adults ■ Small business development



*At a workshop men are encouraged to think about gender roles. csi*

where experts presented evidence of systematic violence against minorities. ■

*CSI priorities* ■ Educational and recreational programs for children ■ Aid programs for elderly people ■ Workshops and mentoring for vulnerable women ■ Support to start up small businesses ■ Medical help for families in need ■ Awareness-raising on the international level about the negative impact of economic sanctions on the population

# ■ IRAQ

## The exodus continues

Over the past 20 years, the number of Christians in Iraq has plummeted from 1.5 million to 250,000. The collapse accelerated after ISIS's 2014 genocidal campaign. Yet the crisis began long before the rise of the Islamic State. Religious minorities in Iraq also have to contend with state persecution, the control exercised by Shia militias, discriminatory policies, and economic disadvantages. For Christians to have a future in Iraq, legal status and security reforms are essential. Together with its Iraqi partner organization Hammurabi, CSI advocates for marginalized religious minorities. One example of this is a course that took place in 2025 in which 24 Christian and Yazidi women were taught how to make decorative objects and become self-sufficient. CSI also supports a legal center in Sinjar. Since its opening in March 2025, this has provided close to 300 legal consultations, held 16 informational sessions, and resolved 400 legal cases involving Yazidi returnees. ■

*CSI priorities* ■ Legal assistance for persecuted religious minorities ■ Medical care for impoverished Iraqis ■ Support to set up small businesses ■ Empowering religious minorities to have a voice in society



*Women learn to make decorative objects. csi*

# ■ ARMENIA | NAGORNO KARABAKH Promoting the Swiss Peace Initiative

On September 19, 2023, Azerbaijan attacked Nagorno Karabakh and forced out its entire Armenian Christian population following a nine-month siege. Now, for the first time in 1,700 years, there are no Christians left in Nagorno Karabakh. CSI is campaigning for the right of Karabakh Armenians to return to their homeland and is supporting refugees in Armenia with housing assistance, medical

and psychological care, and through income-generating projects.

In March 2025, the Swiss government was tasked by parliament with organizing a peace forum between Azerbaijan and representatives of the forcibly displaced population of Nagorno Karabakh to negotiate the collective return of Armenians to their homeland, in accordance with their internationally recognized right to return.



*Nare (28), a refugee from Nagorno Karabakh with cerebral palsy, dreams of being able to walk again. She is receiving home visits from mobile therapy teams. csi*

*CSI advocates for the right of the Karabakh Armenians to return to their homeland and supports them in Armenia.*



*Lenna Hovanesian and Kevork Hagopjian present John Eibner (center) with the ANCA-WR human rights award.*

ANCA-WR

Four months later, in July, CSI organized a visit to Washington DC by a group of Swiss parliamentarians, to outline the Swiss Peace Initiative and seek the support of the U.S. The initiative had been well received in the UK in June, including by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Religious Freedom, human rights defenders, and former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

On September 29, parliamentarians Erich Vontobel and Nicolas Walder presented the Swiss plan at a side event organized by CSI at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The following month the Swiss Peace Initiative was presented in Berlin at an event co-organized with the Central Council of Armenians in Germany.

CSI's engagement on behalf of the people of Nagorno Karabakh was recognized by the Armenian National Committee of America – Western Region (ANCA-WR) when it bestowed its Human Rights Champion award on CSI at a gala event in Los Angeles on October 26. ANCA-WR lauded CSI's Stop the New Armenian Genocide advocacy campaign and its appeals to the UN and decision makers in the U.S. and Europe.

### Advocacy and humanitarian aid

Following the Azerbaijani invasion of September 2023, the CSI-supported Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre, which for over 20 years had provided state-of-the-art care to people with disabilities and those

injured in the wars with Azerbaijan, had to be closed and all its patients and staff relocated to Armenia.

Now, under the direction of CSI partner Vardan Tadevosyan, a new rehabilitation center is being built north of the Armenian capital Yerevan to provide care to hundreds of people. "We were able to purchase an old guest house in Yeghvard in October 2024," says Tadevosyan. "Renovation work is in full swing."

Following renovation, the building will be enlarged to meet the need for physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and psychotherapy of all the former patients who are currently scattered throughout Armenia. In the meantime, they continue to be well looked after by mobile care teams. ■



*Work on the new rehabilitation center is proceeding apace. [csi](#)*

**CSI priorities** ■ Housing assistance for refugees ■ Income-generating programs for displaced people ■ Medical assistance ■ Psychological support ■ International advocacy for the exiled people of Nagorno Karabakh

# ■ PAKISTAN

## Blasphemy allegations and forced marriage

In Pakistan, Muslims account for around 96 percent of the population of more than 250 million. Christians make up less than two percent and are often marginalized; many work in low-wage sectors – such as sewer cleaning or in one of the more than 20,000 brick kilns. Families frequently fall into debt bondage after taking out loans from brick kiln factory owners, to cover medical costs for instance. About 70 percent of brick kiln workers are children. Since they are required to help their parents, few are able to attend school.

Rehana Rafaqat, a widow, and her five children were forced to work at a brick kiln to pay off their debts. Son Adan worked during the day and studied at night. The factory owner did not allow the family to leave the premises, let alone attend church. Many factory owners offer to cancel families' debts if they convert to Is-

lam, an offer most Christians reject.

CSI is committed to helping vulnerable families escape debt bondage and set up their own small business. Rehana and her family were among the beneficiaries in 2025.

Another aspect of CSI's work is support for Christian girls who have been abducted and married off to older Muslim men after forcible conversion to Islam. In 2025, 19-year-old Aimen was one of those girls abducted and pressured to convert. Her abductor held her captive and abused her for seven months. She was eventually released after falling seriously ill. Thanks to legal assistance from CSI, Aimen's family was able to press charges and her abductor was jailed. CSI supports a shelter that offers protection, psychological care, and educational opportunities to rescued girls like Aimen.

CSI additionally supports people who are unjustly accused of blasphemy. Sections 295 through 298 of the penal code criminalize alleged insults against Islam and since 1986 are punishable by death. Even if the death sentence is not carried out,

*Many Christians work in low-wage sectors - such as sewer cleaning or in one of the more than 20,000 brick kilns.*



*Rehana, a widow, and her five children are now living a life of dignity after CSI helped them pay off their debts. csi*

those convicted of blasphemy usually spend years in prison and are socially ostracized.

Christians are disproportionately affected by blasphemy allegations, as in the case of Rasheed Masih, who in 2025 was accused without evidence of spreading anti-Islamic messages. After Rasheed's arrest, his family had to move several times for their own safety. "We regularly receive threats from people who have heard about my husband's case. They hate us just because we are Christians," says his wife. CSI supports families like Rasheed's with legal and financial assistance. ■

**CSI priorities** ■ Support for a Christian school with over 300 students ■ Emergency aid for victims of terrorism and Islamist mob violence ■ Legal aid for people accused of blasphemy, and support for their families ■ Legal aid for victims of forced marriage and forced conversion, and support for their families ■ Freedom and material assistance for brick kiln workers in debt slavery

*Mahito Biswas received a replacement rickshaw from CSI. csi*

## ■ BANGLADESH

### Christians persecuted under the interim government

Since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stepped down in August 2024, Bangladesh has been in a state of political upheaval. Under the leadership of Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, the transitional government initiated reforms and prepared for new elections that took place in February 2026.

During this period of political uncertainty, religious minorities – Hindus, Buddhists, and especially Christians – experienced increasing violence in the country that is 92% Muslim. Many of the attacks were attributed to Islamist groups Jamaat-e-Islami and Hizb ut-Tahrir.

Between August 2024 and November 2025, the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council recorded 2,673 attacks on members of minority groups, including killings, sexual violence, and the destruction of homes and places of worship.

Furthermore, the legal system in Bangladesh has been repeatedly used to persecute people based on their religious affiliation. Thousands of members of religious minorities have been arrested.

Addressing the human rights situation in Bangladesh before the UN Human Rights Council, CSI's Joel Veldkamp noted: "Freedom of religion is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But this right is increasingly threatened, often in countries undergoing political transitions."

One victim of the rising violence was Mahito Biswas. In mid-February, Islamists angered by his Christian faith set his rickshaw on fire. "They accused me of trying to convert Muslims and of insulting Islam," he said. After contacting a CSI-supported emergency hotline, Mahito received help and a replacement for his destroyed vehicle. ■



**CSI priorities** ■ Interdenominational workshops for training pastors and lay people in human rights ■ Support for victims of religious discrimination and initiatives to counter extremism ■ A 24-hour hotline for persecution incidents ■ Support for a girls' orphanage and school



*Dami received a buffalo cow from CSI. With the proceeds from the sale of the milk, she can pay her children's school fees. csi*



*Seminars on religious freedom for Christian leaders, police officers, journalists, and politicians are well attended. csi*

## ■ NEPAL

### Uncertainty following the toppling of the government

On September 8, 2025, nationwide protests broke out in Nepal. For years, the ruling parties had failed to address issues such as unemployment, inflation, and corruption. When the government imposed a ban on social media platforms, youth protests escalated. Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli was ousted. Dozens of demonstrators were killed, and hundreds were injured. By mid-September, the situation was calmer, but the uncertainty remained.

In this volatile environment, church leaders in Nepal expressed growing fears that the Christian community, already under pressure from Hindu nationalist groups in recent years, might be targeted. Christians have been under close surveillance in Nepal ever since the country introduced an anti-conversion law in 2017. This is increasingly being used as a pretext for arrests. Pastor Sunil was detained in 2024 for distributing Christmas gifts to children. Although he was released on bail in January 2025, the case against him continued and CSI provided legal counsel. In March 2026, Sunil was finally acquitted. In addition to providing legal assistance to Christians who have been attacked or jailed, CSI's work in Nepal comprises workshops on religious freedom, and support for marginalized families to set up their own small business and earn a living. ■

*CSI priorities* ■ Educating members of religious minorities regarding basic rights and laws affecting their everyday life ■ Legal support for those persecuted for their faith ■ Practical help for victims of persecution: shelter, medicines, first aid ■ Support for a network of parliamentarians working for human rights ■ Small business creation for the financial empowerment of minorities

## ■ SRI LANKA

### No space for Christian graves

In Sri Lanka, Buddhist and Hindu extremists are increasingly spreading nationalist ideology and inciting violence against people who hold different religious beliefs. That includes Christians who make up just 7-8% of the country's 23 million inhabitants. The violence targets church leaders. When they attempt to report harassment, they often face bias from the authorities. "It's disheartening to go to the police. Often, they don't take action; sometimes they even verbally attack me because of my faith," says Pastor Anthony. In 2025, extremist Buddhists used threats and violence to prevent members of his house church from using the local cemetery for family burials. Although the pastor filed a complaint together with CSI's local partner, no action was taken. On September 8, CSI used the platform of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva to urge the Sri Lankan government to uphold religious freedom. ■

*CSI priorities* ■ Legal support for victims of persecution and religious minorities ■ Documenting human rights violations ■ Human rights training for church and community leaders ■ Material support for victims of persecution

# INDIA

## Surge in violence against Christians

Over the Christmas season, attacks on Christians occurred in several Indian states, including Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, as well as in the capital, Delhi. These ranged from harassment of carol singers to police raids on churches and canceled festive celebrations.

In Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, a politician of the ruling Hindu Nationalist BJP party entered a church on Christmas Day and attacked a visually impaired woman during a prayer service. In Kerala, a man was arrested after attacking children at a Christmas concert. And in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh, police temporarily banned Christmas caroling in Catholic parishes; a court later overturned the ban. According to media reports, at least 60 Christmas events were disrupted by radical groups countrywide.

These incidents mark the culmination of a year marked by a particularly high level of violence against Christians. According to the United Christian Forum, reported cases rose from 486 in 2021 to nearly 900 in 2025. Human rights organizations cite misinformation about alleged forced conversions and the misuse of anti-conversion laws as the main drivers. Allegations of forced conversion often lead to the arrest of pastors and the disruption of church services. According to local sources, at least 110 Christians were in custody for allegedly violating anti-conversion laws as of early 2026.

There were also repeated incidents surrounding Christian funerals. Christians often face social resistance or violence when they seek to bury their deceased relatives. In late December, hundreds of Christians protested in Delhi against the rising violence and called for the repeal of the anti-conversion laws.

CSI supports persecuted religious minorities by providing legal and material assistance, a network of lawyers and pastors, and training on fundamental rights.



*Human trafficking prevention campaigns reached over 4,500 young people. <sup>csi</sup>*

## Aid for human trafficking victims

CSI is also working to combat human trafficking in India. One hundred children and adolescents were rescued from human trafficking during the reporting year: 62 girls and 38 boys aged seven to 17. For girls who are unable to return to their families after their release or who cannot find a place in state-run facilities, CSI operates its own rehabilitation center. At the end of 2025, the center was caring for 25 girls. Prevention campaigns in schools, churches, and other public institutions reached over 4,500 young people and raised their awareness of human trafficking. Self-help groups (SHGs) play a key role in prevention. Through these groups women receive training and are enabled to generate their own income. When families are more financially secure, the risk of children falling victim to trafficking is lowered. As of the end of 2025, CSI had established 90 SHGs, with approximately 1,500 women participating. ■

**CSI priorities** ■ *Aid for persecuted religious minorities: Legal and material support for victims of religious violence and discrimination; Support for a large network of human rights lawyers for low-income clients; Educating members of religious minorities regarding fundamental rights, laws and wise conduct* ■ *Fighting human trafficking: Psychological support; Advocacy work; Prevention work in schools among pupils, teachers and parents; Rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims; Emergency hotline support*

## ■ MYANMAR

# Earthquake adds to people's suffering

**M**yanmar, a country riven by armed conflict, experienced further tragedy in 2025. On March 28, a severe earthquake destroyed entire villages, burying more than 4,000 people under the rubble. In response, CSI sent emergency aid.

Since staging a coup in February 2021, the Myanmar military has waged war against local militias. Although the army declared a ceasefire after the earthquake, it continued its attacks on the civilian population.

Religious minorities in particular – notably Christians, Muslims, and Hindus – are suffering in the ongoing violence. Tens of thousands have fled to neighboring India. But the situation there is precarious.

CSI is focused on helping the Christian Karen and Chin minorities. Internally displaced persons receive tarpaulins, blankets, food, and medical care. A CSI-sponsored program provides sewing and tailoring courses.

A boarding school in Thailand offers refugee children from Myan-



*Education opens doors for children at a boarding school in Thailand. csi*

***“We have no possessions. We have no weapons. But we have hope. All we have left is our faith.” Dr. Sasa***



*Access to sewing machines and tailoring courses enables women to generate an income. csi*

mar access to education—and hope for a future free from violence. With the support of CSI, 93 children and young adults aged six to 23 are currently enrolled in school or in a vocational training program. Upon completion of their studies, they will be eligible to apply for Thai citizenship.

“We have no possessions. We have no weapons. But we have hope. All we have left is our faith,” emphasizes Dr. Sasa, a Christian leader of the resistance movement. This hope sustains Myanmar’s Christians in dark times. ■

*Red crosses stand as a symbol of non-violent resistance. csi*

**CSI priorities** ■ Covering boarding school costs in Thailand for children from a refugee camp in Myanmar ■ Emergency aid for internally displaced persons

## ■ INDONESIA | WEST PAPUA

### Red crosses as a sign of resistance

“Our livelihoods risk being destroyed by oil palms,” says activist Franky Woro summing up the concerns of Christian West Papuans who fear losing their homeland. “That’s why we are resisting. We are fighting for our dignity.”

Woro was one of the initiators of a campaign that saw 1,400 red crosses erected in the south of West Papua to protest against a government land grab. The new administration of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto is implementing programs that will lead to further deforestation of the region while at the same time intensifying Islamization efforts.

CSI backs the church movement in West Papua that is striving for a peaceful resolution to the conflict over land and resources. Through its support for the Kingmi Church Center for Human Rights, Social and Pastoral Studies, CSI promotes small businesses run by indigenous women, provides trauma counseling to displaced persons, and distributes tools and seeds.

In 2025 CSI made two interventions at the UN Human Rights Council on behalf of the endangered indigenous peoples of West Papua. ■



**CSI priorities** ■ Support for the church movement in West Papua that is working towards a non-violent solution to the conflict ■ Support for a center for human rights and social and pastoral studies

## ■ CSI's response in disaster areas

**T**hanks to close collaboration with local partners and their networks, CSI is able to respond quickly to disasters and provide emergency aid in places where the big aid organizations are not present. Here are some examples of the emergency and disaster relief provided by CSI in 2025.

### Ukraine

With support from CSI, the Ukrainian aid organization Caritas-Spes organized a recreational camp for children from Kharkiv, a region in the northeast that has been under daily shelling since the start of the war. The camp in the village of Yablunytsia offered places to 60 people, with each child being accom-



panied by a parent. The children benefited from psychological support and a varied program of activities.

### Sudan

The scale of suffering in civil war-torn Sudan is almost beyond measure. CSI provided humanitarian aid in refugee camps in remote areas of the south, where the continuing influx of displaced people puts a huge strain on already limited resources. The focus was on the most vulnerable groups: unaccompanied minors, widows, orphans, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Thou-



sands of people received donations of millet, plastic sheeting for shelter, blankets, and mosquito nets.

## Myanmar

The earthquake that struck on March 28 claimed the lives of more than 4,000 people and caused unspeakable suffering to those affected. Through its partners' local networks, CSI was able to deliver essential supplies to families in need in the remote regions of Sagaing and Mandalay. CSI's emergency aid included the distribution of rice, beans, canned goods, and drinking water, as well as medical care and the provision of materials for building emergency shelters.



## Nigeria

In Christian areas of the Middle Belt, CSI distributed food to displaced families who had lost everything in Islamist militia attacks and whose fields had been either seized or set ablaze. On April 2 and 3, Fulani Islamists attacked seven Christian villages in the central state of Plateau. Another attack followed on April 13. A total of 110 villagers were killed, more than 1,000 were displaced, and 383 homes were destroyed. The food and medicine distributed by CSI helped save lives.



## Pakistan

Prolonged monsoon rains plunged Pakistan into a crisis: in the north, entire villages were flooded, houses collapsed, crops were washed away, and families were left homeless. To help alleviate the enormous need for food, drinking water, medicine, and hygiene supplies CSI distributed emergency aid packages. In addition, CSI teams also distributed tents and plastic sheeting; medical teams conducted health checks and distributed medicine.

## Sri Lanka

Tropical Cyclone Ditwah made landfall on the east coast of Sri Lanka on November 28, causing massive flooding following days of heavy monsoon rains. CSI's partner organizations quickly began distributing



emergency aid. They directed their support at the entire affected population, with a special focus on the Christian community. Assistance included food, clothing, hygiene items, medicine, cooking utensils, and cash for emergency shelters, transportation, and repairs. In some regions, teams set up emergency medical stations, distributed meals, and organized community clean-up efforts. ■



# ■ Advocacy Actions 2025

In 2025, the 150,000 displaced Armenian Christians of Nagorno Karabakh continued to be a key focus of CSI's advocacy work. Christian Solidarity International campaigned, including at the United Nations and in Washington D.C., for their right of return and for the release of 24 Armenians unlawfully detained in Azerbaijan. Another focus was Syria, where religious minorities suffered persecution under the new Islamist-led government. CSI raised awareness of the risk of a genocide and additionally campaigned for the release from prison of Suleiman Khalil, a Christian former mayor detained without charge since February 2025. CSI pursued these goals with online campaigns, advocacy visits to various Western capitals, media appearances, and interventions at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

## Swiss Peace Initiative

In March 2025, the Swiss parliament mandated the government to hold a peace forum under international supervision to negotiate the safe return of Karabakh Armenians to their homeland. The motion for a peace forum was introduced by the Swiss MP Erich Vontobel.

To ensure Switzerland's declared

commitment to a peace forum is realized, a cross-party committee of the Swiss parliament launched the Swiss Peace Initiative for Nagorno Karabakh on May 26. Christian Solidarity International organized and participated in the launch event in Bern. In July, CSI followed up with a briefing in Washington D.C. where the Swiss plan was presented to members of Congress. Swiss MPs Erich Vontobel and Lukas Reimann, as well as Vartan Oskanian, a former foreign minister of Armenia, and CSI President Dr. John Eibner underlined the opportunity the Initiative presents for the United States to help establish lasting peace in the South Caucasus after 37 years of war.

CSI also briefed members of the United Kingdom and German parliaments on the Swiss Peace Initiative during visits to London and Berlin. In September, following the second anniversary of Azerbaijan's ethnic cleansing of Nagorno Karabakh, CSI held a side event at the UN Human Rights Council showcasing the Initiative as a means of implementing the Karabakh Armenians' right to return in a safe, unimpeded and expeditious manner.

Christian Solidarity International also used the UN stage to highlight the continuing unlawful detention of

24 Armenians kidnapped from Nagorno Karabakh by Azerbaijan during its ethnic cleansing campaigns. At a side event CSI hosted in Geneva on March 18, international human rights experts called for the immediate and unconditional release of the detainees who had been held for as long as five years.

Angered by CSI's efforts, in January and May, Azerbaijan filed official complaints against CSI with the UN Committee on NGOs, apparently seeking to have its consultative status revoked. CSI was not deterred by these intimidation tactics, and remains committed to its advocacy for the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

## Armenian church under attack

In July 2025, Christian Solidarity International joined other religious freedom advocates in calling on the Armenian government to end its persecution of the Armenian Apostolic Church. The call followed the arbitrary detention of senior members of the clergy, including Archbishop Bagrat Galstanyan, and prominent supporters of the church. In November, a CSI delegation paid a visit to Armenia to assess mounting concerns over religious freedom and government interference in church

Speakers at the launch of the Swiss Peace Initiative in Bern in May, left to right: Erich Vontobel, Sarkis Shahinian, Vartan Oskanian, Joel Veldkamp. *csi*



affairs. Following meetings with religious leaders, human rights lawyers, and political leaders, CSI held a press conference in Yerevan, where it called on the Armenian government to release all those detained, cease public attacks on the church and respect its autonomy.

### Syria genocide warning

Following the massacre of at least 1,400 Alawites by government troops in March, Christian Solidarity International issued a genocide warning for Syria, reinforcing the message with letters to U.S. President Donald Trump and U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer urging them to act. The targeted killings of Alawites did not happen in a vacuum, John Eibner wrote, but was a continuation of jihadi violence against Syria's non-Sunni religious minorities. Three months later, following further attacks – this time on Druze and Chris-

tians – CSI repeated its warning of an impending genocide in a statement to the Human Rights Council: “UN member states must fulfill their obligations under the Genocide Convention and take action to prevent it.”

In September, CSI launched a campaign for the release of Suleiman Khalil, the former mayor of Sadad, who had heroically defended the Christian town against Islamic State in 2015. Detained by security forces in February, Khalil remains in prison without charge. CSI also accompanied Khalil's daughter, Natalie, to Washington in November to tell her father's story and build support for his release.

### Other advocacy topics

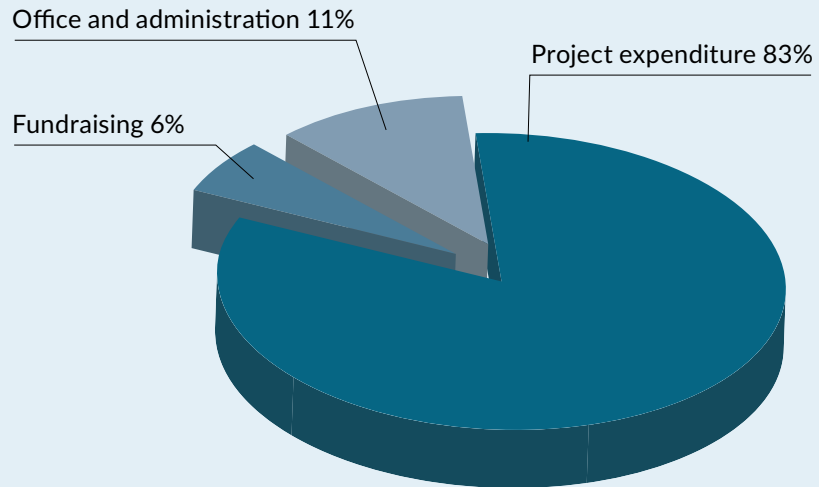
In 2025, CSI continued to draw international attention to the persecution of Christians in the Middle Belt of Nigeria by Islamist Fulani militias. Using firsthand reports from

its staff on the ground, it alerted the world to the slaughter of over 120 Christians and the displacement of thousands in Plateau State in Holy Week 2025.

For CSI it was clear that the massacres marked just the latest episode in the ongoing, slow-motion genocide of Nigeria's Middle Belt Christians. CSI also contributed to efforts in the U.K. parliament and the U.S. Congress to hold the Nigerian government accountable for the violence.

At the Human Rights Council, CSI highlighted the threat to religious minorities in Bangladesh following the overthrow of the Sheikh Hasina government in August 2024. CSI also drew attention to the ongoing dispossession of the indigenous people of West Papua, calling for their land rights to be protected. ■

# CSI financial information 2025



CSI total income in U.S. dollars  
**9,992,732**

(These consolidated figures are based on the unaudited financial reports of Christian Solidarity International including all affiliates.)

# Donations

Donations to support CSI's work can be made via our national affiliates. To donate, use the payment details, links or QR codes below to access the online donation portal of the affiliate you wish to give through.

We are grateful for your support.



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