



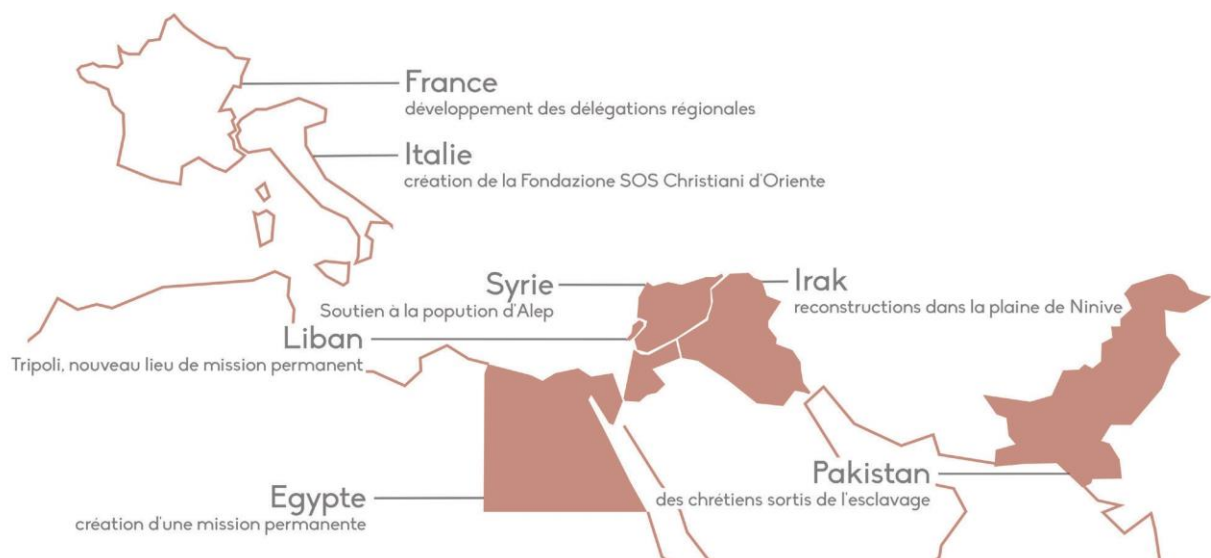
 **SOS**
Chrétiens d'Orient

2018

Rapport d'activité

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1

PRESIDENT'S WORD



«Our single resource: the trust

Nothing was easy in 2018. The current political and media situation has touched particularly the French which has been stretched financially. Worse still, the tax uncertainty caused by the reform of the withholding tax raised questions in many households, which feared for the balance of their finances.

And yet the confidence of our donors was once again equal to the commitment of the hundreds of volunteers who went out into the field. A trust that has enabled us to continue our work to help Eastern Christians who are still subject to discrimination or persecution that threatens their existence.

A trust that also required a renewed determination to improve the protocols and methods of our organization. This was a huge effort in 2018. Our organization made a bold choice to take advantage of the contraction of its budget to further improve the transmission of documents, accounting records and project monitoring. A silent but crucial task in order to maintain up to the aspirations of our loyal supporters. A sensitive work in our budget distribution statistics, which now rank among the best standards in the world of NGO despite a unique model.

We are depending almost on the trust of households, i.e. families who are willing to give up some of their comforts each year to show their solidarity for the Eastern Christians. With us, no compromises, no prevarications, no fears: the hard-won independence of SOS Chrétiens d'Orient makes it an autonomous interlocutor of the Christians of the East. A militant interlocutor too, who did not hesitate to follow as closely as possible the progress of those who were fighting the Islamic State organisation in order to bear witness about victims and to rebuild what could be rebuilt.

This independence is not a show-off. It has allowed our work to be widely noticed and to establish SOS Chrétiens d'Orient on three continents in barely five years. It has allowed us to free up the discourse on Eastern Christianity by bringing a voice from the field, the opposite of media simplifications. It has also provided an exceptional experience for hundreds of volunteers whose presence requires only first-rate know-how that is too rarely credited to our staffs.

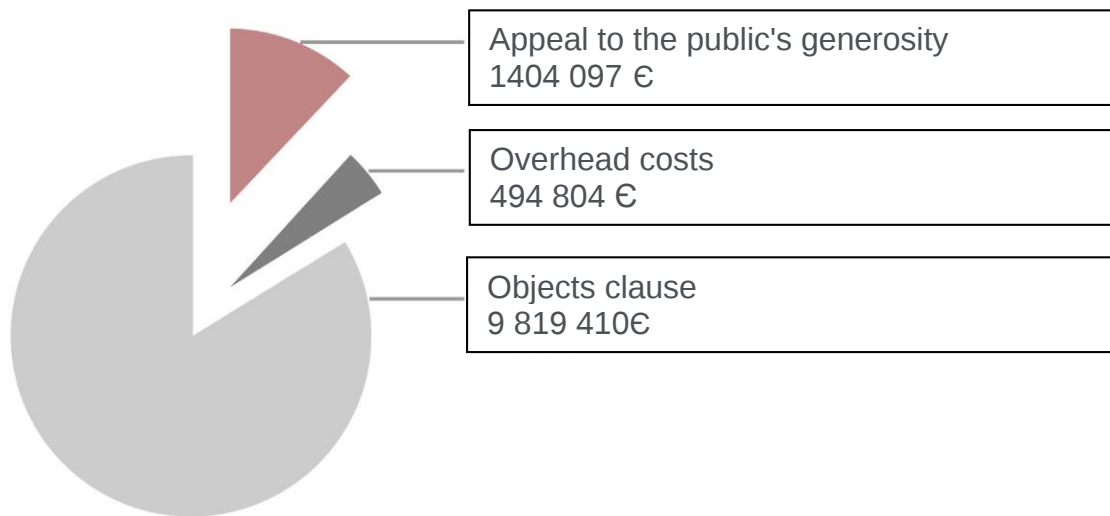
Faithful to its initial ambition, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient continues to work hard in the service of our older brothers in the faith. It is an undeniable success that is sustainable thanks to the relevance of its model and the industry of those who come to refine it every day. »

Charles de Meyer

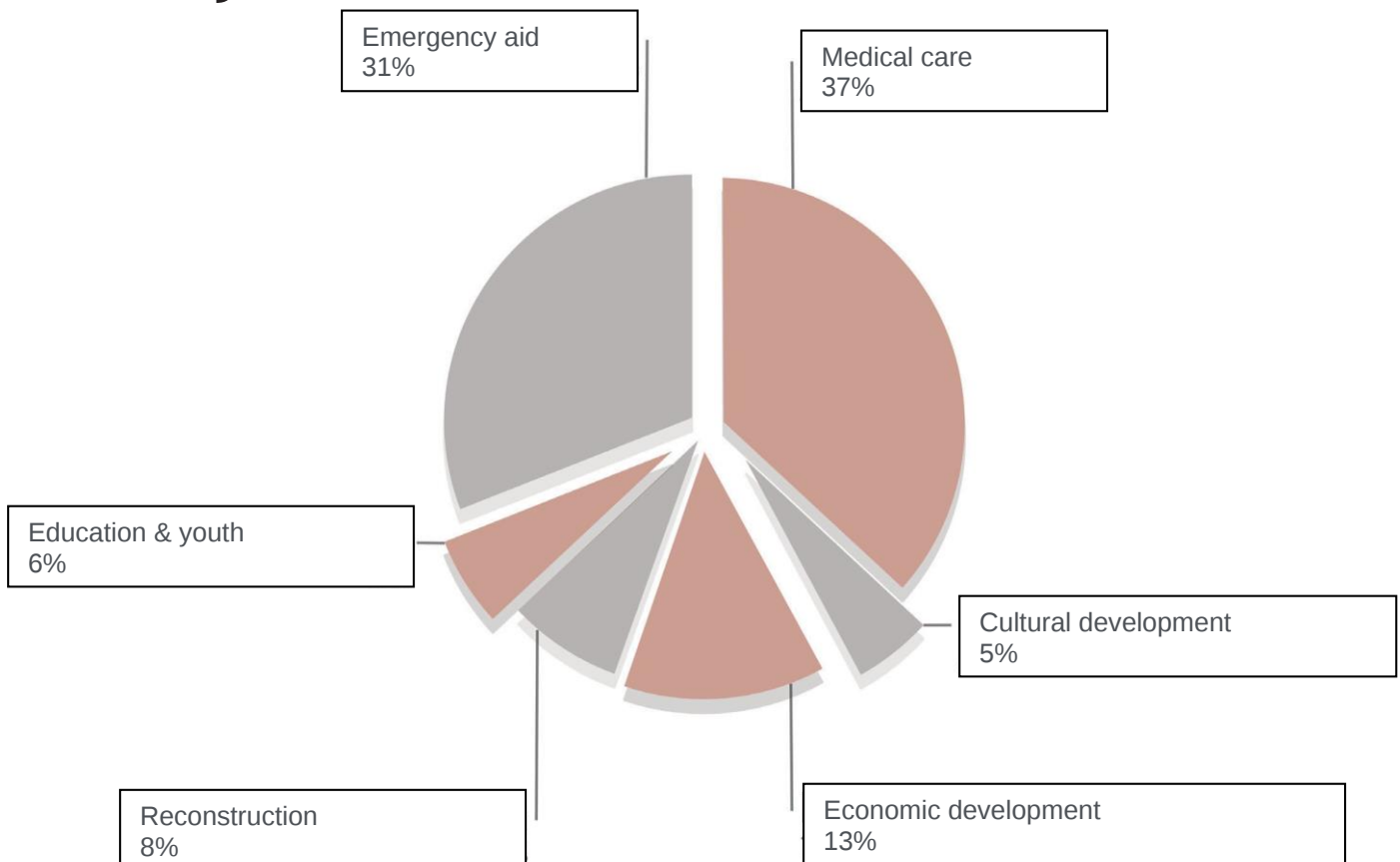
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BUDGETS DISTRIBUTION

The overall budget



The objects clause



3

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient In a few words



Moral report

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient celebrated its fifth anniversary this year. Five years at the service of the Christian populations of the Middle East, victims of religious persecution, discrimination and war.

Five years to renew, maintain or sometimes simply create a link that unites Western and Eastern Christians.

Five years of independence and direct interventions in the field have enabled the organization to establish itself sustainably in the different countries of intervention.

With its own original model, the organization has developed over the years a framework that goes beyond one-off actions or the delegation of a long-term budget.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient therefore continues to maintain its "DNA" of sustainable, viable and inclusive implementation by combining the mission of volunteers, responses to the needs of people in the various missions and the employment of local staff to carry out the follow-up.

All this is supported by the action of the head office in Paris and the provincial delegations (Lyon and Toulon), which relay the actions in the Middle East to give them visibility or raise funds to finance them.

Thus, it is not the theoretical perspective that dominates, but concrete action in the field, according to the real expectations of the populations and families helped in the field.

As always, since its creation, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient intervenes directly in the field and manages all projects in cooperation with local partners in order to guarantee the proper use of funds coming from all our donors.

This daily involvement allows us to create real links, to structure networks and to establish a climate of trust with our partners and the people we help.

Focused action

The aim of the organization is to help Christians in the East, who wish to do so, to remain in their own country. To achieve this, the organization's work is divided into six main areas: emergency aid, medical care, economic development, education, cultural and patrimonial development and reconstruction.



I. Emergency aid

Although SOS Chrétiens d'Orient has a long-term vocation, it is regularly faced with regularly crisis situations or immediate humanitarian distress. For several decades, Christians in the East have been facing problems that directly or indirectly threaten their existence. The emergence and development of terrorist organisations such as Al Qaeda or the Islamic State have aggravated this phenomenon and caused mass humanitarian crises. Since 2011, several million people have been forced to flee their own homes.

In war-torn or unstable countries, governments can be overwhelmed by emergencies. SOS Chrétiens d'Orient implements actions adapted to the context with the aim of saving lives, alleviating suffering, ensuring the safety of people and meeting the basic needs of the affected populations in cooperation with the authorities and relevant actors.

The organization helps the most vulnerable by providing emergency relief: water, food, shelter, basic equipments, hygiene products, heating, blankets, etc. On site, the teams adapt to the weather, human and social constraints in order to distribute the aid in the best possible conditions. Our teams ensure the preservation of foodstuffs potentially exposed to high temperatures.

In case of emergency, they provide blankets or space heaters to enable families to survive in the best possible conditions.



2. Medical care

Countries that have experienced recent conflicts are at high risk of being hit by epidemic diseases and deficiencies. In addition, there are people injured by war, including bombing or shooting at civilians.

Our aim is to provide care for the sick while increasing the resilience of displaced or refugee populations. In order to compensate the weak capacity of the countries of intervention in terms of health systems, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient is developing support mechanisms at national and local levels in order to help the most vulnerable populations, in particular refugees or displaced persons. The organization also strengthens and rehabilitates existing infrastructures and health centres. SOS Chrétiens d'Orient also independently finances mobile pharmacies and infirmaries, medical cabins, as well as the purchase of health equipment and medicines.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient has provided medicines worth a total of €3 million to Syrian hospitals.



3. Economic and social development

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient enables Christian populations in the East to find work in areas where unemployment rate is very high.

Thanks to zero-interest solidarity loans, people who wish to do so can obtain financial aid to start or restart an activity. In terms of development aid, the organization's volunteers regularly call on local businesses to give back work and dignity to persecuted people. We only favour projects that are based on the capacities and means of local communities and authorities, in order to avoid any waste and to significantly reduce the beneficiaries' dependence on humanitarian aid. The local actors are thus actively involved in their own recovery and will be better able to cope with future crises. The organization also works to secure or restore churches destroyed by Islamists, such as in Aleppo, Syria. Based on its experience with the Christian populations of Iraq, Lebanon and Syria, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient commits to develop socio-economic opportunities for vulnerable Christian communities. With particular attention to local initiatives in order to encourage the emergence of a solid socio-economic body.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient also participates in the implementation of major agricultural projects that are essential to the economic development of towns and villages.



4. Education

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient is constantly accompanying more than 20,000 families, i.e. about 100,000 people:

more than half of them are under 15 years old, in a perspective of rootedness. Protecting the most vulnerable from the violence of war and guaranteeing their future is just as important as meeting their basic needs. SOS Chrétiens d'Orient therefore pay a great attention to the protection and development of Christian children in the Middle East. The organization particularly supports those who have suffered persecution or war-related violence. This is why our volunteers spend a lot of time with the youngest children to provide them real moral support. Wherever conditions allow, we build or rehabilitate schools so that young Christians can continue their education. SOS Chrétiens d'Orient also responds to the needs of young displaced persons or victims of war by creating recreation centres, patronages, sports pitches, summer camps and various educational or recreational activities.

It is our conviction that the future of the Eastern Christians depends on the development and blooming of the youngest. The more these children are able to assume their socio-professional future, the more they will be able to root their community in the ethno-religious mosaic of the Middle East.



5. Cultural and patrimonial development

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient is multiplying projects that promote the Christian identity and heritage of the Middle East, in order to allow the population to continue to live on their land. The aim is to provide humanitarian assistance and sustainable development, which are more effective than one-off distributions with a more limited impact. After having met the emergency needs, our volunteers must help the population to overcome their situation of vulnerability. Rehabilitation, reconstruction and rootedness are essential to help victims rebuild their future. These periods are an opportunity to identify the causes of vulnerability and to prevent future crises through sustainable and rooted development. As with health and education, social, cultural and economic rootedness is a powerful factor in resilience.



5. Reconstruction

After the emergency food and sanitary needs, the possession of a healthy house is an essential condition to lead a decent life and to face difficulties.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient is present in post-war areas to help and assist the inhabitants in the reconstruction of their houses and damaged or destroyed heritage. The aim is to enable the population to return to the war-affected towns as quickly as possible and in the best possible conditions, and to enable them to rebuild their lives on their own land.

After an audit, the organization finances the equipment and personnel and provides a list of suppliers and engineers, in order to carry out the projects in close partnership with the beneficiaries.

The organization works on the rehabilitation, construction or reconstruction of private housing, but also of public such as schools, churches and hospitals.



A supported and recognized organization in France and abroad

The recognition of our model of intervention has enabled SOS Chrétiens d'Orient to be gratified by numerous supporters from various backgrounds, both in France and abroad.

Thus, whether in the eastern or western churches, there are many faithful supporters. Among them, we note the Greek Catholic Patriarch Emeritus of Antioch, Gregory III Laham; Monsignor Rey, Bishop of Fréjus-Toulon; the Coptic Orthodox Pope of Alexandria, Tawadros II, and many other patriarchs or bishops from Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Europe.

As far as civil society is concerned, in addition to writers (Jean d'Ormesson from the Académie Française), historians (Max Gallo from the Académie Française, Jean Tulard from the Institut) and journalists (Régis Le Sommier, editor of Paris Match, Denis Tillinac, etc.), the organization has also support from the sporting world (Olivier Giroud, a French football player), the culinary world (chef Yves Camdeborde), the cinema (Michael Lonsdale, actor and director) and the music world (Vianney, singer)...

We should also mention the support of the former President of the French Republic, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and the Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honour, General Benoît Puga.

2018 was also the year of a brand new creation for the organization: The Fondazione SOS Cristiani d'Oriente in Italy. An autonomous Italian foundation, but it is attached to the parent organisation, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient, and to the Endowment Fund of SOS Chrétiens d'Orient.



Security: progress and intervention procedures

With the regular progress of the organization's activities, areas of action and projects, the standards set up and the intervention procedures are evolving for a greater efficiency.

The security procedures of SOS Chrétiens d'Orient have been implemented with the support of professionals in the field and are audited three times a year by independent experts.

The safety of SOS Chrétiens d'Orient staff is a priority. A situation of insecurity can be caused by events such as: inter-ethnic or inter-religious conflicts, riots or violent demonstrations, insurrections, coups d'état, civil or army wars, terrorist attacks, etc. Road accidents or natural disasters are also potential risks to which one must know how to react. When faced to all of these risks, it is advisable to apply a set of measures decided in advance to guarantee one's safety, while waiting for the situation to calm down or for the local authorities to intervene.

The safety of volunteers sent on mission is the absolute priority of SOS Chrétiens d'Orient. Each volunteer is aware of his or her own safety and is trained to be the main actor in this subject. However, at all times, the heads of mission of SOS Chrétiens d'Orient will be present to accompany and supervise them and to react in case of problems. It should be noted that out of the 1000 volunteers who have left to mission in the last 4 years, no significant problem has been reported, which does not prevent the organization from deploying a permanent security unit from Paris, working every day to improve procedures and to monitor volunteers in the field.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient recruits and continuously trains its heads of missions according to their sensitivity to security and safety issues. In their turn, heads of missions will themselves be the first trainers to give instruction to each volunteer under their responsibility (road safety, first aid, fire safety, evacuation plans, etc.). The heads of mission, under the responsibility of the operations direction, participate themselves in the drafting of safety plans for their mission and their delegations and ensure that they are applied. To do this, they are supported by several companies mandated by SOS Chrétiens d'Orient in the field of security auditing, crisis management,

computer network security, destruction of sensitive data, etc.

In addition, we ask all our volunteers to declare themselves on the portal of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and maintain links with the French diplomatic representations in our mission countries in order to benefit the protection offered by France to its nationals.



Projects

Each project, from the most basic to the most complex, is validated after an audit conducted in the most rigorous way possible. Each project begins with a field analysis, completed by consultation with civil and religious authorities. Our heads of mission and their volunteers make numerous return visits to the area in order to target the needs and ensure that they are in line with the organization's objectives. They are also responsible for verifying the authenticity of the needs and the validity of the quotation proposed to them. One of the priorities is to determine the main work items and their estimated duration. The project or mission head draws up a sheet analysing all the data and estimations. A monthly budget for current donations is set in each country of intervention. It may vary according to needs and emergencies in the field. The aim is to provide aid under the organization's control, in order to limit the risk of wasting budgets and to control the proper use of the resources allocated. SOS Chrétiens d'Orient chooses its partners (engineers, contractors, etc.) in order to work in trust with local actors.



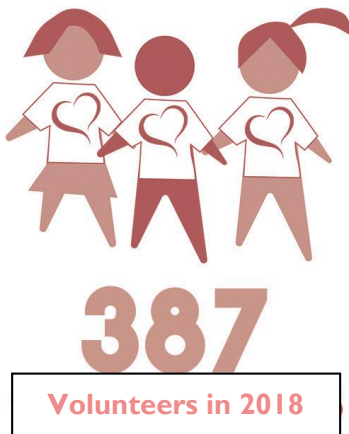
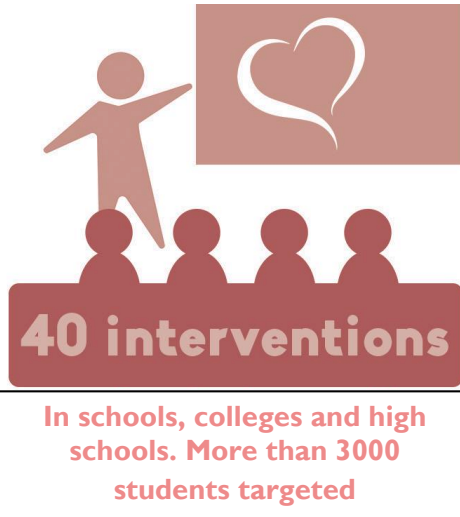
Teams at the service of SOS Chrétiens d'Orient

The Paris headquarters works in symbiosis with the field teams and local staff.

The directors and managers at headquarters work directly with the heads of missions. This has enabled the Heads of missions to implement intervention strategies adapted to local needs and to develop specific humanitarian modules, particularly during the summer - the peak season for volunteers.

4

2018 in numbers



team of Paris 12 employees at the Paris headquarters, 3 volunteer regional delegates (PACA, Occitanie, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)

5

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient mobilizing



Syria

A ccording to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), since 2012, more than five million Syrians have fled the conflict in their country to neighbouring countries or to Europe. In addition, at least 6.6 million people are internally displaced within Syria. Many of them are in precarious situations and difficult-to-reach locations.

These numbers are decreasing due to the evolution of the conflict and the end of the occupation by Al-Nosra (Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria) and the Islamic State organisation of several Syrian regions.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient works in the territories under the control of the Syrian government to help displaced people or populations directly affected by the conflict. The organization develops projects to improve the resilience of population, particularly Christians, to help them rebuild their future on their land. We have particularly supported the inhabitants of Aleppo, victims of one of the most violent battles of the last fifty years. Our delegations in Damascus, Maaloula, Aleppo and Homs have been active on a permanent way for three years now. Volunteers are present on a weekly way (2 days a week) in three other delegations: in Sadad, Qara and Khabab.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient works on two levels: the distribution of basic necessities to meet emergency needs (food, water, blankets, electricity, etc.); and long-term projects such as the rehabilitation of damaged houses and churches, the development of agricultural projects, the payment of school enrolment fees, and housing costs for students in order to avoid generational "gaps" and to ensure a future for these young people who will make up the Syria of tomorrow...

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient carries out emergency humanitarian missions by providing basic necessities for the survival of the population: distribution of food in Damascus for the children of Eastern Ghouta, in Aleppo and Hassakeh, distribution of medical and school kits in Aleppo and Hassakeh. SOS Chrétiens d'Orient volunteers distributed hygiene products and non-food emergency goods (rain jackets in Latakia).

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient has provided medicines worth a total of €3 million to Syrian hospitals.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient installed 100 solar street lamps in the streets of central Hassakeh to bring electricity to the town and help reducing night-time crimes. The organization financed the rehabilitation of a sports pitch in Hassakeh. The aim was to ensure a playground for the town's children.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient has financed and actively participated in Franco-Syrian cultural outreach, in particular by supporting various cultural projects: theatre plays, French film screenings, concerts, tourist visits by French groups, recitals and spiritual songs, etc.

In order to help Syrians, rebuild a future on their own land, the organization has rehabilitated twenty-three flats in the Armenian district of Al Midan, in Aleppo, which was badly hit in the last months of the fighting; twenty-seven flats in Homs; five flats in Maaloula; one in Mhardeh and fourteen in Sadad.

In Damascus, the organization's volunteers renovated the ceiling of the Latin Church of St. Anthony. A donation of buses for the Armenian schools (Al Nour and Al Manaret) was made.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient has regularly donated food packs and hygiene products to enable the poorest and the elderly to meet their vital needs.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient participated in the reconstruction of the Armenian Catholic school Al Imane, where volunteers helped on the building site (painting, clearing away, etc.) and in the restoration of a Syriac Catholic church in Aleppo.

The organization defends the principle of solidarity development by encouraging economic actions, for example the creation of a sewing workshop in Homs.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient continued to carry out basic renovation work on the symbolic site of the Krak des Chevaliers (weeding, removing rubble, etc.).

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient has a permanent mission in Maaloula in Syria since June 2015. Maaloula is a village with a Christian majority, where Aramaic, the language of Christ, is still spoken. It has suffered from the jihadist occupation for seven months. There was a lot of destruction. Several inhabitants suffered martyrdom before the Syrian Arab Army liberated the area in 2014. Despite the violence and damage, some Christians have chosen to return to live in their village.

To continue helping the Maaloulites to put down roots, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient has decided to set up a large-scale agricultural project, consisting of re-launching the cultivation of vines and sumac. Beyond the strong symbolism, the aim is to give a complementary source of income to families; and, in the long term, to offer sustainable resources to the population resettled in the village. During 2017, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient launched two economic development projects in Maaloula: the renovation of the debess factory and the manufacture of a still and a grape press to make arak (a liquor of grape). Vines and sumac are perennial crops. They will only start producing fruit in 5 years, but they will be around for a long time. In this way, we enable farmers to plan for the long term.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient also participated in the production of a documentary film

on the monastery of Sainte-Thecla. The monastery is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It reopened its doors to the faithful in August 2018.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient is investing in the future and intensifying its economic development projects so that Syrians can retake control of their lives. In Mhardeh, the organization financed the renovation of a kindergarten and bought five prefabricated buildings for the Tartous branch of the French high school in Aleppo (as part of its support for the French-speaking world).

The aim is to preserve the roots of the Christian community and help the Christians of Syria to rebuild their future.

Syria, key actions:



Permanent mission locations in Damascus, Maaloula, Aleppo and Homs
Weekly presence of volunteers in Sadad, Qara and Khabab



Emergency aid in Damascus for children in Eastern Ghouta, Aleppo, Hassakeh, Latakia



100 solar street lamps in Hassakeh



Support for cultural projects
Work at the Krak des Chevaliers



23 flats rehabilitated in the Al Midan neighbourhood of



Aleppo Renovation of a Latin church in Damascus
Participation of volunteers in the reconstructions of the Armenian Catholic school and the Syriac Catholic church in Aleppo
Renovation of the stained glass windows of the Cathedral of



Our Lady of the Assumption in Aleppo Regular donations of food products.



Creation of a sewing workshop in Homs.



Relaunching the cultivation of vines and sumac in Maaloula.



Providing medicines worth a total of €3 million to syrian hospitals



Iraq

After a first humanitarian mission in Syria at Christmas 2013, a team of volunteers went to Iraq in April 2014 to celebrate the resurrection of Christ with the Iraqi Christians. From this inaugural trip, which took them through Iraqi Kurdistan and the Nineveh plain, they understood the importance of the presence of young French people among the Eastern Christians.

On the night of 6 August 2014, 55,000 people fled the Christian town of Qaraqosh to save their lives. The Nineveh plain had just fallen into the hands of the Islamic State organisation. In less than 72 hours, a team from SOS Chrétiens d'Orient flew to Erbil where some 80,000 displaced Christians, deprived of their possessions and sometimes separated from their families, were crammed together under a blazing sun, in over 40°C shade. The logistical problems of water and electricity supply are alarming. As soon as the Ankawa Mall camp, on the outskirts of Erbil, opened, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient, the first French organisation present in the field, organised the distribution of drinking water and food packs.

In August 2014, a permanent mission was opened in the capital to assist displaced families and these from disadvantaged local communities.

In view of the needs identified, three levels of action are immediately put in place:

The situation is evolving rapidly, so the organization is working on a wide range of emergency actions: distribution of blankets, cookers, foodstuffs, clothing, etc. Faced with an extremely heavy daily life for the refugees, sports or cultural activities are organised daily: for the youngest, choreography and manual activities; for the teenagers, foot ball and volley ball tournaments; for the oldest, backgammon or dominoes.

The structural projects meet medium-term needs. For example, the organization is building a water purification system, chicken coops and gardens, collective kitchens, and centres so that the refugees can re-socialise.

The organization also carries out long-term projects for the Christian communities in Iraq. In the educational sector, with the construction of schools or the organisation of French courses by volunteers. The organization also provides medical cabins, rebuilds clinics and distributes medicines. And finally, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient is involved in the reconstruction of housing destroyed by the war.

In October 2016, the Christian villages of the Nineveh plain were finally liberated, but

all that remained were ruins: the houses had been burned, bombed, devastated, the churches desecrated. The walls still standing are tagged with propaganda inscriptions left by Daech.

In 2018, the challenge for the Iraq mission is to continue to help families return to their recently liberated villages. The mission has launched several programmes to rebuild houses in Christian villages in the Nineveh Plain.

For example, we have financed the training of Christian craftsmen in the reconstruction trade. Electricity, masonry, carpentry, etc., all sessions offered in 2018 for 45 men and women (35 men and 10 women) at the Saint Joseph centre in Ankawa (transferred in July to Karemless), which has been supported by the organization since the beginning. SOS Chrétiens d'Orient has provided a new toolbox for each apprentice at the end of their training, to enable them to be immediately operational on the job market.

In terms of donations in 2018, more than 800 assessments and more than 500 donations were carried out in the Nineveh Plain and in the camps of displaced in Ankawa, in particular to Chaldean Christian refugees and Yezidi families who survived the massacres of Daech.

More than 70 houses were rebuilt and rehabilitated in 2018, as well as a hundred or so shops or community centres and a Syriac Catholic school. This is a long-term project involving the organization's volunteers on site and Iraqi Christian engineers and workers.

Eleven loans of €5,000 were given in July 2018, with repayments starting in January 2019, for projects to launch or relaunch economic activities: a taxi, a butcher's shop, a hairdresser's salon, a garage, a pharmacy and a veterinary clinic for Syriac Orthodox Christians in Bartella. Each project benefits one or two people and their respective families and has a virtuous impact on the whole of local society.

As regards the safeguarding of Iraqi religious heritage, this year we continued to fund the National Centre for Oriental Manuscripts (NCOM) of the now famous Father Najeeb. A place belonging to the Dominicans where oriental manuscripts from Qaraqosh and Mosul, saved from the Islamic State organisation by Father Najeeb, are stored, digitised and restored. This year, we financed the construction of the third floor of his centre, in order to increase the storage and restoration capacities of the manuscripts.

In the same vein and in order to raise the ruins and the men, we participated in the clearing of the ruins of the Benatha chapel and in the construction of a Syriac Orthodox church for the 400 families displaced from Mosul (who fled in the face of the advance of the Islamic State organisation in June 2014). Under the church, a parish hall has also been built for community events

: funerals, baptisms, traditional celebrations...

Finally, to promote and improve the economic development of Christian villages in Iraqi Kurdistan, we financed the construction and development of a well to compensate on the one hand for the diversion of a river diverted by the Kurdish forces upstream (military objective) and on the other hand for the recurrent lack of water in the region. In addition, apple producers in the region were identified in order to start the administrative procedures for the provision of a common storage shed for these local farmers.

Iraq, key actions:



Permanent mission sites in Erbil, Al Qosh, Teleskuf and Badaresh



100 shops and community centres rehabilitated



Financing of the National Centre for Oriental Manuscripts



House reconstruction programme in the Nineveh Plain 70 houses rebuilt and rehabilitated.



Renovation of the Benatha chapel



500 donations of basic necessities



Training of 45 craftsmen in Karemlless

11 loans of €5000 for economic activity projects Construction of a well in



Kany Ballav



liban

Lebanon

The pressures exerted on Lebanon by successive waves of migration is destabilising the country: rising unemployment, rising rent prices, falling wages, rural exodus, and the migration of young people abroad. In addition to the four million Lebanese, there are now more than one million Palestinian, Syrian and Iraqi refugees. This massive arrival poses enormous economic problems, especially as Lebanon's heavy past with its neighbouring countries is still alive and historical tensions are very real.

It is in this unique context that SOS Chrétiens d'Orient decided to establish a permanent mission in Lebanon. From Beirut, the mission covers all the country, with deep roots in the Lebanese provinces and cities. The volunteers take turns in four delegations (Beirut, Qaa, Rmeich, Tripoli) to help the Christians of Lebanon.

In order to best respond to the needs of the Christian population, the volunteers present in the field, assisted by Lebanese students or young professionals, carry out various actions on a daily basis. A large part of the activity of the volunteers in Beirut and Tripoli is devoted to donations to poor Lebanese families or refugees.

The volunteers also work daily with the "smallest or most vulnerable": children, the elderly or the disabled, by providing French lessons, school support, recreational and cultural activities by serving a meal or simply by sharing a moment or praying.

These long-term activities encourage the creation and maintenance of a link between the volunteers and the Orientals. This is maintained by the active participation of all in Feasts, meals, various occasional activities, but also in religious festivals and masses.

In four years of presence in Lebanon, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient has developed strong links with the elderly at the Restaurants du Cœur, with Lebanese and refugee children at the Sisters of Charity or at the Notre-Dame-des-Anges school, and with the war-wounded at the Beit Chebab hospital.

In 2018, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient carried out several dozen local projects, such as the construction of a well in Khaibet or the restoration of the sanitary facilities of the Saint-Elie school in Bhamdoun, assistance in the purchase of tractors and agricultural equipment for an agricultural cooperative in Beit Lahia or participation in the purchase of a new specialised ambulance for the Quarantine hospital in Beirut. The action is aimed primarily at the poorest the poorest Lebanese populations, Christians living in peripheral and isolated areas such as the and isolated areas such as the Bekaa plain and the Akkar or in southern Lebanon.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient took part in eleven summer camps in 2018: nine were organised by the organization itself and two where volunteers came to help schools, in particular the school in Ain el Mir. Eight hundred Lebanese children benefited from fun and cultural activities during the two months of the summer.

Since the beginning of 2018, a permanent delegation has been opened in Tripoli. In these neighbourhoods, where there were violent clashes between Sunnis and Alawites in the past, the volunteers work with the poorest people, in particular by organising a Christmas market in December 2018.

Lebanon, key actions:



Permanent mission locations in Beirut, Tripoli, Rmeich, Qaa Presence of volunteers in an orphanage in Baabdat



800 children in summer camps



Donations to 200 families in Tripoli



Financing of a grocery shop in Khaibet, Akkar region.



A tractor for an agricultural cooperative in Beit Lahia Solidarity loan to an agricultural cooperative in Lebbaa A well project for the village of Khaibet



Education missions in all mission locations, courses,



support Donation of an equipped ambulance to a paediatric emergency service



Jordan

When the Islamic State organisation arrived, a large number of Iraqi Christians fled the Nineveh Plain in Iraq and took refuge in Jordan between August and November 2014. Unfortunately, since then, the flow of refugees has not stopped. On the Syrian border, the camp of Zaatari, considered the fourth largest city in Jordan, poses considerable challenges and puts great economic and social pressures on the entire country. The Hashemite Kingdom has reached its maximum reception capacity, as King Abdullah II attested in the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015.

In April 2015, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient carried out a first observation mission in Jordan. The needs having been verified, the mission was launched on 1 August 2015 with a small team.

Jordan currently has 12,300 Iraqi Christian refugees, most of whom live in empty flats with little or no furniture. They have lost their landmarks, their possessions and sometimes family members. Even if they are already receiving aid, these refugees, living in the popular districts of the capital (Marqa, Ashrafiah, Al Hashimi...) have urgent needs which SOS Chrétiens d'Orient has decided to meet.

The volunteers visit the most isolated families on a daily basis, responding to their needs in terms of food, health and daily life, to fight against the inaction of refugees of all ages. They organise activities and schooling for the children, and devise various activities for the adults: cooking classes, French classes, board games, gardening games, gardening...

Since 2015, 169 volunteers have taken turns in the four Jordanian delegations. More than a thousand families have been assessed since the mission opened and three SOS Cafés have been created. Every week, these allow young and old alike to meet for a few hours of relaxation, discussion, card games and dominoes over a traditional cup of tea, coffee or fruit juice.

The organization invests in the economic development of Smakieh, the last Christian village in Jordan, by building a water purification station, a cheese-making unit and a hairdressing salon. The organization also finances a pig farm and the fencing of olive fields.

In 2018, the organization developed a new way of working and helping in Jordan: the permanent mission with a constant presence of international volunteers has gradually evolved into a mission led by our local staff and volunteers and punctuated by the sending of international volunteers for the Christmas and summer periods. The mission is now managed directly by the Director of Operations, who visits the country regularly to supervise the activities of the

local managers and the monitoring of our projects in the mission.

Jordan, key actions:



The mission in Jordan remains a permanent mission led by our local managers and volunteers
4 mission locations



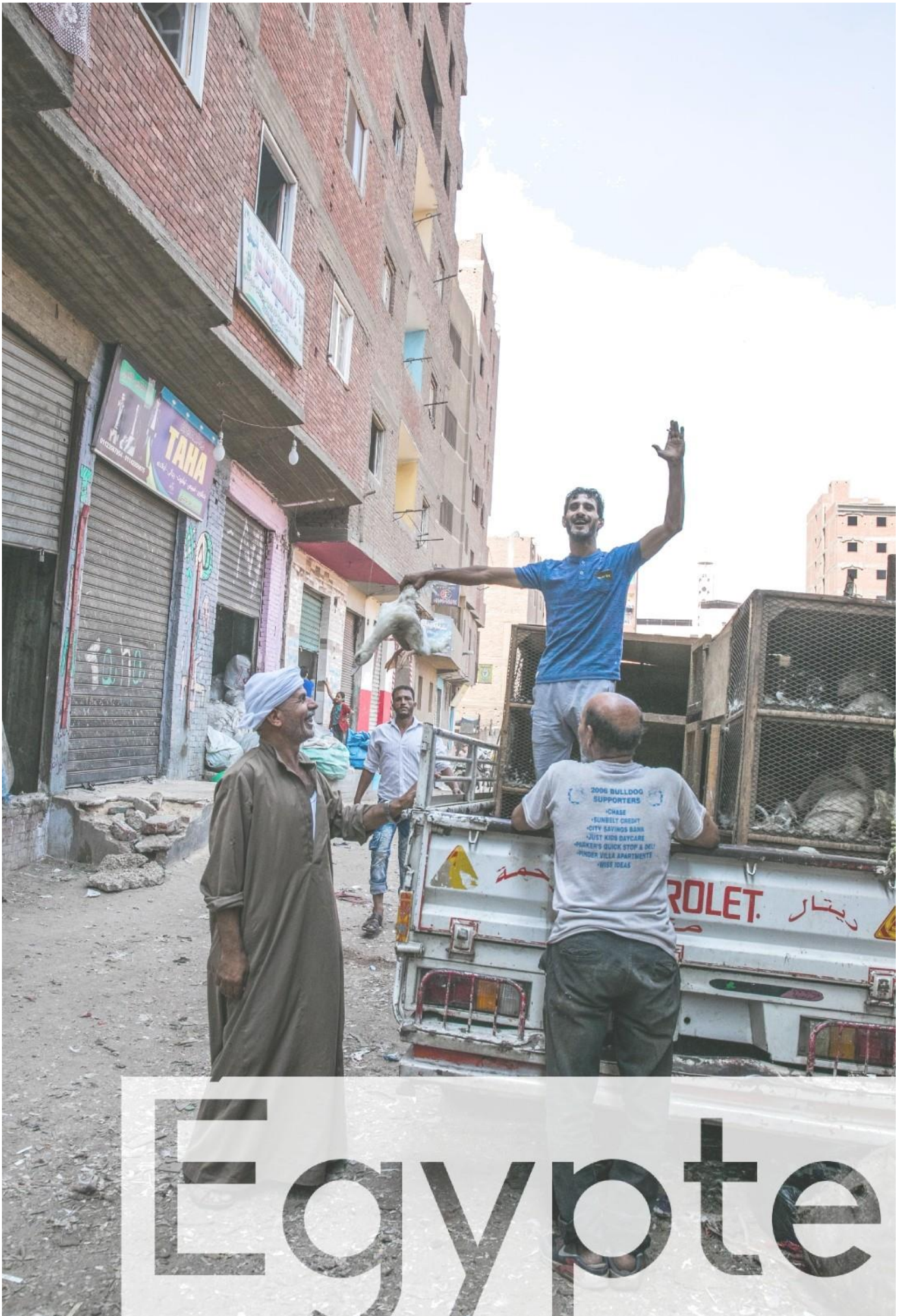
Creation of 3 SOS cafés



Daily donations of basic necessities



Investment in a water purification station, a cheese-making unit and a hairdressing salon in Smakieh



Egypte

Egypt

In the summer of 2018, the organization officially opened its permanent mission in the land of the Pharaohs or rather the Copts, the Egyptian Christians, heirs of Saint Mark and his first disciples, who evangelised the inhabitants of Egypt in 50 AD. With an estimated 15 million people, Egypt has until now the largest Christian population in the Middle East.

The Coptic Christians (mostly Orthodox) are the ethnic Egyptians who converted to Christianity early of the first century and in the following centuries.

Since the seventh century, the Christian populations of Egypt have been subjected to regular cycles of persecution. In 2011, shortly after the "Egyptian Revolution", anti-Christian acts have multiplied: attacks, imprisonment, murders, vandalism, looting, discrimination, etc. The horror has progressed slowly but surely. Persecution and extreme poverty are also the daily reality of Egyptians living in the suburbs of the country's cities, in Upper Egypt and in Sinai, where the Islamic State organisation is now active.

It is in this context that SOS Chrétiens d'Orient provides an emergency response and develops social and economic support projects.

Following in the footsteps of Sister Emmanuelle in Egypt, the mission of SOS Chrétiens d'Orient was first established in Cairo, then in Ezbet-El-Nakhl, a ragpickers' shantytown, and in Alexandria. The organization plans to open a fourth delegation soon in the shantytown of 15 May, 2.5 hours from Cairo, in the south, where more than 5,000 Christians in great difficulty.

Before setting up a permanent mission, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient had carried out several one-off missions in order to get to know the area and the needs. Since 2016, for the summer and for the Easter and Christmas holidays, volunteers, led by the organization's leaders, have been present to relieve the misery and difficulties of Copts. Emergency aid, donations, summer camps, activities with children and disabled people have punctuated the hot days of August or the periods of January (Coptic Christmas on 6 January) or April.

In June 2018, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient returned to Egypt with a more ambitious objective: to establish itself in a sustainable way.

This was a successful gamble, since in December 2018, the Egypt mission is doing well, with actions and activities that are multiplying. Distribution of materials, clothes, medicine, French and English courses, visits to families, help for orphans, disabled people, the elderly and the poorest people make up the daily life of the volunteers of SOS Chrétiens d'Orient in Egypt.

For this first Christmas on mission, the volunteers brought more than 500 food packs, 2,000 warm clothes, and boxes of medicines were distributed to families, children and the sick in poor neighbourhoods and remote villages. The volunteers were given a particularly warm welcome by all.

In the very poor district of Matarya, with the help of Doctor Adel, a friend of our organization and co-worker of Sister Emmanuelle for more than twenty years, the volunteers offered packs containing about fifteen foodstuffs: meat, rice, pasta, biscuits, milk, jam, chicken, oil... Enough to feed a family of six for three weeks.

A few kilometres from Minya, in Mallawi, a province of Middle Egypt often targeted by terrorist attacks, the volunteers joined the parishioners of the Saint church of St. Maximus and St. Damatheus in Cairo to give clothes and food packs to more than 2,000 children and some 300 families. A harsh winter was looming for the children of southern Egypt. Our teams teams also intervened in the same way in the localities of Ezbet El Nakhl, El Amman, Borg El Arab, El Gouira, Bangar and in the slum of 15 May in Helwan.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient is working hard to meet the urgent food needs of the poorest Coptic Christians.

Egypt, key actions:



Permanent presence of SOS Chrétiens d'Orient in Cairo and Alexandria



Support for families, orphans, the disabled and the elderly

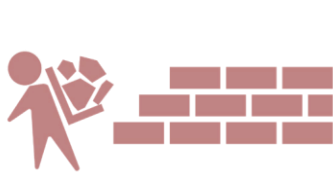


Christmas 2018: 500 food packs, 2,000 warm clothes, medicines Food packs distributed in Matarya
Clothing and food distributed to 2,000 children and 300 families



Pakistan

Pakistan



From slavery to freedom.

Pakistan is not regularly in the media spotlight. However, the fate of its 1 to 2% of Christians (approximately two million people) is no less worrying in a Muslim country where the Taliban exert a powerful influence and where Christians are the new "untouchables", considered as last category citizens.

At the request of Father Emmanuel Parvez, priest of Pansara, a delegation from SOS Chrétiens d'Orient went to the region of Faisalabad and Lahore, in the north-west of the country, near the Indian border. At the end of their trip and after an evaluation of the needs, the organization decided to commit itself to the Pakistani Christians who live in a situation of almost slavery.

Many of them work from father to son for a landowner who, in return, provides housing for their families. In return for housing, the wages are simply enough to survive and provide for basic needs. When they have the misfortune to become unproductive due to age, illness or simply bad weather Christians have to pay back their days of absence or are simply thrown out on the street. Sometimes they are attached to their 'landlord' because of their father's or grandfather's debts.

The analysis of immediate needs has been oriented towards a response that focuses mainly on economic development and education.

In 2018, the aim has been to free Christian families from slavery and give them a home, a land and a future. The organization has already donated enough money to complete the construction of around 40 houses in the north-east of the country, around 20 houses in Faisalabad and is also involved in the reconstruction of two churches in Karachi. The mission is continuing to buy land and build new houses.

We support Father Parvez' work and his plan to buy back land to finance the establishment of free and safe Christian communities.

In addition, we have been involved in the renovation of an old church in Karachi which had been abandoned due to lack of funds and lack of work, as the laws in this area very restrictive regarding the renovation of Pakistani churches.



France

France

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient sends monthly mass mailings to alert public opinion to the tragedy or fate of the Eastern Christians. The organization sent nearly two million letters in 2018. In five years, more than 700 000 people have given at least once to the organization, which has 110,000 active donors and has trained over 1,500 volunteers.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient sends out a quarterly newsletter to inform about the needs and actions carried out by the organization in favour of the Eastern Christians. We also carry out information and awareness campaigns on the Internet, via our website and social networks.

The year 2018 was marked by two major events: the charity dinner at the Val de Grâce and the tour throughout France of the sound and light show, "Martyrdom and Hope of the Eastern Christians".

The dinner brought together 200 guests at the Val de Grâce to finance a Christian school in Cairo. The event was sponsored by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and His Holiness Theodore II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church. We were able to count on the support of the chef Yves Camdeborde, the caterer Joy-Astrid Poinot and the chef-sommelier of the Château d'Artigny, Antoine Lefort.

The Son et Lumière tour was an extension of an event launched in Paris last year. In June 2017, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient organised the first performance of the sound and light show "Martyrdom and hopes of the Christians of the East, from Saint Paul to the present day" in the Val-de-Grâce church in Paris, in front of nearly eight hundred people. This session was the starting point for a long tour throughout France. In each city, the original show, using the video-mapping technique, was adapted to highlight the unique architecture of the church that hosted it and to promote its heritage. With a text by the writer Richard Millet, carried by the voices of Abbé Benoît de Pomerol and the journalist Charlotte d'Ornellas, the cry of hope of the Eastern Christians resounded in these religious buildings and touched the French people who attended the various performances.

These two events were a strong vector of communication and visibility. They also enabled us to collect several tens of thousands of euros in donations for all our current projects.

They were complemented by many other local actions such as conferences, concerts, exhibitions and information meetings.

The year 2018 was also marked by the broadcasting of the film "Syrie, du chaos à l'espérance" directed by Eddy Vicken and Yvon Bertorello with the voice-over of the comedian

Michael Lonsdale. With the help of SOS Chrétiens d'Orient, the filmmakers travelled throughout Syria (from Damascus to Aleppo, passing through Maaloula, Mhardeh, Homs and Kessab) for more than a month to meet Syrians, especially Christians. They took stock of the dramatic situation in which the various components of the Syrian people survive in all its complexity. The preview of the film took place at the Publicis Cinémas on 27 September 2018.

Our partnerships with Radio Classique, Sud Radio, Valeurs Actuelles and numerous municipal magazines have also enabled us to expand our communication and reach hundreds of thousands of additional people.

In 2018, the SOS Chrétiens d'Orient teams living in France organised more than a hundred operations aimed at alerting the public opinion to the fate of the Eastern Christians, notably by responding to the media, in Paris and in other provinces. Our volunteers also took part in 114 conferences and interventions in schools to raise awareness among thousands of young people about the fate of Eastern Christians.

All of these interventions make it possible to create links with new audiences, to provide information directly connected to the concerns of the assistance and to help the volunteer public to make a humanitarian commitment.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient participated in the Notre-Dame de Chrétienté pilgrimage (Paris-Chartres) with a groupe of the organization. More than seventy pilgrims chose to walk and unite their prayers for the Christians of the East.

This year again, Pentecost was the occasion to organise pilgrimages for each mission simultaneously with the Paris-Chartres pilgrimage of Notre-Dame de Chrétienté.

Visibility operations are organised, such as the Heroes' Challenge in Paris, which took place in June. More than 200 runners covered 10 or 20 km to raise funds for the children of the ragpickers in Cairo. Volunteers, former volunteers and supporters of the organization ran for the Christians of the East, to show their support.

We also celebrated our thanksgiving mass on 12 September 2018, an event that marked the organization's fifth anniversary. Five years of links, stories, events, reconstructions, projects, donations, smiles, joys and sorrows... Five years blessed by the prayers of some, the donations of others, but also and above all by the involvement of more than 1,500 volunteers who have left over the years to live, work and help the Eastern Christians. The celebration of mass in the Dominican Rite by the Very Reverend Father Louis-Marie de Blignières, prior of the Fraternité Saint-Vincent-Ferrier, and sung by the Schola Sainte-Cécile, allowed the four hundred or so faithful present to

honour the Virgin Mary and to give thanks for the actions carried out by SOS
Chrétiens d'Orient since Christmas 2013.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient

Endowment fund

In October, the SOS Chrétiens d'Orient Endowment Fund was set up to broaden the scope and variety of ways to support the work of SOS Chrétiens d'Orient.

This endowment fund, chaired by Rodolphe Istre, is a sponsorship organisation whose mission is to help SOS Chrétiens d'Orient to accomplish its work of general interest by granting it funding.

The fund is able to receive goods and rights of all kinds: cash, but also assets (securities, shares, bonds, company shares, etc.) or real estate (flats, houses, land, etc.). There is no restriction on the nature of the property that is the subject of the legacies. The endowment fund supports the organization by giving it the possibility of accepting not only financial donations, but also donations and legacies from benefactors without transfer duty, i.e. without paying tax to the State.

Sebastiano Caputo,
president of the Fondazione SOS Cristiani d'Oriente



Italie

Italy

In 26 April 2018, the Fondazione SOS Cristiani d'Oriente, a subsidiary of SOS Chrétiens d'Orient d'Orient in Italy has born.

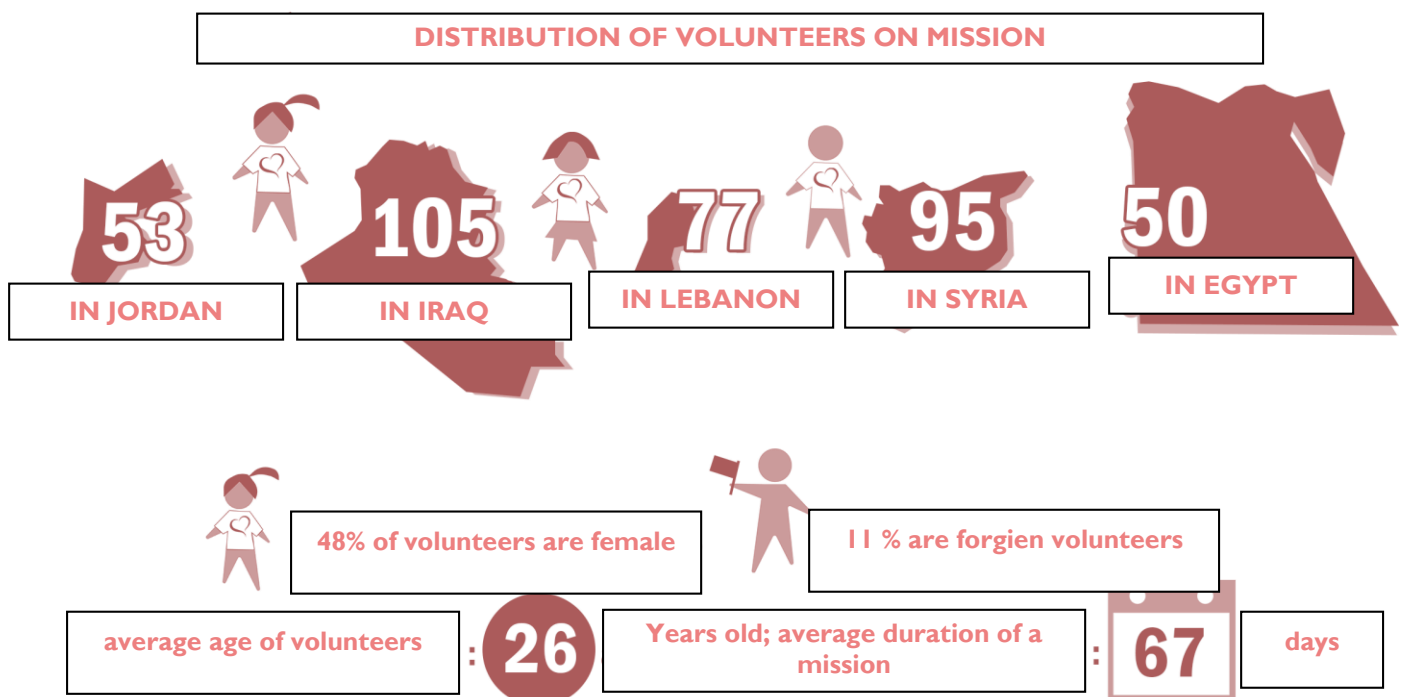
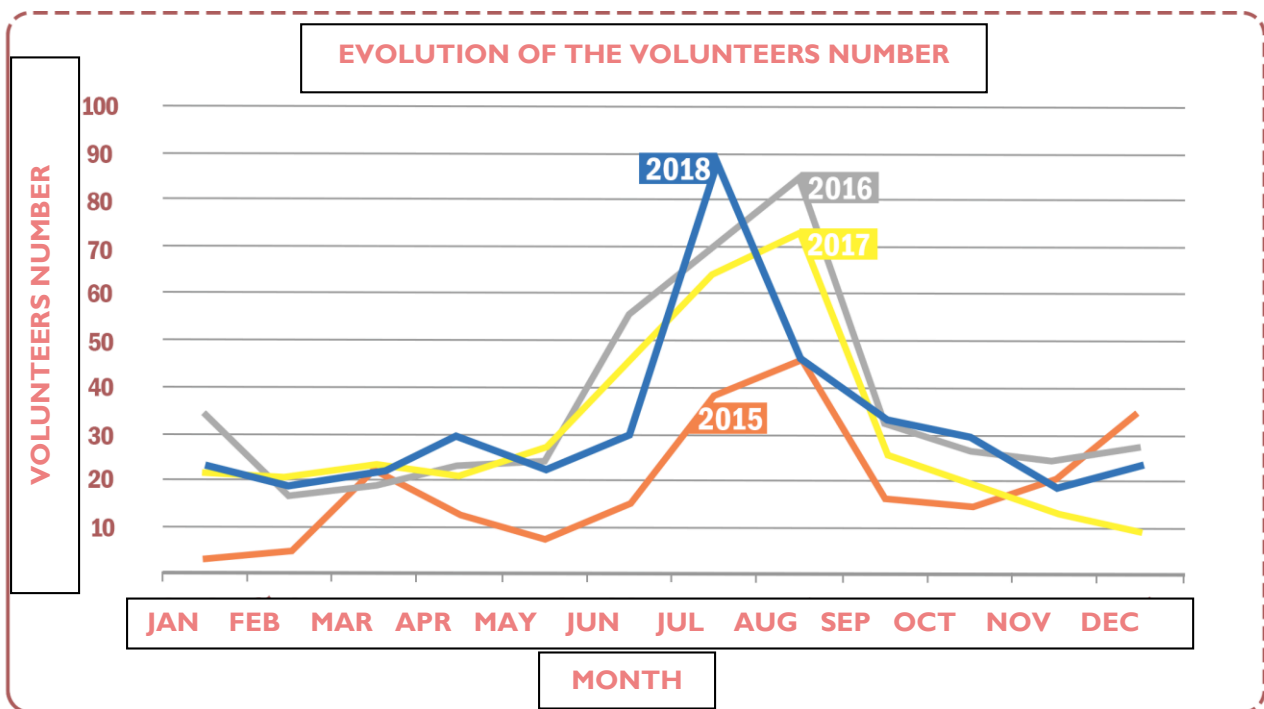
The structure is under the responsibility of an Italian journalist Sebastiano Caputo, in connection with the Paris headquarters. The aim is to raise awareness of the the Italian public to the cause of the Christians of the East. With 17 volunteers sent since its launch this year launched this year, the Fondazione SOS Cristiani d'Oriente has taken its place in the landscape of Christian NGOs in Italy.

Italian volunteers in every mission



6

Volunteers in the core of our action



7

Volunteers have the floor



"It's hard to expect something without really knowing the country beforehand, but on the whole the activities corresponded to what I imagined. I was just surprised that I got so attached to this country, this culture, and especially the people I helped! I feel like I received much more than I gave »,

Louis - Iraq mission.

"A real contact with the people, a moral and psychological support much more than material, a great autonomy in the projects".

Ségolène - Syria mission.

"If one day you have a few months to give, go! You will have nothing to regret, everything to gain".

Marine - Iraq mission.

"In contact with the inhabitants, the volunteers discover another reality, another misery but also a greater richness".

Claire-Marie - Egypt mission.

8

Perspectives of 2019

The endowment fund

In response to requests from donors, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient decided to create an endowment fund in October 2018.

Thus, donors can, through their donations and legacies, which are totally exempt from transfer duties, to ensure the work of SOS Chrétiens d'Orient in the long term. The organization is now able to receive the income from the endowment fund each year so it could finance the projects of SOS Chrétiens d'Orient in the years to come. The objective for 2019, is to use this tool to finance major projects of the organization. The objective, for 2019 is to make this tool known to our community, in order to propose new perspectives of commitment.

Ethiopia: January 2019

Ethiopia is one of the oldest Christianised countries in the world and its population remains predominantly Christian.

However, the country suffers from difficult relations with the Islamist groups that are developing there, under the influence of Sudan and the Gulf States. Poverty and the condition of women are also serious concerns.

On Sunday 21 October 2018, Ethiopia signed a peace agreement with one of the country's oldest rebel groups, the Ogaden National Liberation Front. On 16 September, another peace agreement was reached with Eritrea, ending a 20-year war. A fervent supporter of peace and reconciliation, the small Catholic Church of Ethiopia, which represents 1% of the population, welcomed the signing of these agreements but it is not alone... The Ethiopian Tewahedo Orthodox Church, which represents 45% of the 100 million of Ethiopians has welcomed this peace too.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church is one of the pre-Chalcedonian churches. It has been autocephalous since 1959 and is part of the Three Councils Churches (Eastern Orthodox Churches). It is one of the oldest Christian churches in the world, established around the 4th century.

It uses the Guez Rite and has remained for a long time under the influence of its Coptic cousin, the Church of Egypt. Its head holds the title of Patriarch and Catholicos of Ethiopia,

delegate of the See of Takla Haïmanot and Archbishop of Aksoum, and resides in Addis Ababa, the capital of the country. The current incumbent is Abouna Mathias, elected on 28 February 2013, who succeeded Abouna Paulos.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church was quite isolated from the rest of the Christian world between the 7th and 15th centuries, and developed a particular spirituality, theology and liturgical practices, strongly influenced by the Old Testament.

And it is in the heart of Ethiopia that eleven 13th century monolithic churches dug into the rock below ground level make the site of Lalibela a high place of pilgrimage, a holy land for the Christians of the Ethiopian Church. Perched at an altitude of 2,600 metres on the high plateaus, the churches, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978, are full of gold and silver in the shape of cross. They are surrounded by deep dry moats and linked by a network of trenches to allow for processions of the faithful. But carved from a fragile rock that disintegrates in the rain, these treasures are in danger.

In 2008, in order to protect five churches, sheet metal covers supported by heavy metal pillars were placed on top over the buildings. But these metal panels threaten to damage these thousand-year-old treasures. The roof of the underground Trinity Chapel is cracking under the weight. Ethiopians are not hiding their concerns about this. "We want a permanent restoration and we want the shelter to be removed," says Tsigieselassie Mazgebu, the parish priest of the complex. "There is a good chance that if it comes across the treasures, it will demolish them".

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient, which wishes to establish itself in Ethiopia in the near future, will soon carry out an identification on the spot in order to evaluate the priority sites of action, the activities activities and possible donations, as well as aid for the restoration of the endangered of the endangered thousand-year-old Christian heritage.

Armenia

According to the Bible, it was on Mount Ararat, the highest point in historical Armenia, that Noah landed his ark. In doing so, Armenia would be the first Christian country in the world. Later, the break-up of the territory, the weight of wars, political instability, genocide and then the Soviet occupation caused vast migrations of Armenians throughout the world and in particular to the Near and Middle East.

Every year, Armenian youth gather in Gyumri, in northern Armenia. In 2018, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient financed the trip to Armenia of ten young people from the Syrian diaspora to participate in this meeting and allow them to discover the roots of their ancestors; the opportunity to meet and exchange on various subjects.

On this occasion, SOS Chrétiens d'Orient was able to measure the needs existing in this country.

Firstly, with the people who survived the earthquake of 7 December 1988, in the Gyumri region. Since that disastrous day, at least 30,000 people have been surviving in shanty towns in unworthy conditions.

Secondly, with the people of Artsakh, a small republic landlocked within Azerbaijan, linked to Armenia by a simple mountain road and which, since the outbreak of the 1991 Nagorno-Karabakh war between the two countries, has been living in constant misery and insecurity.

SOS Chrétiens d'Orient would like to carry out other specific operations in Armenia, in order to see the different modes of cooperation that can be put in place for the benefit of Christians in difficulty.