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# STEADFAST IN HOPE

A YEAR IN REVIEW





**LATIFA\*, 42, NORTH AFRICA**

**“We’ve never met, but we are brothers and sisters and belong to the same body.”**

—

“Open Doors supported me. You helped me pay my rent. You made sure that I was visited by women because I couldn’t go to church. We used to study the word of God together, we would eat and pray together. The help from my brothers and sisters in a time that I was abandoned by everyone, made a big difference. Without your help, I couldn’t have done anything. I thank you and ask God to bless you because you thought about me without knowing me in person.”

*\*Name changed and face concealed to protect her identity*

*Photo: Latifa was rejected by family for choosing to follow Jesus.*





## About Open Doors

Open Doors was launched in 1955 by a courageous Christian from the Netherlands named Brother Andrew.

Brother Andrew is best known for his best-selling book *God's Smuggler*, which tells stories of his secret missions to bring Bibles into communist countries during the height of the Cold War.

Today, Christians continue to be persecuted, and, like Brother Andrew, Open Doors continues to take risks to support and resource these Christians and to strengthen the church.

Open Doors can only do this with your support. Your help enables Open Doors to serve millions of persecuted Christians in more than 70 countries, working with churches and local partners to provide Bibles, Christian materials, training, livelihood skills and advocacy.

Today, increasing numbers of persecuted Christians are looking to their brothers and sisters to walk with them on their journey.

With your prayers and support, they know they are not alone in their suffering, and they are encouraged to continue.

# A letter from the team

*Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer. Romans 12:12*

**Open Doors vision is that no one suffers persecution alone. When one member of the body suffers, all suffer with it. In 2021, you continued to stand steadfastly with your persecuted family across the world. As persecution intensified, so did your prayer and support, giving them much encouragement and showing them that they are not alone and not forgotten.**

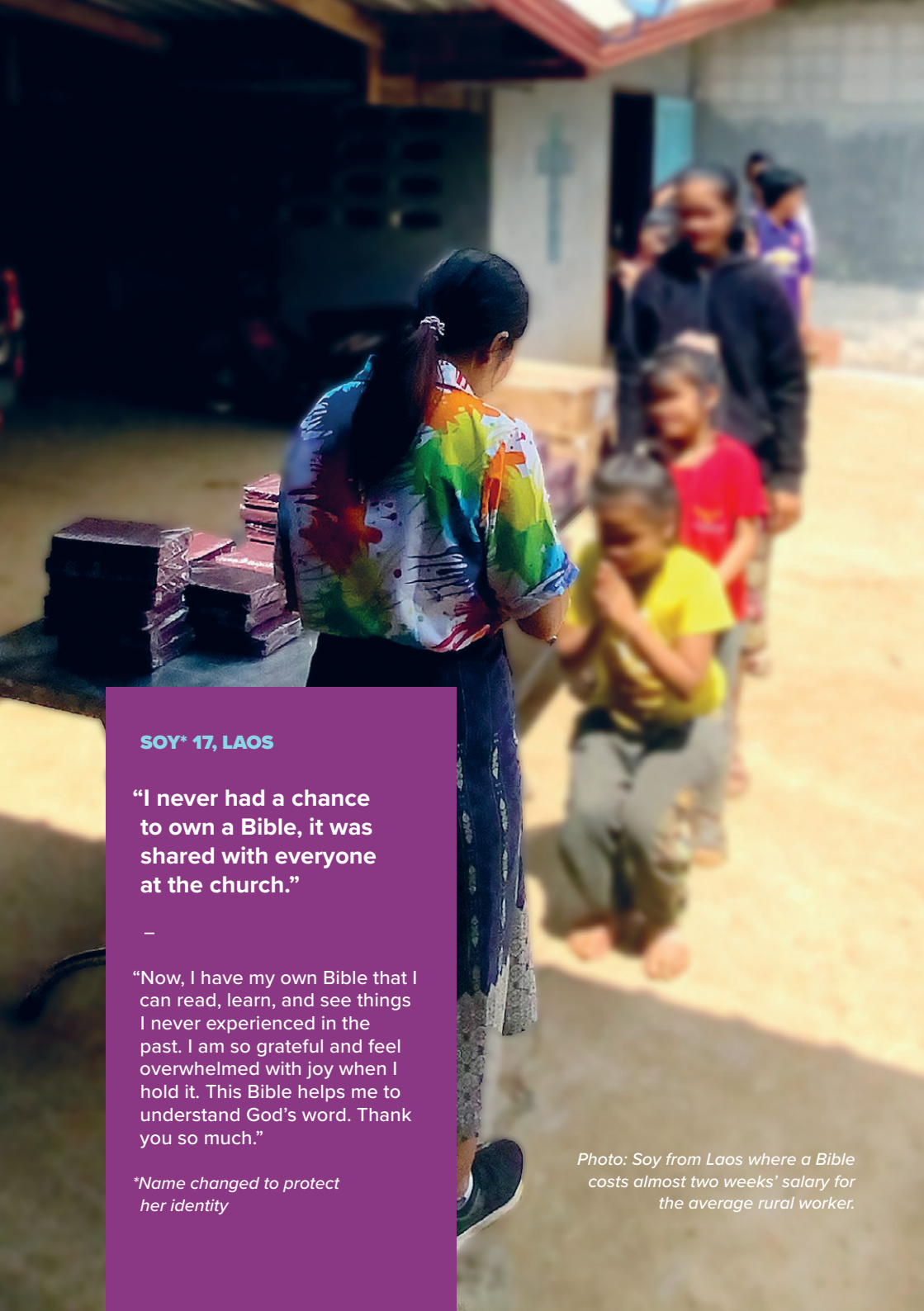
In the face of violent persecution and in some cases the threat of death, our brothers and sisters could only hold on to hope and call on their global family to support them in prayer. Where you couldn't go, your prayers went. You were their tangible source of hope. You stood with them and gave them more reason to hold on to faith.

Thanks to your support, our field teams and partners on the ground have continued to defy all odds and persevere in their effort to reach our persecuted family with the help they need. The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic created unique challenges and restricted our work on the ground, but by God's grace, our field teams served 6.2 million beneficiaries, 34% more than was planned for the year.

For your prayer, financial investment, and generous decision to support your persecuted family for the long term, we are immensely grateful. We are one body in Christ and it is only with your support that we can continue to stand with the persecuted.

*The Open Doors Hong Kong Team*





**SOY\* 17, LAOS**

**“I never had a chance to own a Bible, it was shared with everyone at the church.”**

—

“Now, I have my own Bible that I can read, learn, and see things I never experienced in the past. I am so grateful and feel overwhelmed with joy when I hold it. This Bible helps me to understand God’s word. Thank you so much.”

*\*Name changed to protect her identity*

*Photo: Soy from Laos where a Bible costs almost two weeks’ salary for the average rural worker.*

## NORTH KOREAN BELIEVERS

“I thank you with all my heart, as a representative of the North Korean underground church.”

—  
“I want to thank the international believers. We were overwhelmed when we received this food. No matter what circumstances we encounter, we will break through all difficulties with united hearts, and your loving support and prayers. It is God’s grace and blessing.”

*Photo: Through Open Doors networks in a neighbouring country, 60,000 believers received food, medicines, and clothes.*

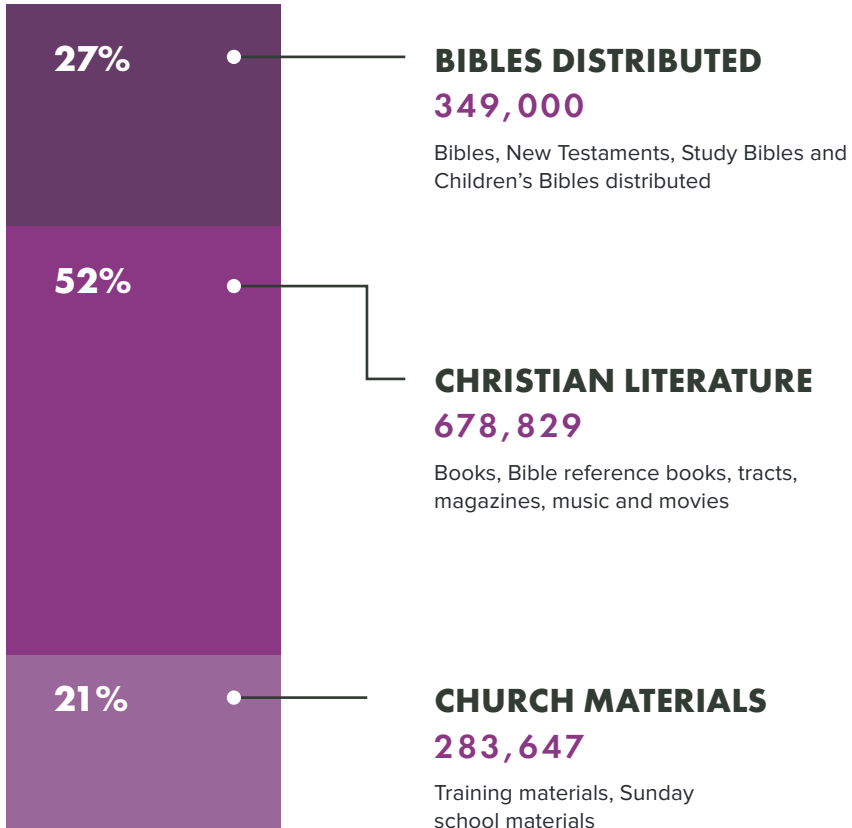
*This image is illustrative.*



# A year of sharing The Word

The ministry of Open Doors was founded upon the risky endeavour of delivering the Word of God to oppressed and isolated Christians. Thanks to your support, persecuted Christians around the world continue to be blessed with Bibles and Christian books in places where they would otherwise never own one.

**1,311,476** BIBLES, CHRISTIAN LITERATURE AND CHURCH MATERIAL DISTRIBUTED





# The global impact

Persecution of Christians is getting more severe than ever and affecting an increasing number of believers around the world. Currently, more than 360 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. Yet the greater the need, the greater the impact of the faithful prayer and support of the wider church. When our brothers and sisters were brutally attacked, discriminated against, affected by social unrests, natural disasters or war, we acted by mobilizing prayer, being present and responding to their needs.

BY THE NUMBERS

2021



**1,311,476**

Bibles and Christian literature were distributed



**3,393,491**

People were helped with Biblical training, support and counselling



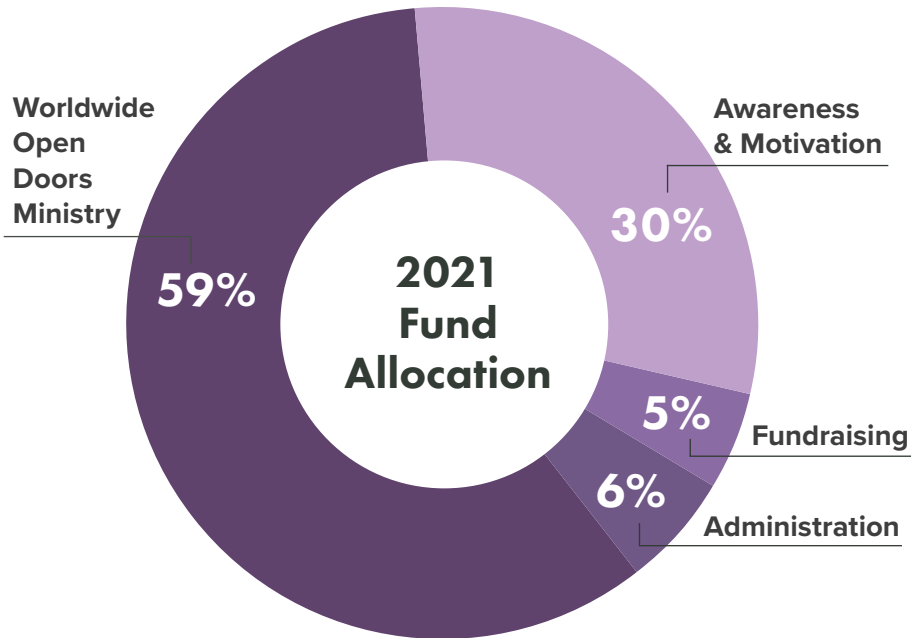
**685,887**

People benefited from socio-economic development



# Open Doors Hong Kong impact

Thanks to your support, we were able to fund critical work in 73 countries.

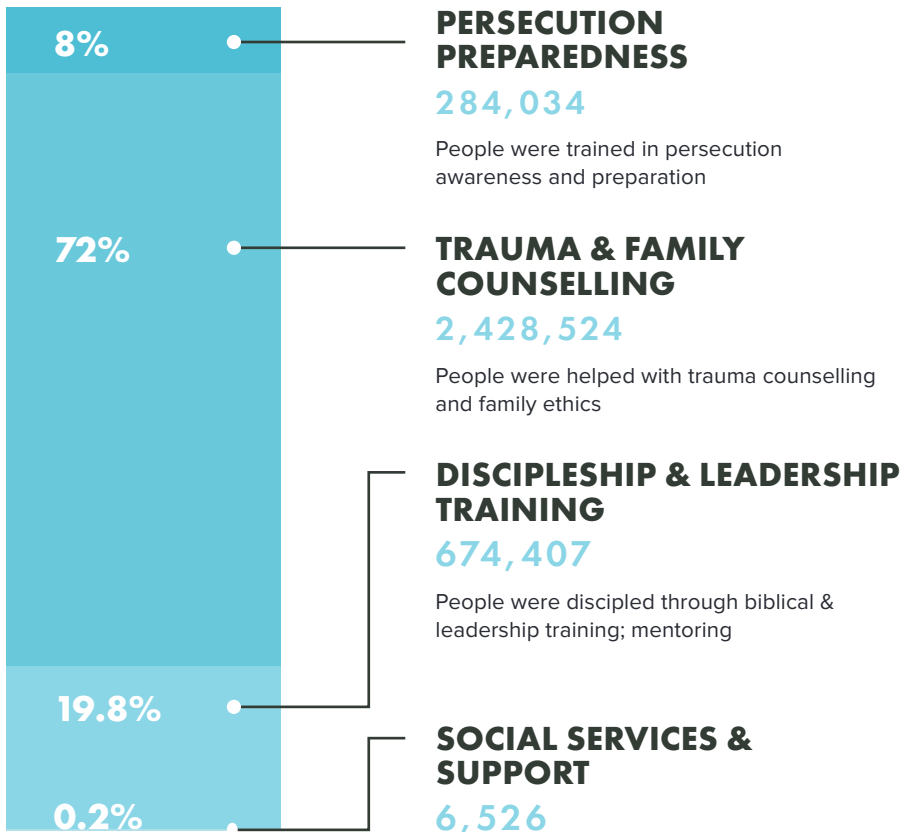


# A year of training leaders

“If you had not come here with your support and trainings, I don’t know how the Christians would have been. But God brought [Open Doors] at just the right time.” says Pastor Andrew whose community was devastated by Boko Haram in Northern Nigeria. With your support, Open Doors trained Christians to stand strong through the storm of persecution, through leadership and discipleship courses, trauma care training and persecution survival seminars.

**3,393,491**

PEOPLE DISCIPLED, TRAINED,  
MENTORED AND COUNSELLED





**RAFIF, IRAQ**

**“Thank you for helping Christian education, I feel very grateful for your help and support.”**

—  
“The most important thing I have learned in Christian education class is that God is always there for me, He never leaves me. Learning new stories and facts about the Bible, we are feeling the loving spirit that they are planting in the children’s hearts and, with this, God is sending us gifts that are priceless.”

*11-year-old Rafif lost her father to persecution. She attends Open Doors supported Christian education classes.*



## KIRTI'S\* PRAYER, INDIA

**Kirti's prayer for you,  
for other persecuted  
believers, and for  
God's work.**

—  
Life-giving God, I thank you and pray for all those people who supported me in my difficult times. God, bless all of them, meet all their needs.

I pray for those people who are facing persecution for being Christians in many ways. Lord give them courage so that they can face this persecution.

May your Church grow in every country, that many people may be saved and dedicate their lives to you. All those who persecute Christians and oppose them, they should also be saved.

I pray for the servants of God, those who go to many villages to share the word of God – God, keep them safe and fulfill all their needs. Help all of us to live life according to the Word of God stated in the Bible.

Amen.

*\*Name changed for security purposes*

*Photo: Kirti's husband was murdered by Maoist extremists for choosing to live for Jesus.*



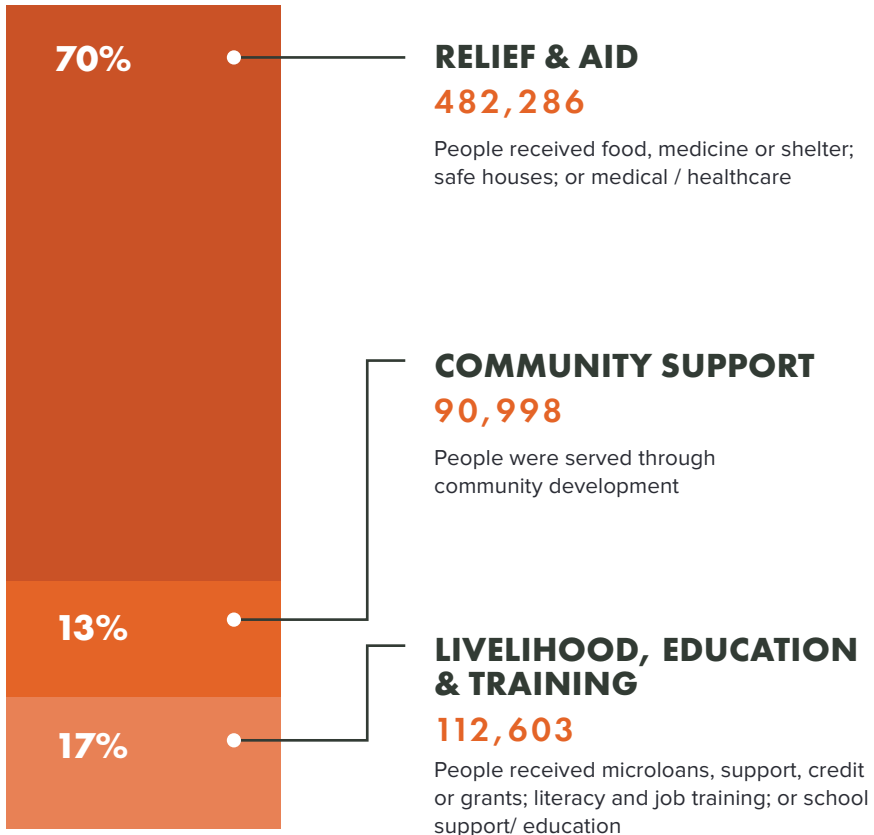


# A year of supporting livelihoods

The urgent need to provide Covid-19 relief continued across all regions in 2021. Local offices and Open doors partners expanded their efforts to meet the need on the ground. In the Africa region alone, nearly 400% more Christians were reached than originally planned.

# 685,887

**PEOPLE BENEFITED FROM RELIEF, DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND MEDICAL CARE**



# Thank you for supporting your persecuted family



And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8



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