

Missionary Deployment Survey (Sept 2025)

Global Connections (GC) wished to ascertain how many missionaries were being sent out each year, how many were returning and how many return to serve in the UK. Accordingly, an 18-question survey was sent out by email on 18 September 2025. Over the following three weeks, 28 replies were received, just 11% of the 250 network members replied.

The questionnaire broke respondents into three groups:

- Sender
- Receiver
- Both (sends and receives)

There were 28 replies, one church and the rest were mission agencies:

	Total	Send	Receive	Both	GC members
Church	1	1	0	0	0
Mission Agency	27	15	2	11	26

Of the organisations that responded, 96% of GC members are senders, and 50% are receivers. Given the sample size, extrapolation to the rest of the GC network is unlikely to be helpful.

It is understood that some agencies might not fit neatly into the 'sender' or 'receiver' categories. They might align instead to being "supporters," that is, those who resource local projects operated by local people in countries outside the UK. This might include:

- building projects such as providing schools or homes
- distributing aid such as food, clothes or Bibles
- training institutions by supporting existing lecturers
- financial aid for local start-ups
- helping management for evangelistic outreach
- providing resources for other forms of ministry through existing churches or Christian organisations

Given the nature of this survey, 'supporting' agencies have not been included.

The questionnaire was sent to both church and mission society members but only one church replied (not a member of GC). Unfortunately, it did not provide answers to any of the questions. The others were all mission agencies.

The questionnaire was divided into three broad groups of questions:

1. Sending only - received 15 replies
2. Receiving only – received two replies
3. Both (sending and receiving) – 11 replies (excludes a duplicated return)

As so few responded to the survey, giving percentages for individual answers based on these small numbers is misleading, so numbers are just totalled and averages given where appropriate.

Group 1: Senders only (15 in total)

1. How many missionaries did your agency send to serve overseas in 2024?

Total was 199 from 13 agencies, the highest being 90 from Agency C and 45 from Agency M. The remaining 11 agencies averaged 6 each.

2. Which countries did they serve in?

Countries mentioned were:

- Argentina
- Brazil
- Chad (twice)
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- East Asia, Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Indonesia
- India
- Ivory Coast
- Japan
- Kenya (twice)
- North African countries
- Papua New Guinea
- Portugal
- Republic of Ireland
- Spain
- Thailand
- Uganda
- United Kingdom
- Zambia

All four continents (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America) are included. Averaged at least two countries per agency.

3. Approximately what percentage [of mission partners] served short-term (less than 2 years)?

There were 14 responses, which were as follows:

	Responses	Total No. of STM's	Details
None of them	6	21	
<25%	4	108	90 of which were sent by Agency O
25%-50%	2	7	
51%-75%	0	0	
>75%	2	62	45 from Agency M and 17 from Agency A

The average of these is 27%, that is, about a quarter of missionaries sent out are expected to return within two years.

4. How many missionaries did your agency support to return to the UK in 2024?

Of the 15 replies, 6 were zero. The other 9 supported 45 people to return to the UK (an average of 3 per agency - highest was Agency F and Agency O, both with 10).

5. How many missionaries does your agency expect to send overseas in 2025?

Total was 138; all 15 agencies answered this question.

Replies included 75 from Agency M and 22 from Agency B. The rest averaged 5, although 4 agencies said zero.

6. How many missionaries does your agency expect to return to the UK in 2025?

There was a total of 43, averaging 3 per agency. The highest was Agency O with 10, with 5 agencies not expecting any to return.

Group 2: Senders and Receivers (10 in total)

7. How many missionaries did your agency send overseas in 2024?

Total was 143 mission workers, or an average of 14, but the number includes Agency U with 58 and Agency W with 47. That leaves just 38 between the other eight responders, four of which are zero. If the six exceptional responses are discounted, it results in an average of five. Agency L are hoping to send out 22, Agency F are hoping to send eight, Agency R two, and Agency P one.

8. Which countries will they serve in?

There wasn't space for the answers for those serving from Agency U, and it is assumed that other responses were not complete, possibly due to limited space in the questionnaire. Agency L Link sent some to Guatemala, Chile, Argentina as well as elsewhere. There was an average of at least 2 countries per agency.

9. Approximately what percentage served "short-term" (ie less than 2 years)?

There 10 replies, which were as follows:

	Responses	Total No. of STM's	Details
None of them	6	49	2 with Agency R and 47 with Agency H
<25%	0	-	
25%-50%	1	58	All with Agency U
51%-75%	0	-	
>75%	1	27	All with Agency L
All of them	2	9	8 with Agency F and one with Agency P

The average of these is 33%, not significantly different from the 27% for Senders only.

10. How many missionaries did your church/agency support to return to the UK in 2024?

Total was 23 across 10 agencies, one saying 11 (Agency L), one 7 (Agency U), one 3 (Agency W), one 2 (Agency P) and the other six were zero. The average is two.

11. How many missionaries does your agency expect to send overseas in 2025?

Total was 131 with eight out of the 10 agencies answered this question. 47 were from Agency W and 39 from Agency L. The average was six. In addition, 10 were expected from Agency B, 2 each from Agency R, Agency N and Agency P, one from Agency N and zero from Agency C and Agency E.

12. How many missionaries does your agency expect to return to the UK in 2025?

There was a total of 47; 37 from Agency L, 8 from Agency U, 2 from Agency W and zero from the other 7 countries in this group. Overall average is just one.

There were three further questions especially for this group.

13. How many non-UK nationals did your agency welcome as missionaries in the UK during 2024?

There was a total of 14, four each from Agency P and Agency U, three from Agency W, two from Agency N, one each from Agency I and Agency F, with the remaining 4 countries in this group zero. The average is one.

14. Which countries did they come from?

Various countries were mentioned by the agencies in this group. Nigeria, South Korea and the USA were each mentioned twice, and Colombia, the Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa and Venezuela just once. Three respondents did not reply to this question. Again, the average is probably at least two different countries.

15. On average, how long will they remain in the UK?

There were 10 replies, as follows:

Duration	Total
6 to 12 months	2
More than 2 years	3
No fixed period	5

There were no replies for any other of the lengths of time given in the question. It is not sensible to give an average length from this brief data since “no fixed period” is indeterminate and could be short-term or long-term.

Group 3: The two who are Receivers only

16. How many non-UK nationals did your agency welcome as missionaries in the UK in 2024?

The Agency S said none, and the Agency C said 6.

17. Which countries did they come from?

Agency C said Hong Kong and (Question 18) they expected them to stay for more than two years.

18. If you have any further information or context, please provide it here.

The range of comments was extensive, but were nearly all explaining the reasons for their particular answer. These are not reproduced below.

One agency said that the questionnaire had been worded incorrectly. “I assume you require info for 2025 and 2026, and assume sending is new people only?” This may also be inferred from the dates given in the first paragraph of this report.

Two organisations (Agency H and the Agency K) explained that they were neither Senders nor Receivers but what might be called “Supporters” as commented earlier. They both therefore scored zero in answers to the various questions. Both included themselves as “Senders” [of resources].

SUMMARY OF ANSWERS

The following Table attempts to summarise these various answers. The one church answering the questionnaire gave no information in answer to any question, so is excluded. Av = Average.

		Senders only	Senders & Receivers
	Total No. answering	15	10
Question	Agency Type		
1 & 7	Number of missionaries sent in 2024	199 (Av 6 ¹)	143 (Av 5 ²)
3 & 9	Percentage who were short-termers	27%	33%
4 & 10	Average number returning to UK in 2024	45 (Av 3)	23 (Av 2)
5 & 11	Missionaries expected to be sent in 2025	138 (Av 5 ³)	131 (Av 6 ⁴)
6 & 12	Number expecting to be returning to the UK in 2025	43 (Av 3)	47 (Av 1 ⁵)

¹ Omitting 60 with Agency X and 45 Agency M

² Omitting 58 with Agency U and 47 with Agency W

³ Omitting 75 with Agency M and 22 with Agency B

⁴ Omitting 47 with Agency W and 39 Agency L

⁵ Omitting 37 with: Agency L

This suggests there is very little difference between the two groups, which suggests that being a Receiving agency makes little difference to the operation’s effectiveness.