



Annual Report 2016

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

Publisher

Thomas H. Smolich SJ

Editors

Brette A. Jackson
Danielle Vella

Designer

Malcolm Bonello

Cover photo

26-year-old Samira Baradine Idriss, who attended a JRS educational programme at the Amnaback camp in eastern-Chad. Samira has gone on to study geography at the King Faisal University in N'Djamena. (Joseph Thera/JRS)

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Editorial

“Love ought to show itself in deeds more than in words.”

St. Ignatius Loyola

Dear Friends of JRS,

Welcome to the JRS 2016 Annual Report. Thank you for your support of our work, a mission of the Society of Jesus which spanned 50 countries and aided more than 725,000 forcibly displaced people. We could not have done this without your assistance.

Last year, Pope Francis called the church and the world to a Year of Mercy, an opportunity to encounter those in need through reconciliation and service. You responded generously to JRS' solidarity with the Pope, through our *Mercy in Motion* campaign. *Mercy in Motion* served as the kickoff for our Global Education Initiative (GEI), an ambitious plan to double the number of forcibly displaced young people and adults served through JRS educational

programmes, and to raise \$35 million over five years to make this possible.

In 2016, JRS raised over 40 per cent of our five-year monetary goal, and we are building a foundation to increase the capacity of our educational work. We have implemented JRS-wide teacher training, we are developing an inter-faith reconciliation programme, and we are strengthening our institutional structures to improve and expand our work. You will begin to see even more of the fruits of your contributions in 2017.

The need for JRS is not going away soon. While one can discuss ad infinitum the roots of global displacement and the lack of global response, JRS sees our world

as Saint Ignatius did: love is shown in deeds rather than words. We accompany those in the trauma of war and flight. We serve these women and men by helping them to heal, learn, and thrive. We help our brothers and sisters raise their voices, countering fear and anxiety about refugees with stories of dialogue, hope, and resilience.

This year we present our annual report through the words of Pope Francis: Welcome, Protect, Promote, Integrate. These actions are mercy put into motion, love shown in deeds; they are what you enable us to do through your support.

Know that you share in our prayers and intentions. Thank you for all you do for JRS.

Thomas H. Smolich SJ

JRS INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

Keeping Mercy in Motion

Mercy in Motion was a bold, year-long campaign inspired by Pope Francis' 2016 Year of Mercy and the 35th anniversary of JRS; the theme of mercy encouraged us to reflect on our history and unique role within the enormity of the world's refugee situation. We developed the Global Education Initiative (GEI) with the goal of raising \$35 million to educate 100,000 more refugees by 2020. *Mercy in Motion* was our ambitious kickoff to this endeavour. However, we recognized that this campaign needed more than faith and vision alone: it needed shape, strategy, and friends like you around the world to understand and believe in educating refugees and investing in peace.

As important as food, clothing, and shelter are for refugees, providing education in emergency and protracted situations enables them to support their families, strengthen bonds in their communities, and promote lasting peace. Throughout the campaign we repeated the mantra: "Only 50 per cent of refugee children have access to primary education." That number drops to 25 per cent for secondary education and only 1 per cent for higher education.

As JRS supporters, you heard us and joined us. You helped JRS transform vision into action for refugee education around the globe. You raised awareness and donated generously to the campaign. You held concerts, fundraising dinners, and ran marathons. Through the campaign, JRS reached more than 40 per cent of our financial goal for the GEI during the Year of Mercy alone. You will see a notable increase in refugee education in next year's annual report.

Through your support of the Mercy in Motion campaign JRS continues to:

TRAIN QUALIFIED TEACHERS.

In 2016, JRS developed a comprehensive teacher training programme, which contains child protection and wellbeing, educational psychology, up-to-date teaching methodologies, and inclusive education as its core contents. A special emphasis was put on Ignatian pedagogy, focusing on JRS values of accompaniment, service, advocacy, and reconciliation. The curriculum is currently being translated into Arabic and French.

DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES AND SHARE BEST PRACTICES.

In Africa, displaced people and refugees have commonalities despite their regional differences. In the fall of 2016, JRS educators in Africa gathered for a summit to share best practices, and develop continent-wide GEI strategies and priorities. Likewise, in JRS Europe, a core GEI strategy provides language and vocational training skills to integrate refugees into local communities, increasing their access to employment.

EQUIP JRS WITH EDUCATION SPECIALISTS TO IMPLEMENT AND SUPPORT THE GEI.

In 2016, JRS hired three educational coordinators to implement and support educational projects in the Middle East and Africa. They work with JRS' Education Officer and Education Specialist at the International Office in Rome to develop and evaluate our initiatives.

CHANGE THE REFUGEE REALITY ACROSS THE GLOBE BY OFFERING NEW INITIATIVES AND EXPANDING EXISTING PROJECTS.

Here is just a snapshot of what Mercy in Motion is making possible throughout the world:

ASIA PACIFIC

Myitkyina and Loikaw, Myanmar

5,819 people served

Increasing teacher training, improving school infrastructure and access to basic education for children in areas of conflict.

EASTERN AFRICA

Adjumani, Uganda | **506 people served**

Providing teacher training and increased access to secondary education for South Sudanese refugees and host community students, building harmony among refugees and local residents.

Kakuma camp, Kenya | **380 people served**

Renovating a day-care centre, increasing special needs education, and providing higher education.

Nairobi, Kenya | **715 people served**

Increasing access to preschool, primary, secondary, and tertiary education for urban refugees.

Yambio, South Sudan | **150 people served**

Building an elementary school to increase access to education for refugee and internally displaced children.

Dollo Ado, Ethiopia | **800 people served**

Providing adult literacy, numeracy, and life skill courses for Eritrean refugees.

EUROPE

Budapest, Hungary | **183 people served**

Offering Hungarian as a foreign language class to increase the social integration of Syrian and Afghani refugees, and promoting sensitivity among host community students and teachers through workshops.

Warsaw, Poland | **120 people served**

Expanding and equipping classrooms for Polish language courses and vocational workshops for Middle Eastern refugees.

GREAT LAKES

Mweso and Masisi, DRC | **200 people served**

Constructing a new higher education centre to improve employment opportunities and economic development in rural communities torn by ongoing conflict.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Dohuk, Iraq | **250 people served**

Providing education, life skills activities, and psychosocial care for displaced Christians, Muslims, and Yazidis.

Beirut and Jbeil, Lebanon

1,980 people served

Increasing Syrian refugee children's educational success through early childhood education, remedial learning support courses, and recreational activities.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Herat, Afghanistan | 1,359 people served

Empowering the youth of Afghanistan (75 per cent of whom are women) through access to tertiary education.

Delhi, India | 90 people served

Providing vulnerable, young female refugees from the Chin State of Myanmar with computer, language, teacher training, and tailoring classes, which increase family income.

SOUTH AFRICA

Dzaleka camp, Malawi | 826 people served

Constructing four new classrooms for secondary education.

Gauteng, South Africa | 850 people served

Increasing secondary educational access through provision of an additional classroom block.

WEST AFRICA

Various camp sites, Chad

57,748 people served

Providing preschool, primary, secondary, and post-secondary education to refugees from Darfur in protracted camp settings.

Bambari, Central African Republic

12,318 people served

Offering formal preschool, primary, and secondary education, and increasing post-secondary education opportunities that include literacy, psychosocial, technical, and teacher training.

Batouri, Cameroon | 783 people served

Providing access to education and reconciliation activities for refugee children from Central African Republic.

When the Year of Mercy ended, Pope Francis encouraged us to keep “the door of mercy in our hearts” open. The Pope’s appeal is the right answer to 65.6 million forcibly displaced people in our world. The Global Education Initiative helps JRS reshape this worldwide reality through transformative education. *Mercy in Motion* started as an idea, gained momentum, and changed lives.

Thank you

**FOR BEING A PART OF OUR VISION
AND RESPONSE.**

JILL DRZEWIECKI

*International Campaign and
Philanthropy Coordinator*

During the International Forum On Migration And Peace, Pope Francis addressed the phenomenon of migration as an intrinsic component of human history. He emphasized that people inevitably strive for lives of solace and dignity, and that those who are currently fleeing their homelands under forced conditions are no less worthy of personal fulfilment and respect. Pope Francis has appealed to political, civic, and religious communities to recognize our shared humanity, and to mitigate the suffering of forcibly displaced people by promoting the use of four distinct verbs (in both the first person singular and plural):

welcome	11
protect	21
promote	31
integrate	41

People served	48
Global income	53
Global expenditure	54

📷 Pope Francis welcoming 12 Syrian refugees to Rome, whom he rescued from a camp in Lesbos.





📷 A migrant child holds a balloon while listening to adults talk in Victoria Square in central Athens, Greece.

Welcome

What is needed is a change of attitude, to overcome indifference and to counter fears with a generous approach of welcoming those who knock at our doors... A responsible and dignified welcome of our brothers and sisters begins by offering them decent and appropriate shelter.

Pope Francis



In early 2016, JRS **Europe** dispatched a journalist who works for JRS, to meet and interview refugees who were crossing to Greece from Turkey and making their way to their chosen country of destination, which was usually Germany. The idea to meet refugees, and to gather and share their voices, stories, and hopes, was prompted by the record number who came to Europe in 2015, more than a half a million travelling mostly along the so-called “Balkan route.” The journalist, accompanied by photographers, started her work in Greece, and proceeded to Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Italy, Austria, and Germany. JRS Europe featured her weekly dispatches online, and in June published them in booklet form, illustrated by photos taken mostly on these journeys. The booklet is called *Journeys of Hope* and has been widely disseminated in four languages. Sadly, the Balkan route was closed to refugees while the project was still under way, as one European country after another shut their borders and blocked their roads. Eventually, the European Union reached an agreement with Turkey to keep refugees there, and not to allow them to cross to Greece.

It is their sheer relief and hope that are most striking ... more than their foolhardy courage, the dangers and deprivations of their journey, and their terrible experiences. It seems to me that as soon as they set foot on the shores of Europe, many refugees feel freedom is finally theirs for the taking: freedom from fear, from repression, war, crushing poverty, and the total lack of prospects brought about by some or all the above. And so, they give full rein to a hope that knows no borders, a hope that refuses to recognise ominous moves within the European Union to threaten their access to protection.

DANIELLE VELLA

Author of Journeys of Hope

📍 (left) A migrant and her child rest outside a tent in a transit camp in Preševo, Serbia, on the Macedonia-Serbia border, as they wait to continue their journey towards western Europe.

📍 (right) Refugees and migrants on a raft approach the shores of the Greek island of Lesbos.

We had to walk in the sea, the water coming up to our chest, to reach the boat. An hour after we started, a man said we must go back, because he could feel air coming from the dinghy. We didn't want to believe him, but soon afterwards, we felt the air, the boat was sinking, and water came inside. We threw everything we had into the water. I could hear my boy crying, "We will die!" The driver, a refugee who knew nothing, said, "We can do nothing except pray to God." We prayed so much.

SARA and her family, from Aleppo in Syria, eventually found refuge in Germany. She shared her story in Journeys of Hope



JRS teams in countries along the Balkan route swiftly mobilised to welcome refugees as they arrived and travelled through Europe. In countries that became border and transit points, namely **Greece, Macedonia, Croatia, and Hungary**, JRS joined other NGOs and UN agencies to offer emergency aid to refugees at seaports, and bus and train stations. Once the borders along the route were closed in March, JRS teams accompanied refugees who were stranded along the way. Particularly critical was the plight of those stuck in Greece, who numbered more than 57,000 mid-year, including many who were awaiting relocation or family reunification in other European countries. JRS Greece opened a second shelter to welcome refugees, especially vulnerable families, single women with children, and victims of violence or torture. JRS also distributed clothes, food, and other essential items. Meanwhile, with the help of European volunteers and the refugees themselves, JRS organised workshops and classes that were geared towards helping the refugees find work: from lessons in English, German, and Greek, to computer skills and sewing.



In 2016, JRS **Europe** launched a campaign called *I Get You* in nine European countries, with the goal of identifying community-building initiatives for local citizens and refugees. The campaign invites people to share photos, stories, and other news through social media that successfully build understanding and friendship, and counter racism and xenophobia. The primary focus of this campaign was to spread and enhance a culture of welcome in Europe. JRS offices in Belgium, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania, and Croatia were involved in the *I Get You* campaign.

📍 (left) A JRS worker with refugees at a transit camp in Slavonski Brod, Croatia.

📍 (right) An Ethiopian family that found refuge in Malta.

As a Christian I always used to go to Church, but once in Malta I found myself celebrating with people I had never met before. I must say that I really enjoy being with them, and every Sunday I say to myself: 'Wow! It's Sunday! I'll once again be in the midst of the community.' At first, it was quite difficult, but when I started to get to know others, I felt very welcomed. Now I feel relaxed and settled. Being part of this community has helped me to live and hope again, despite the ordeals I encountered in my life, and during the journey that brought me to Malta. It's important for me to help others feel welcomed when they first join the community. That's why I find time to be with others, interact, and ask questions. I especially like the meeting after Mass, which gives us the opportunity of discovering in everyone our brothers and sisters, irrespective of nationality, race, and colour.

JOHN comes from Nigeria and lives in Malta, where a Jesuit community welcomes around 40-50 African Catholics for Sunday Mass. Over the years, the community has been enriched by people from Malta and from other European and Asian countries.



In the **UK**, JRS pressed ahead with its ministry to those held in immigration detention and others made destitute by the asylum process. The hub of JRS work supporting destitute refugees was a weekly day centre, offering a warm and friendly welcome, and practical support. Activities in 2016 included drama workshops, a reflection group, a prayer circle, and a support group for women. As part of the JRS Europe project, *Communities of Hospitality*, the UK office welcomed a new member of staff to coordinate an 'at home' hosting scheme, which encourages parishes and religious communities to house and welcome destitute refugees on a short-term basis.

JRS accompanied nearly 600 detainees in immigration detention, during a particular period of heightened anxiety. They worked with trained volunteers who offered pastoral support, solicitor liaison services, and referrals to other specialist services as well.

JRS partnered with Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD) and the Caritas Social Action Network to lead a Lampedusa Cross action, an invitation to the Catholic community to show their solidarity with refugees through written messages of hope during the Year of Mercy.

We know it's going to get tougher for the refugees we serve: the government is pursuing what it describes as a 'hostile environment agenda.' But we are inspired often by the resilience of the refugees we accompany... It is a great joy to see how, as they get to know us and we get to know them, they become more relaxed and hopeful. We take the time to get to know our refugee friends, and their hopes and skills, trying where we can to provide activities which help them to develop their interests.

MEGAN KNOWLES

JRS UK

🎵 The Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir (comprised of JRS UK volunteers and supporters during the JRS UK annual summer party) entertain refugee friends.



2016 brought significant changes for urban asylum seekers and refugees in **Bangkok**. Security remained the overriding concern, as immigration and police authorities made small and large scale arrests. In December, 45 Pakistanis, including 19 children, were arrested in a raid and sent to the Immigration Detention Centre (IDC). Bail from the IDC was suspended for several months, resulting in even greater anxiety among asylum seekers and refugees regarding the dire consequences of arrest and detention. JRS accompanied them through a casework approach, and helped them to access primary healthcare, housing, food, and other basic needs. Through a reception service, JRS either met emergency needs, or referred asylum seekers and refugees to other agencies that might be able to meet their needs. JRS teams conducted home visits and regularly visited the IDC. JRS sought specifically to strengthen the resilience of refugees through counselling, psychosocial support, and training on mental health and self-care.

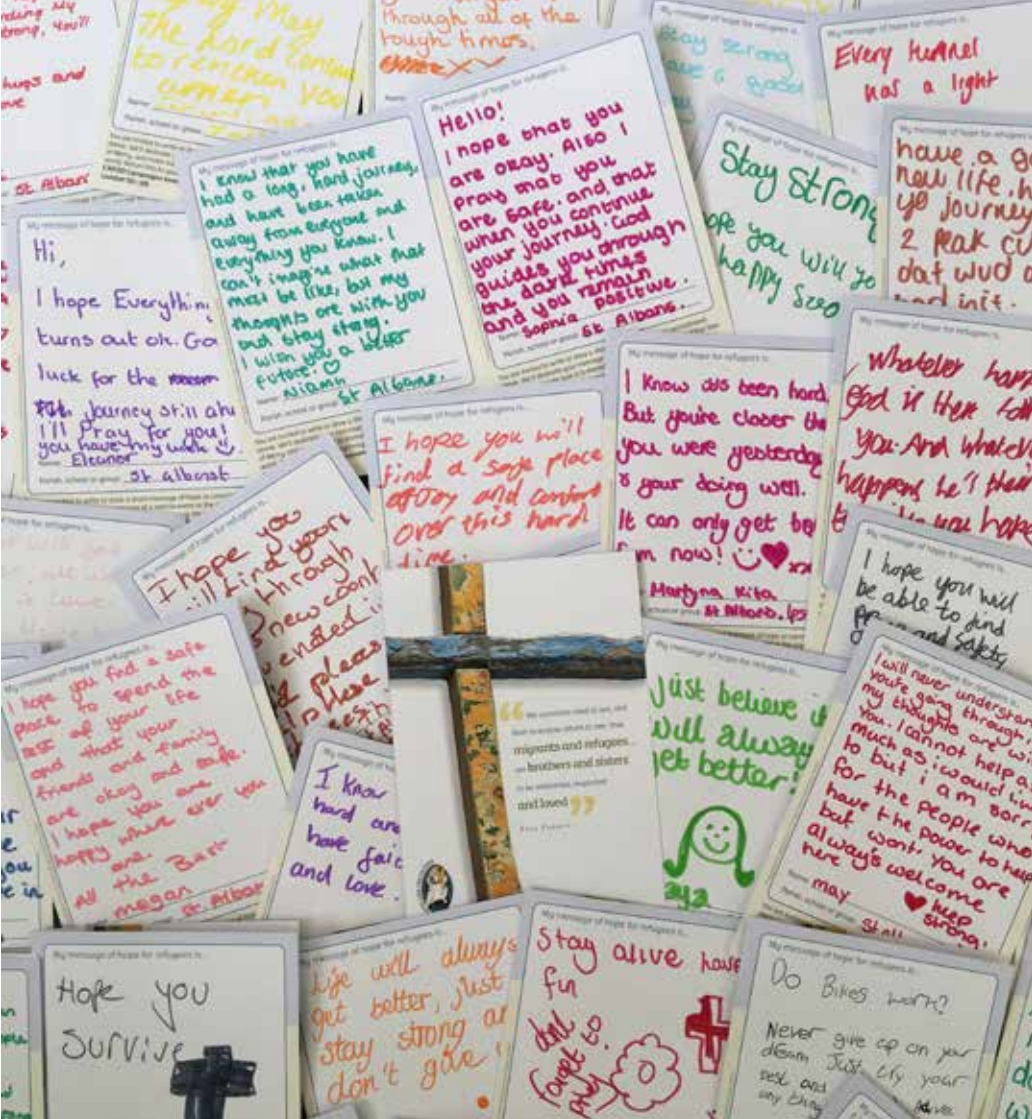
The presence of invisible refugees in Bangkok showed the invisible God to me in a visible way. Their real lives of struggle were totally different from my expectation: even more dangerous, tough, and intense. They are easily forgotten because they are not visible. They are deeply apprehensive because they are always exposed to the risk of being arrested by immigration authorities. They are severely vulnerable because it is not easy to get any job and to receive proper wages with their illegal status. They are firmly excluded from the medical system in one of the most well-known medical

tourism cities, Bangkok. They are pitifully marginalised from the formal education system. Beyond all these difficulties, there is a single dominant challenge for them. It is 'uncertainty.' Roughly speaking, it will take eight years for refugees to resettle to a third country from Bangkok, and the waiting time is increasing; resettlement is not the outcome for everyone. Asylum seekers and refugees in Bangkok are putting their lives on the line, fighting against uncertainty.

JAE-WOOK LEE SJ

JRS Urban Refugee Programme, Thailand

🕒 *During a day of reflection with CAFOD, students from St Alban's High School in the UK imagined the journey that many refugees take, risking their lives to flee conflict and severe hardship. Inspired by the Lampedusa Cross, the school reached out in solidarity and wrote 'Messages of Hope' to share with the refugees JRS UK, CAFOD, and CSAN accompany and support.*



In 2016, JRS collaborated with others in **Colombia** and **Venezuela** to offer humanitarian assistance to internally displaced people and refugees, many of whom were women. This included the distribution of food, medical assistance, legal aid, and psychosocial support. Most individuals were attended by way of home visits, at local JRS offices, or through telephone or Skype calls. The purpose of this collaboration was to create familial safe environments, and to reduce the emotional impact caused by forced displacement. At the Colombian-Ecuadorian border, JRS again worked with others to offer emergency assistance such as food packages, hygiene items, mats and sheets, mosquito nets, and kitchen tools. Legal aid, medical assistance, and psychosocial support were also offered. This project attempted to mitigate the suffering caused by displacement by intervening at a time of crisis—a sort of psychological first aid. Therapy sessions addressed grief, guilt, shame, and other types of emotional trauma.

📷 Migrants and refugees at a refugee transit camp in Slavonski Brod, Croatia wait to be registered by the authorities before continuing their train journey to western Europe.



Protect

We are speaking about millions of migrant workers... of those exiled and seeking asylum, and of those who are victims of trafficking. Defending their inalienable rights, ensuring their fundamental freedoms, and respecting their dignity are duties from which no one can be exempted.

Pope Francis

In **Syria**, five years into the war, Syrians continued to live in unabated suffering. Harsh weather conditions and limited access to basic resources gravely affected displaced families and individuals within Syria, and those who have fled the country to seek refuge elsewhere. Delivering humanitarian aid to war-affected populations within Syria remained an urgent issue. There was also the concern that some neighbouring countries were unable to provide adequate assistance to meet the basic needs of refugees. This lack of assistance threatened the safety of vulnerable people, and the stability and security of the region.

Despite the challenges, JRS has stayed the course in Syria and in neighbouring countries, addressing urgent needs while advocating for life with dignity for and with Syrians. In Damascus and Homs, JRS operated education centres in parallel with child protection programmes and psychosocial care. In Aleppo, JRS teams provided those most vulnerable with emergency humanitarian assistance. JRS continued to provide health services even when medical facilities in Aleppo came under ferocious bombardments.

In Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey, and Europe, JRS worked with hundreds of refugees who fled Syria, providing emergency assistance as well as educational and psychosocial support.


I have just come back from Aleppo, and I think you should know what is happening there. The city is without water, electricity, fuel, and gas. Hearing about this reality is not the same as living it.

STAFF MEMBER

JRS Syria

I am 17 years old and I am from Syria. My family and I moved to Lebanon when the war started in our city. We were living happily in Syria. My sisters, brothers, and I were going to school every day, playing with our friends. When we first moved to Lebanon, we did not have any friends and we stayed inside our house. One day, we heard about the JRS school and my mom quickly enrolled us, which my siblings and I are all very happy about now. The teachers treat us very well and they take care of us, but I am missing my past life. I feel sad because Syria is destroyed now. I thank the JRS school very much for always teaching us new things.

ZAKIJA, from Syria, is a refugee in Lebanon

 *The field kitchen in Aleppo, Syria provides up to 8000 meals a day for internally displaced people who have no way of preparing their own cooked food.*



In 2016, the JRS USA National Detention Programme offered religious services for individuals and groups in five detention centres for adults in the United States. Chaplains at each centre provided or coordinated religious services and spiritual support sessions, and met individually with detainees. In addition, they worked to identify any dietary needs or restrictions based on religious requirements, facilitated marriage requests, and fulfilled other specific needs such as services geared to the increase of Ethiopian Orthodox, Haitian, and female detainees.

Richard Sotelo SJ, director of the JRS USA National Detention Programme, performing mass for detained migrants at the Central Arizona Detention Centre in Florence, Arizona.



JRS **USA** was active in addressing both opportunities and challenges in advancing policy positions that impacted the lives of refugees. In one initiative, JRS led a coalition effort to improve how the US government delivers education assistance in international emergencies and protracted crises. In May, a report entitled *Providing Hope, Investing in the Future: Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises*, was launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey. In September, world leaders gathered in New York to attend both the UN Summit for Refugees & Migrants and the Leaders' Summit for Refugees, where they agreed to commit to policies that can create significant change in the lives of displaced people globally. JRS was actively engaged during the Leaders' Summit, which sought to ensure that an additional one million refugees gain access to education.



Since US Presidential and Congressional elections resulted in a significant shift in US policy relating to refugees, JRS stepped up its efforts to defend refugee rights. JRS responded by calling on the administration to preserve refugee protection, support resettlement, and ensure adequate funding for humanitarian assistance. JRS USA also hosted an *Advocacy Day*, together with its Board of Directors, to deliver these messages to members of Congress and other key decision makers.

📍 *A student in one of JRS's educational programmes in Dzaleka refugee camp, Malawi, doing his homework.*

In **Australia**, JRS ran the Arrupe Project in partnership with seven other organisations doing casework, and offering emergency relief and temporary accommodation, to people seeking asylum. The main aim of these services was to support the most vulnerable people who have fallen through the gaps, and who live on the margins of the community.

Emergency relief was delivered in partnership with the Australian Red Cross, while temporary accommodation was provided by the Blaiket Shelter. A grant provided by the Sisters of Charity Foundation met the cost of rental assistance and emergency accommodation for several families. All the asylum seekers received either intensive one-to-one casework support, or information and help with referrals. JRS also worked to provide access to a local food bank, which served asylum seekers struggling to make ends meet.

One of the most pressing issues for asylum seekers in the community was the need to access legal advice. JRS and one of its partners, the Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS), ran free bi-weekly legal clinics at the Arrupe Project. Thousands of asylum seekers accessed specialist legal support through this service, and many were helped to fill out the information needed for protection visa applications in 47 form-filling clinics.

 *JRS caseworker in Australia.*

I came to Australia from Syria in 2014 with my two young children. I came to study for a master's degree, holding an international student visa for three years, but life has changed so much since then. When I came to Sydney, I had money in my pocket to help with my daily living, but the first days were difficult, because I was alone with two girls and no family members to help. My husband didn't apply to come to Australia, as he had a one-year contract for work in the Middle East. He didn't join me until 2016. During the first week after his arrival, his overseas employer terminated his contract: because he is Syrian, and he had a work injury. They didn't allow him to use his money in the bank either. We decided to apply for a protection visa, as we can't go back to Syria because of the war. The challenges started when we ended up without money, and were unable to pay our rent and the kids' school fees. I knocked on the doors of many organisations to find help; we sold everything we had left. We found support through JRS with help for daily life and food from the food bank. We are still waiting to hear if we will receive support through the Status Resolution Support Service. I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to these organisations: all of you have beautiful souls and personalities. You never let me feel shy when I am asking for help, instead you all feel with me and are trying to help me. I do appreciate all of you, and say thanks for what you have done for me and for my family.





📍 *A young man in the Colombia congress during Red Hands Day, a campaign to end the conscription of children into the military.*

In 2016, JRS worked in Latin America and provided legal assistance to forcibly displaced people in **Venezuela, Ecuador, and Colombia**. Advocacy efforts were implemented in local, national, and regional levels; public and private institutions coordinated to create opportunities for dialogue on topics such as the prevention of the conscription of children, adolescents, and young adults, as well as the promotion of education initiatives.

In Venezuela and Ecuador, JRS provided legal assistance to hundreds of asylum seekers, most of whom were women, by aiding them in the application of protection as internally displaced people, and helping them to recognize their rights in this matter. JRS worked with asylum seekers at local offices, through home visits, and with travelling legal advisors in alliance with public institutions—e.g. the National Refugee Commission, the International Organization for Migration, and UNHCR.

Further, in partnership with several organisations, JRS produced crucial analysis reports on issues of forced migration. One report entitled “Ecuadorian-Colombia Border Dynamics” raised public awareness regarding the incidences of cross-border migration and the rights of those seeking a better life. Activist organizations such as the Border Humanitarian Actors Network promoted JRS’ work in this area, and several campaigns such as *Let’s be hospitable at the border* were developed to promote the work of JRS in Latin America.



📍 Somali refugees learn tailoring skills as part of the JRS livelihoods project in Melkadida refugee camp. Some graduates have gone on to start their own businesses in the community.

Promote


What is required is the promotion of an integral human development of migrants, exiles and refugees. Development, according to the social doctrine of the Church is an undeniable right of every human being.

Pope Francis

In 2016, JRS **Afghanistan** continued to work in collaboration with local NGOs and authorities to raise the level of education among young people in the provinces of Herat, Kabul, Bamiyan, and Daikundi. JRS aimed to facilitate students' access to public education and to higher learning opportunities by implementing a range of programmes including English language and computer skills training, health education, tuition in selected school subjects like mathematics and Dari, and preparation for the Konkur (university entrance examination). JRS also focused on training for teachers as well as for promising graduates of its education programmes, intent on forming Afghanistan's 'leaders for tomorrow.' In a context of huge need, JRS prioritised displaced people and returnees, and those who were more vulnerable, especially girls. School dropouts and students in remote areas were also high on the agenda. In 2016, in an innovative step forward, JRS started to run a literacy class for the fathers of their students in a camp for displaced people in Kabul.

In Kabul's Sharak Police Camp, about 700 families from different ethnic groups have found refuge over the past 15 years or so; most of them are returnees from Pakistan or Iran, and many are internally displaced people. The settlers, mostly unemployed, struggle to meet their needs as the government fails to provide free drinking water, sewage, healthcare, and education. Two years ago, JRS started providing classes for the community. Now, 70 girls and 70 boys attend the complimentary courses that supplement their lessons at government school. Thanks to this initiative, these children, many of whom must also work, have been able to complete their school exams with good marks: they have become the pride of their illiterate parents.



 Literacy school in the Kabul Police camp in Afghanistan.

In December 2016, some of the fathers asked the senior teacher of the camp to run a course in Dari, one of the major languages of Afghanistan, for them. The teacher initially had doubts. Many of these men, aged between 18 and 45, suffer from the consequences of years of armed conflict, forced displacement, a life below the poverty line, and some from drug addiction. Nevertheless, he started a class, and soon afterwards 30 men enrolled, including the camp leader and his deputy. They receive one lesson of Dari five days a week, and after four months they have reached grade one, which means they know the alphabet, and can read and write a few words. When their teacher, Fahim, and I asked them about the significance of learning, they agreed that education would increase their ability to find work. One explained that a man who cannot read and write is like a blind man, because he cannot find his way through life.


SILVIA KAEPELI
JRS Afghanistan



© A young girl in a JRS educational programme in Shaydai, east of Herat, where many IDPs from the Hazara community are assisted by JRS initiatives.

I am a woman who grew up in an orphanage in Bamiyan. When I was 10 years old, my father passed away and I did not have anyone to help or support me. My province is a place far from Kabul where females were deprived of the right to go to school, and very few pursued higher education. I was one of those girls: I wished to study in a good university, but it was not possible. Fortunately, after completing 8th grade, I heard about the JRS programme that had begun in Bamiyan. JRS had many good programmes, such as English for students, especially girls. It was my first opportunity to achieve my goals. Soon, I began to learn the English alphabet and slowly I began to speak the language. I had many good teachers who guided me on the right path. After I finished my English course successfully, I started preparation for my Konkur, a pre-university exam, with JRS: they provided us with academic materials, experienced teachers, and a safe environment. I received a high score on the Konkur examination, passed TOEFL (test of English as a foreign language), and I got a scholarship from the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF). I became more hopeful of a bright future. I am now in my third year in AUAF, and I have a new role at JRS as an English teacher. I have grown academically and I have been able to share my knowledge with others. JRS has become my family, and I feel more confident and optimistic. JRS was where my journey began, and they have had a significant impact on my life. Being a part of JRS is my biggest achievement, and now I can be proud of myself and become the pride of my family.

PARWIN SAMAR
JRS Afghanistan

 (far right) Refugee children playing in a schoolyard in Baalbek, Lebanon, where JRS assisted with the running of three educational centres.

In Ethiopia's harsh and arid environment of Dollo Ado, JRS continued to run a range of services in Melkadida and Kobe camps, which brightened the life of Somali refugees who had fled drought and violence in their country. Services were also offered to the host community to encourage peaceful co-existence. Older refugees welcomed the opportunity, a first time for some, to attend literacy classes and training in livelihoods. Meanwhile, the JRS team offered cultural and recreational activities for the primarily young population in the camps, including traditional music and dance, indoor games, sports clubs, and training and tournaments in football, basketball, and volleyball. Tournaments and friendly matches between one camp and another, or between teams from the refugee and host communities, led to better relationships. Meanwhile, a team of peer counsellors offered psychosocial services, including home visits and individual and group counselling, to help more vulnerable refugees build resilience and self-esteem. Home visits proved to be particularly important because JRS team workers could seek out and accompany refugees who either could or would not come forward for help—such as those who were bedridden, disabled, or depressed.

Her name is Kedija, she is 30 years old. She used to live with her husband peacefully, but one day her husband divorced her for reasons unclear to Kedija, and left. Soon afterwards, armed conflict erupted in and around the place where she lived. Kedija fled her home and ended up in the Melkadida camp in Ethiopia. There she met her ex-husband again. She said he tricked her, and made her pregnant only to leave her again. Five days before she was due to give birth, she returned to Somalia without being sure what she was going to do there. She gave birth to a child in the bush. At the time, Kedija said that she felt as if she carried the weight of the world on her shoulders. Fortunately, another woman passed by, saw Kedija bleeding, and immediately helped her to return to Melkadida camp. It was then that Kedija was introduced to a psychosocial programme that JRS started. She was identified as a potential client for counselling during a home visit. At the time Kedija was unable to take care of herself or her children; she had lost almost her entire network of relationships. She was very down, living in near destitution, with five children. Kedija received individual

counselling from JRS while staff took care of her by collecting her ration on time, fetching water, washing her clothes, and other chores. The team also helped her to emerge from her shell and to recreate social networks in her life. After three months of counselling, Kedija was back to "reality" as she herself said. Now she

generates income by retailing milk that she buys from local farmers in the camp. Four of her children go to school, and the little one is waiting for his turn to light up his future.

BAYE BERIHUN
JRS Ethiopia



JRS persevered in its mission in the chronically unstable province of North Kivu in eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo** (DRC), despite a government decision to abruptly close several camps that forced the relocation of numerous internally displaced people, including those living in four camps where JRS had established projects. The work of JRS was also affected by heightened political uncertainty due to presidential elections that were eventually postponed. Despite these setbacks, JRS offered education, psychosocial, and livelihoods services in several camps in Goma, Masisi, and Mweso. The education support was wide-ranging: subsidising school fees for very vulnerable students, training teachers, distributing school kits, building schools, and helping final-year students to prepare for the state examination. JRS was also present to offer counselling, and to help resolve social problems within the community. For those who were in situations of extreme vulnerability, there was help to improve their living conditions with the repair or construction of shelters, the distribution of food, hygiene kits, and other essential items.

** Name has been changed.*

Since 2008, I've been displaced in Lushebere camp with my family. We left our fields and our livestock. My father left and never came back. My mother, in all this time, was working in the fields with local people and didn't manage to meet our basic needs. My young brothers and I started to have health problems, and one of my little brothers died after being sick for a long time. As the eldest daughter, I had to help my mother to find something to eat. I went with her to the fields, but that didn't yield any income anymore. I started to prostitute myself. I had a child, the identity of the father is unknown to me; the child I have on my back is my second one, and his father also left. Two or three years ago, I started to benefit from the support of JRS that organized awareness sessions about early pregnancies and about personal hygiene. They give us hygiene kits too. Before this, I used the 'traditional' method for personal care, but I always used to get infections. And there is more: thanks to JRS, my mother has learned a trade, basketwork, and my brother can study.

28-year-old GRACE lives in Lushebere camp in Masisi, eastern DRC*



In **Burundi**, the political and security climate continued to be tense: the President's controversial decision to seek a third term in power in 2015 caused widespread unrest. Although violence declined in 2016, many Burundian people decided to leave their homes, as a result of economic and food insecurity in some parts of the country. At the end of the year, JRS conducted a needs assessment in western Tanzania, where some 230,000 Burundians have sought refuge. JRS decided to go to Kibondo to start an education project in the Mtendeli camp, located in the border area where they had previously run programmes in other refugee camps for several years. In Burundi itself, JRS ran three projects to reach out to Congolese refugees in the capital, Bujumbura, in two camps in Ruyigi, and in another two in Muyinga. The focus of JRS intervention was facilitating refugee students' access to education and supporting them in their studies. Other elements were livelihood and literacy activities.

📷 (left) *A French lesson in a classroom in Mweso, eastern DRC, where JRS provides teacher training, pays 50 per cent of the school fees for the most vulnerable IDP students, and provides school materials and uniforms.*



I am a member of the Religious Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Good Counsel. I was born and raised in Makiungu village in Tanzania. In 2001, I began working with JRS. At that time, my country had become a destination for thousands of refugees fleeing conflict in Burundi and DRC. Soon, the Director of JRS Eastern Africa requested my superior general to allow me to work in several camps. My experience working with JRS has been tremendous. Jesuits instil a deep sense of empathy, kindness, and consideration in all who share their work with refugees, so that we accompany the most marginalised people together in solidarity. In 2008, the refugees were repatriated, the camps were closed, and I returned to my congregation in Uganda. Eight months later, JRS requested me to work with them again, and in 2009, I worked with them in DRC. This year, I began working as a focal point in Kibondo in Tanzania. I counsel families, work with women and youth, teach life skills to young girls, many of whom have experienced sexual abuse, and offer catechesis to Catholic refugees. I also work in peace and reconciliation initiatives. In short, this work has united me with JRS in our efforts to serve those in need, who remind us that we are all created by one God.

REGINA J. MISSANGA OLGIC
JRS Great Lakes

In 2016, **Uganda** welcomed 489,000 refugees from neighbouring South Sudan, mostly women and children, not to mention many others from Congo and Burundi. Each day over 2,000 people crossed into northern Uganda from South Sudan to find protection in refugee settlements. In March, at the request of partners from the UN, Uganda, the local Church, and other NGOs, JRS returned to Adjumani to respond to the urgent and unmet need for quality secondary education, and to strive to build more peaceful and reconciled communities. Securing places in quality secondary schools for girls, and accompanying them throughout the year to ensure that they don't drop out is a JRS priority.

In 2016, JRS created the Regional Education Campaign in **Colombia** and **Venezuela**. The programme was launched to promote the education of forcibly displaced people, who were given the opportunity to attend training courses in educational centres. The aim was to promote a culture of coexistence, peace, and hospitality, and to aid in their emotional recovery. Meanwhile, seven educational institutions, two in Colombia and five in Venezuela, developed plans for the prevention and transformation of violent conflict with a gender perspective. Further, training facilities were provided to members of the teaching community to enable them to contribute to building a culture of peace from a reconciliation perspective. JRS also trained 133 women and youth as promoters of peace through workshops.

📷 *Agnes Amajo, JRS Kampala fashion and design teacher.*



In **Myanmar**, the fragile peace process went ahead but was threatened by ongoing political instability and reported conflicts in the states of Rakhine and Kachin. A significant positive development was a peace conference called The 21st Century Panglong Conference, which brought together both the signatories of the 2015 National Ceasefire Agreement and the non-signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations. Among the non-signatories are the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Karenni National Progress Party (KNPP), and their participation in the conference was a significant development for the Karenni and Kachin people whom JRS serves, within Myanmar itself and in the camps across the border in Thailand.

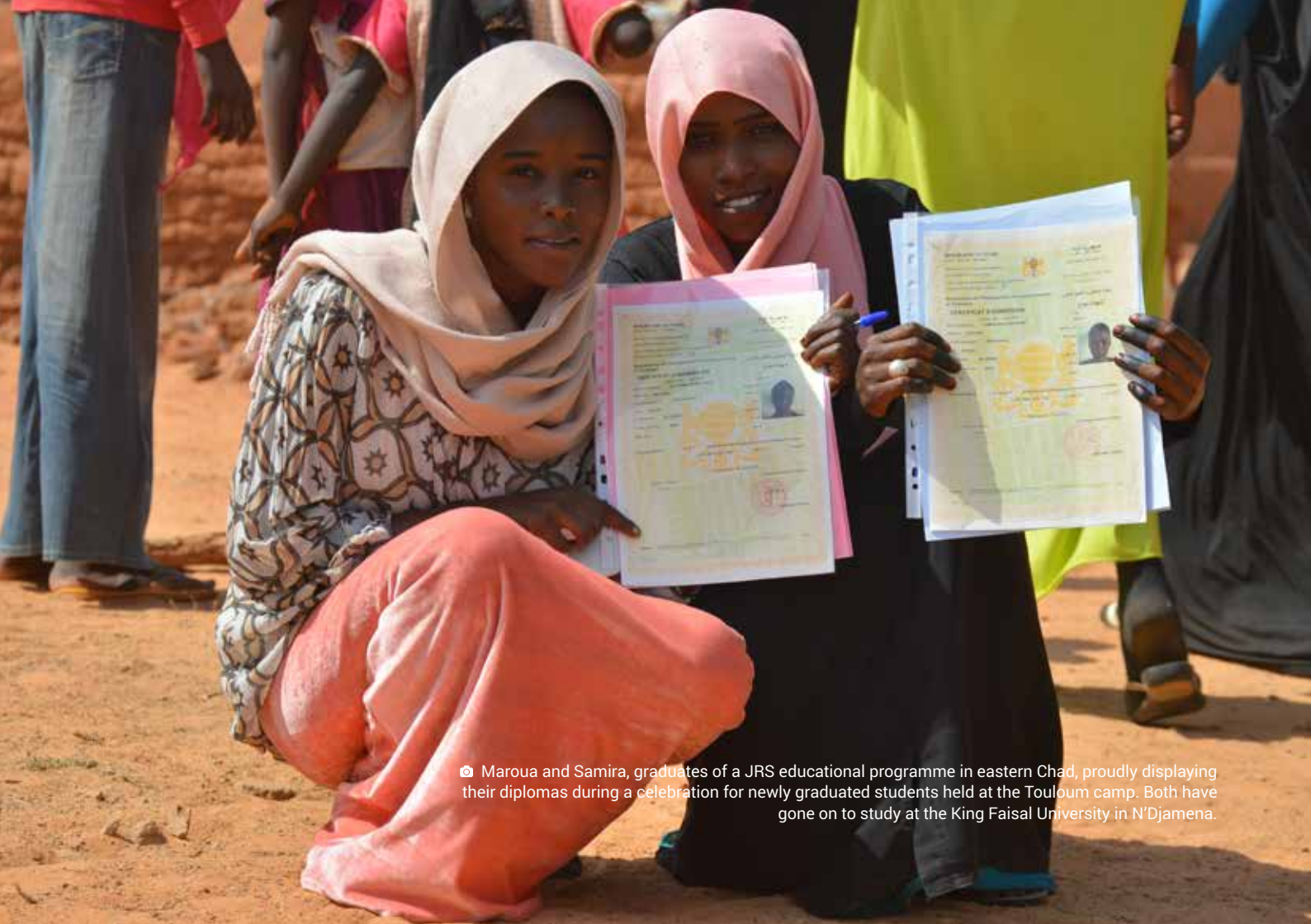
JRS continued to offer services to strengthen education in Kayah and Kachin states, where many people are internally displaced due to long-standing conflict. JRS opened an office in Loikaw, the capital of Kayah State, a base that allowed better access to remote areas that have a limited international presence and rely largely on church and NGO actors to meet their humanitarian needs. A first JRS cross-border meeting was held in Loikaw in November to create better understanding among JRS staff on both sides of the border regarding voluntary repatriation, and to identify areas for collaboration.

I like the JRS staff as they regularly visit our teachers who are assigned in the Shadaw area. They monitor, accompany, and provide what the teachers need. They spare their time with our teachers in very remote areas. The teachers participate in workshops and training programmes and they are very supportive.

HTAY MYAR

Zetaman JRS training coordinator, Myanmar





📍 Maroua and Samira, graduates of a JRS educational programme in eastern Chad, proudly displaying their diplomas during a celebration for newly graduated students held at the Touloum camp. Both have gone on to study at the King Faisal University in N'Djamena.

Integrate

Integration, which is neither assimilation nor incorporation, is a two-way process, rooted essentially in the joint recognition of the other's cultural richness: it is not the superimposing of one culture over another, nor mutual isolation, with the insidious and dangerous risk of creating ghettos.

Pope Francis

In 2016, JRS ran activities in **Latin America** aimed at enhancing agricultural livelihood opportunities and food security, for both Colombians and Venezuelans, in a border programme. To this end, JRS created partnerships with public institutions assigned to assist with farming projects by providing seed capital and microcredit. JRS also supported livelihood initiatives at the border, nearly half of which were led by women, that promoted agricultural projects like the cultivation of citrus fruits, bananas, and cacao, as well as an animal husbandry programme for poultry breeding. Technical training projects such as courses in baking, metallurgy, sewing, and hairdressing were developed to encourage employment opportunities.

 *Women attending a JRS life skills course in Goma, eastern DRC.*

2016 was a “year of grace and joy” for JRS in eastern **Chad**, to quote JRS West Africa assistant director Joseph Thera. Sudanese refugees in camps, where JRS offers secondary education, gathered in September to celebrate a 70 per cent pass rate by camp students in the national exams of Chad, and the possibility for further education thanks to scholarships. The success was hard won, following a tough transition in the camp schools from the Sudanese to the Chadian education system. When the authorities decided to change the system, the ill-prepared refugee communities initially rejected the change, school attendance dropped, and only 16 per cent passed the national exams. JRS established new education strategies aimed at assisting both the students and the teachers to gradually integrate into the Chadian education system. The key part of the JRS strategy was to invite nine Chadian teachers—three in each camp—to support and train their Sudanese counterparts in using the new system. The presence of the Chadian teachers was much appreciated by the refugees, who saw how hard they worked to raise the level of the camp schools.

Another challenge tackled by JRS in 2016 was preventing girls from dropping out of school. Only 72 out of 248 girls who enrolled completed the 2015-2016 scholastic year, due to many factors beyond their control. Many were already married or single mothers, and their access to education was determined by what the community allowed. JRS sought to meet the specific needs of girls by assuring a safe learning environment, by offering childcare services, and through a project about community health and hygiene, with a particular focus on menstrual health. The project covered eight schools and was aimed at raising awareness among students, teachers, and others involved in the running of the schools. The project also included practical measures such as the distribution of female hygiene and waste management supplies.

I am very happy this year, because I got my baccalaureate diploma. Before talking about myself, I'd like to thank JRS, because we got our diploma thanks to the team that accompanied and supported us. Together with all my friends, I am grateful to JRS. About me: first of all, I learned to say the 28 letters of the alphabet in Arabic when my parents enrolled me in the Koranic school. I learned how to express myself and how to read. At the age of seven, my parents enrolled me in primary school in Darfur, where I stayed until I was 11. I had just started secondary school when I became

seriously ill. The more time passed, the worse my sickness became, until I was unable to continue my studies. I left school and had medical treatment in Khartoum for a year and a half. Just when I was starting to feel better, the war devastated my village, so I couldn't go back to Khartoum. My family had already sought refuge in Chad, in Amnaback camp in the east. On 7 July 2014, I set off to join my parents in the camp. Today, I continue medical treatment there. Despite my illnesses and the difficult living conditions, I didn't despair. I persevered in my dream to complete my

secondary studies, and this year I managed to get the baccalaureate! This success means endless joy for me and for my family. But I don't want to stop here, I want to continue learning. My life project is to help to build a better future for myself and for the entire refugee community. I want to go to university. All the time, and in every place, I want to help all the communities of the world.

26-year-old ZENAB lives in Amnaback camp in eastern Chad



I was born in Vitoria, Spain. I'm 56 and I've been a member of the Carmelite Sisters of Charity (Vedruna) since I was 20. Depending on where I've lived and worked, people have called me Teo, Dora, and even Dori. I think that each of these names is a reflection of the many sides of my personality. I landed in Africa when I was 32, arriving in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where I had my very first direct contact with Jesuit Refugee Service in Goma. I was familiar with JRS, as we Vedruna sisters have collaborated with the Jesuits since 1990. I have lived, worked, cried, laughed, learned, dreamed, and felt both despair and joy with JRS when I worked with them for two years, from 2013 to 2015, in Iriba, a small town in Chad. There I was director of a project where we accompanied Sudanese refugees from Darfur in the desert. I recently finished a one-year mission in Bambari (CAR) working as the project director, accompanying displaced Central African people fleeing from a sad and never-ending war. There the people called me by my given name, Teodora. These have been hard, precious and vigorous years with plenty of unanswered questions, and often with feelings of great powerlessness. But I have always been grateful and amazed by all that our refugee and displaced brothers and sisters have taught me. They know life and its struggles. So, to accompany, serve, and advocate on behalf of all of them has been one of the most beautiful gifts I have ever received from Africa.

TEODORA CORRAL CCV
JRS West Africa



In **South Africa**, the Arrupe Women's Centre, Johannesburg, continued to promote social integration through livelihoods courses for women from both refugee and local communities. Every three months the Arrupe Centre took an average of 120 women in Johannesburg, and 30 women in Pretoria, to attend courses including computer classes, hairdressing, cosmetology, baking, sewing, and English classes. After three months, JRS provided the women with the tools necessary to start their own business, monitored their progress, and offered support for half a year, to help them get a start in an otherwise challenging economy. Preference was given to women who were vulnerable, such as survivors of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and other traumas.

 *Women participate in an English class offered by JRS at the Arrupe Women's Centre, Johannesburg.*



In **Malawi's** Dzaleka camp, JRS continued to run education services from early childhood development right up to higher education. The largest number of students, nearly 5,000, were in primary school and received daily meals served mostly by parents who are members of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The school included both local Malawians and refugees, to encourage integration. At secondary education level, apart from running a school for nearly 800 children, JRS ran an 'open school' after school hours. This initiative offered accelerated education, with self-study modules, to 117 students who were unable to make it to the secondary school. Meanwhile, the higher education component of the programme was developed in collaboration with Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL). Dzaleka was one of the first pilot sites of this higher education programme, with more than 2,000 alumni in the camp.

📷 *Students relaxing in the schoolyard after a lesson. Dzaleka refugee camp, Malawi*



Alain is one of the founders of Salama Africa, an organisation that empowers youth in Dzaleka camp in Malawi. The group has started a nationally ranked dance group, football teams, and art classes to help refugee children keep their minds and bodies active. Alain, a refugee from DRC, has been in Dzaleka for eight years. He is in his third and final year of the Diploma in Liberal Studies, an online 45-credit curriculum provided by JWL and

offered online through JRS' camp-based Arrupe Learning Centre. Alain attended a JRS-run secondary school, after which he continued on to the Diploma programme. In addition to his studies, he participates in an internship programme with JRS' psychosocial services. "This internship is so important because I can gain real-world experience. I get to practice what I am learning and this can be challenging because it is very different from what is

learned in the classroom," says Alain, "but I love meeting people, hearing their stories, and helping them solve their problems." His goal is to be able to work with youth by creating an empowering environment. Salama Africa has had a tremendous impact on the community by inspiring others to pursue their educational and creative aspirations. The dance school is one of the most popular activities, with one group coming in second place in a national dance competition and performing throughout the country at festivals. Second to dance, playing on their football teams is the most popular activity, and they play different teams throughout the region. Salama Africa also offers baking, singing, film, clothes and jewellery making, drawing, photography, and writing classes.

SARAH MORSHEIMER
JRS International

📷 *Alain and Toussaint, two graduates of JRS higher education programmes in Dzaleka refugee camp, Malawi, work to support youth in their community.*



People served by JRS

	<i>Education</i>	<i>Livelihoods</i>	<i>Psychosocial/ pastoral</i>	<i>Emergency</i>	<i>Advocacy/ protection</i>	<i>Healthcare</i>	<i>Total</i>
EASTERN AFRICA							
Ethiopia	2,127	1,329	17,143	2,769	190		23,558
Kenya	438	60	10,979	198	195		11,870
South Sudan	2,856		6,421				9,277
Sudan	3,117						3,117
Uganda	892	246	618	3,292			5,048
GRANDS LACS							
Burundi	15,172	276	100				15,548
Congo (DRC)	6,857	1,103	1,793	9,426	523		19,702
SOUTHERN AFRICA							
Angola			1,240	578	2,080	32	3,930
Malawi	7,035	818	4,221				12,074
South Africa	1,225	814		1,401	4,835	2,209	10,484
Zimbabwe	4,071	469					4,540
WEST AFRICA							
Cameroun (EST)	2,928						2,928
Central African Republic	6,561						6,561
Chad	59,234						59,234

	<i>Education</i>	<i>Livelihoods</i>	<i>Psychosocial/ pastoral</i>	<i>Emergency</i>	<i>Advocacy/ protection</i>	<i>Healthcare</i>	<i>Total</i>
ASIA PACIFIC							
Australia	62	48	3,500	575	2,931	130	7,246
Cambodia	179	74	34		310	27	624
Indonesia	50	145	205	103	661	71	1,235
Myanmar	384						384
Phillipines		100		500	1,000		1,600
Thailand	6,853	745	3,628	554	802		12,582
SOUTH ASIA							
Afghanistan	8,877						8,877
India	10,066	120	2,255	372	1,072	280	14,165
Sri Lanka	3,670	78					3,748
MIDDLE EAST							
Iraq	1,652		7,394	7,393		285	16,724
Jordan			1,520	1,519		258	3,297
Lebanon	2,092		1,600	1,421		242	5,355
Syria	1,487	175	9,759	190,821	2,531	13,068	217,841

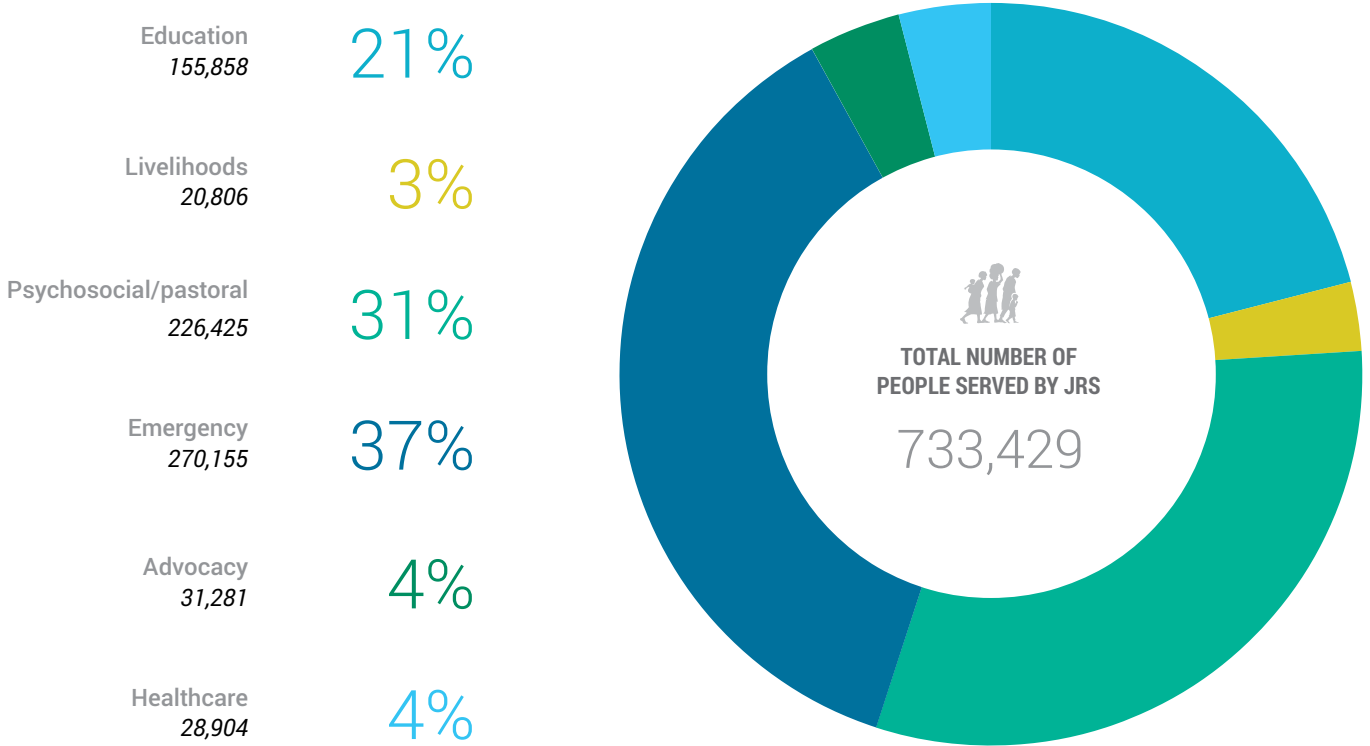
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People served by JRS

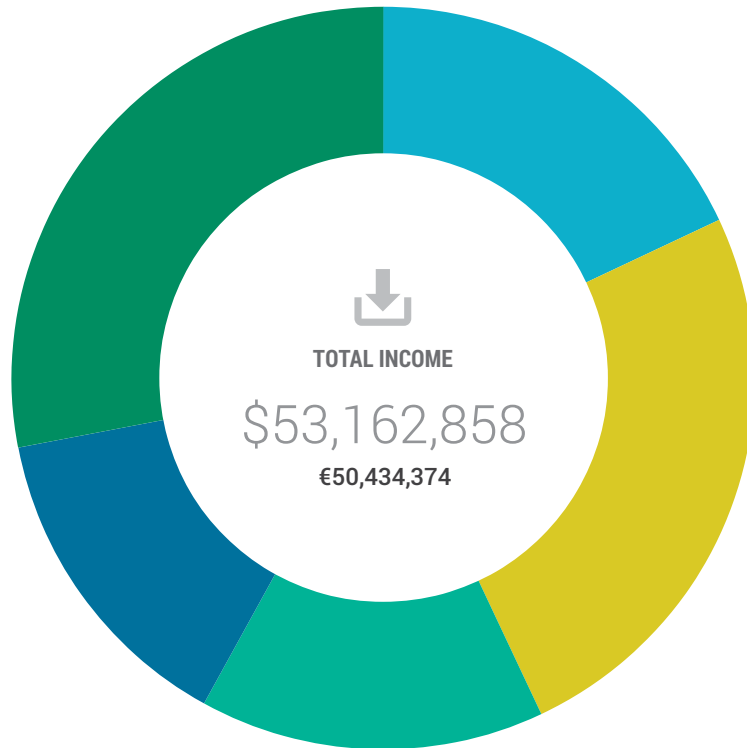
	<i>Education</i>	<i>Livelihoods</i>	<i>Psychosocial/ pastoral</i>	<i>Emergency</i>	<i>Advocacy/ protection</i>	<i>Healthcare</i>	<i>Total</i>
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN							
Colombia	1,636	2,378	24,460	2,428	2,788		33,690
Ecuador	600	534	2,074	154	1,280	32	4,674
Venezuela	1,689	108	432	255	463		2,947
NORTH AMERICA							
Canada	100	25	120		12	101	358
USA			111,876				111,876
EUROPE							
Belgium			530				530
Croatia	4	200	2,000	20,000	600	200	23,004
France	80	782	130		62		1,054
Germany		100	500		1,800		2,400
Greece	230		25	3,000	50	20	3,325
Hungary	66	16	98		11	6	197
Ireland	1,010		690		780		2,480
Italy	1,322	2,034	1,721	15,000	2,725	9,475	32,277

	<i>Education</i>	<i>Livelihoods</i>	<i>Psychosocial/ pastoral</i>	<i>Emergency</i>	<i>Advocacy/ protection</i>	<i>Healthcare</i>	<i>Total</i>
Kosovo	15			387		178	580
Macedonia	427	3,100	344	168	285	1,263	5,587
Malta		150	300		450	100	1,000
Poland	54	45	47	14	6	27	193
Portugal	246	113	1,359		455	284	2,457
Romania		2,235		212	1,668	331	4,446
Serbia	45		6,032	7,450	75	280	13,882
Slovenia	20		200		50		270
Spain	400	2,356		100	566		3,422
Sweden	25	30	205	65	25	5	355
UK	4		872				876
Grand Total	155,858	20,806	226,425	270,155	31,281	28,904	733,429

People served by JRS



Sources of global income



18%

Caritas Network/
Catholic Agencies

\$9,356,365

24%

Institutional
Donors

\$13,044,062

15%

Jesuit Network
& Sources

\$8,210,697

14%

NGOs and
Other Income

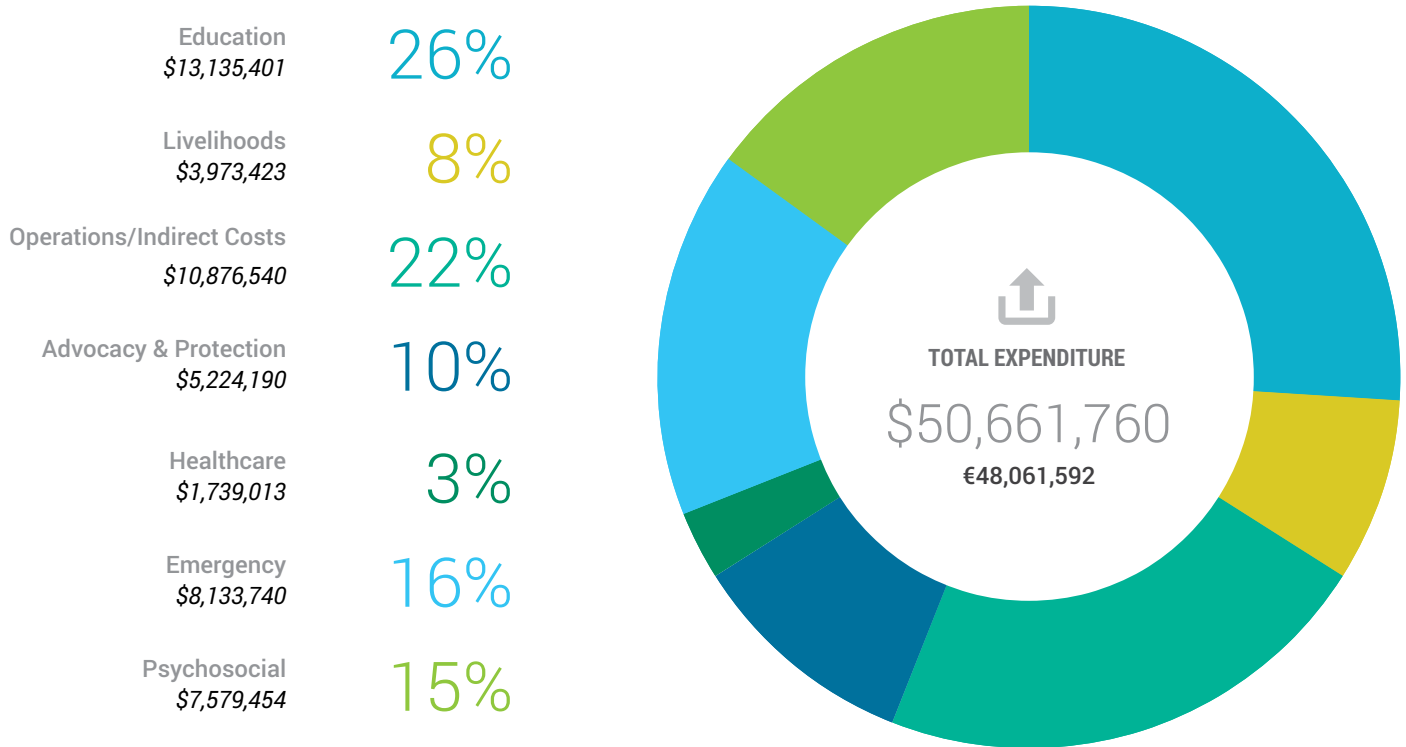
\$7,285,213

29%

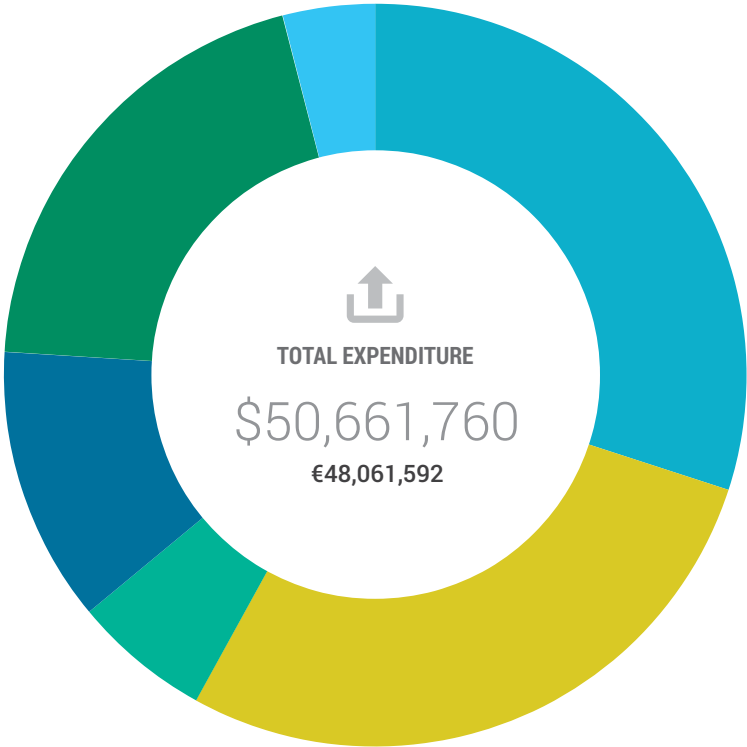
Private Individuals,
Foundations &
Corporations

\$15,266,522

Global expenditure by category



Global expenditure by continent



30% Africa
\$15,210,636

28% Middle East
\$14,027,341

6% Asia
\$3,054,721

12% Americas
\$6,235,028

20% Europe
\$10,219,243

4% International Office
\$1,914,791

welcome protect promote integrate



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