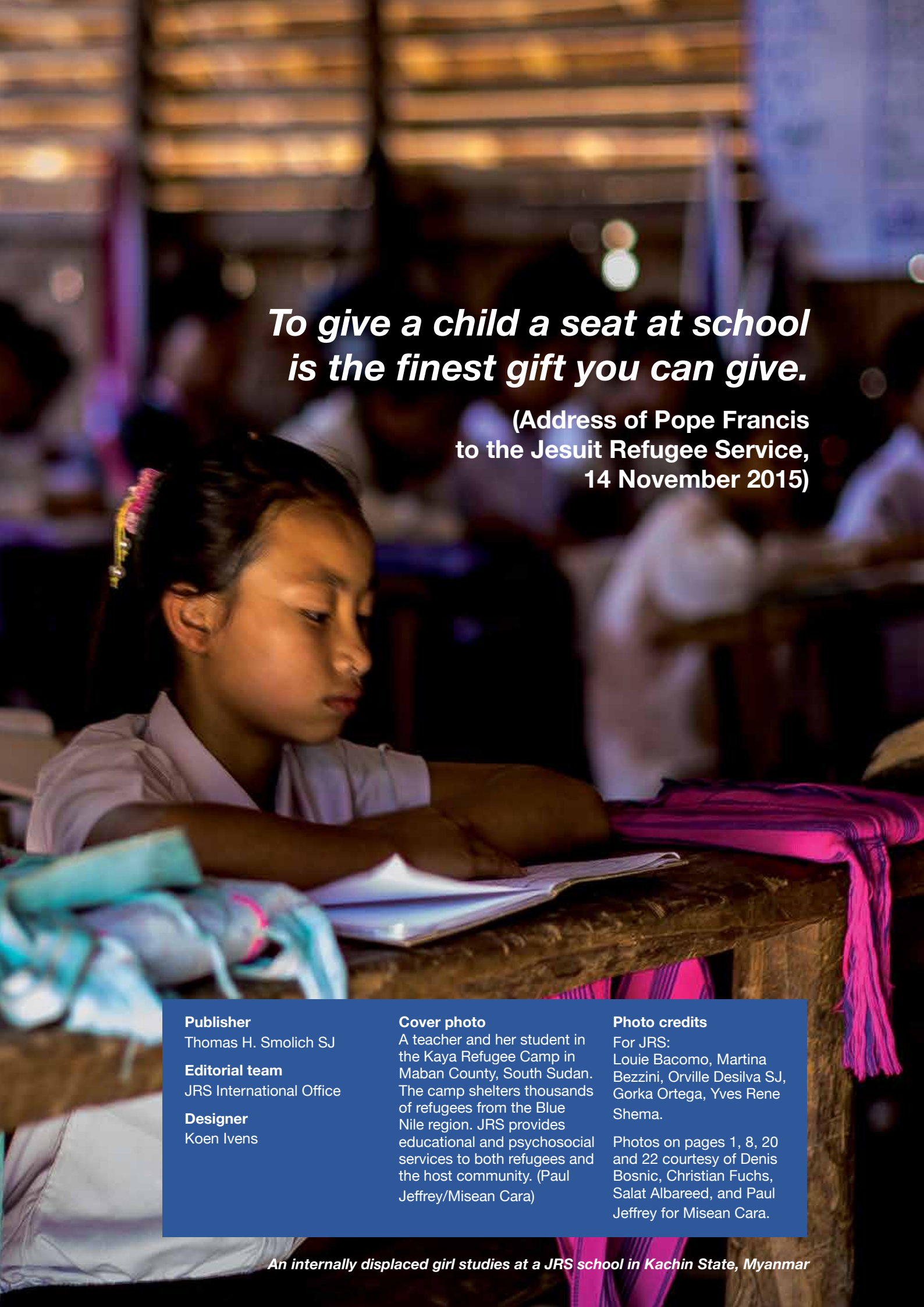




Annual  
Report  
2017



JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE



***To give a child a seat at school  
is the finest gift you can give.***

**(Address of Pope Francis  
to the Jesuit Refugee Service,  
14 November 2015)**

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**Cover photo**

A teacher and her student in the Kaya Refugee Camp in Maban County, South Sudan. The camp shelters thousands of refugees from the Blue Nile region. JRS provides educational and psychosocial services to both refugees and the host community. (Paul Jeffrey/Misean Cara)

**Photo credits**

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Photos on pages 1, 8, 20 and 22 courtesy of Denis Bosnic, Christian Fuchs, Salat Albareed, and Paul Jeffrey for Misean Cara.

*An internally displaced girl studies at a JRS school in Kachin State, Myanmar*

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JRS staff in Jibreen, Syria.

# Who we are

## 37 years of serving refugees around the world

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is a Catholic organisation founded in 1980 by the Society of Jesus to respond to the plight of Vietnamese refugees fleeing their war-ravaged homeland. From a few camps in Southeast Asia, the work of JRS expanded rapidly to serve refugees around the world. In 2017 JRS served nearly 640,000 people in camps and urban settings, in conflict zones and detention centres, on remote borders and in busy cities. Our work is coordinated by offices in 52 countries and an international office in Rome.

## Our programmes

JRS is committed to working for the wellbeing and hope of refugees. We run pastoral care and psychosocial support programmes in detention centres and refugee camps, and provide humanitarian relief in emergency displacement situations. Education and livelihoods programmes provide skill development and opportunities for integration into host communities. We never cease to advocate for the rights of refugees, and to articulate the obligation to protect the most vulnerable among us.

## Our mission

Inspired by the generous love and example of Jesus Christ, JRS seeks to accompany, serve, and advocate the cause of refugees and other forcibly displaced people, that they may heal, learn, and determine their own future.

## Our vision

A world where refugees and other forcibly displaced people attain protection, opportunity, and participation.

## Our way

JRS believes that our journeying with refugees is the most important way for us to express our solidarity with them and our concern for their wellbeing. In a world where refugees are more than ever in need of welcome and protection, and yet are increasingly rejected and demonized, JRS offers accompaniment to refugees as a sign of hope and a way towards healing. In even the most desperate of situations, we remain with refugees to assure them that the world has not forgotten them, and that they are not alone.

## De facto refugees

JRS believes that the definition of a “refugee” according to international conventions is too restrictive, and ignores the needs of many vulnerable forcibly displaced people.

We are therefore guided by Catholic Social Teaching, which applies the expression “de facto refugee” to:

- all persons persecuted because of race, religion, membership in social or political groups;
- victims of armed conflicts, erroneous economic policy, or natural disasters;
- internally displaced persons, that is, civilians who are forcibly uprooted from their homes by the same type of violence as refugees but who do not cross national frontiers.

This more inclusive definition of “refugee” guides JRS in our work and mission.

# Our Context

2017 saw countries closing their borders to displaced people, a worrying decline in resettlement places, and a rise in political movements that blame refugees and migrants for the ills of their societies. This took place in a year of massive humanitarian need caused by the highest levels of forced displacement ever recorded, with children being half of those on the move.

South Sudan in 2017 was a crucible of this complex reality. Civil war and chronic underdevelopment resulted in food shortages, outbreaks of disease, and mass displacement, creating 2 million South Sudanese refugees, the majority hosted in Uganda.

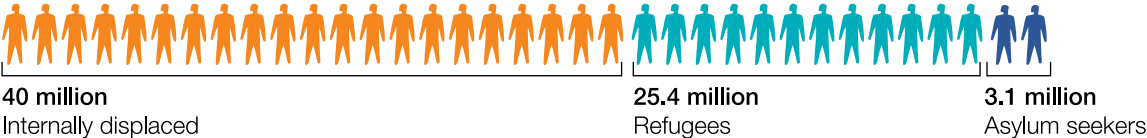
There were an additional 1.9 million displaced within the country, and South Sudan continues to host refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan. South Sudan runs the risk of becoming another chronic refugee situation comparable to Afghanistan (2.6 million living in exile, with another 1.5 million displaced within the country) or Colombia (7 million internally displaced with an additional 3.5 million living in nearby countries.)

Over 4 million refugees and 36 million internally displaced persons have been in exile for more than 10 years. Refugees who live in exile for very long periods face particular

difficulties in rebuilding their lives. Resettlement in a third country is a lottery that only a very few will win, and the countries in the Global South that host 85 per cent of all refugees are often unwilling or unable to provide them with permanent status, opportunities, and integration. Access to education and livelihood opportunities are absolutely crucial if the world is not to see entire generations of people lost to dependence, poverty, and social marginalisation.

Never has the need to welcome and protect refugees and other forcibly displaced people been more urgent.

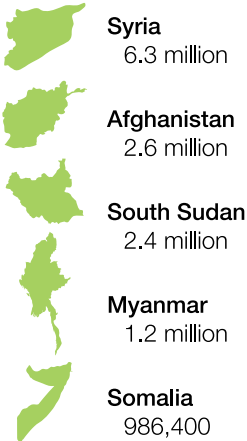
## 68.5 million forcibly displaced people



### 52% are children

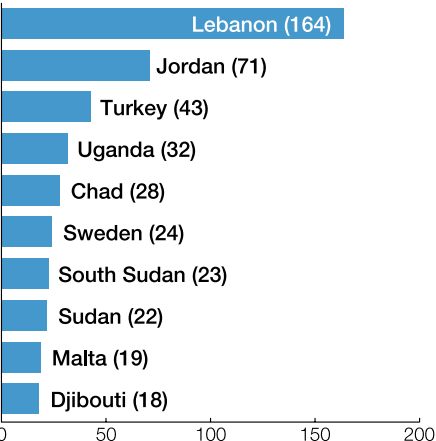


### 68% of all refugees came from 5 countries



### Top hosting countries

(number of refugees for 1,000 inhabitants)



Source: UNHCR

# Responding to a call

JRS is inspired daily by the leadership of Pope Francis to act with courage and verve as we carry out our mission of accompanying, serving, and defending the rights of refugees and other forcibly displaced people. In February 2017 Pope Francis gave an address in Rome during which he called for a shared response to migrants and refugees that could be articulated by four verbs: to welcome, to protect, to promote, and to integrate. The service provided by JRS in our accompaniment of refugees may be summed up in those four verbs.

**JRS welcomes**

refugees by bringing host communities and refugees together to promote social inclusion, and to break down the anxieties and stereotypes that often stand in the way of welcome. JRS provides pastoral care in immigration detention centres around the world, supporting people whose only crime is to seek a safer life for themselves and their children. In every place where we are present, we focus on the value of hospitality, in JRS centres and schools, and through projects such as *Communities of Hospitality* and *I Get You*.

**JRS protects**

asylum seekers by providing them with legal assistance in the often lengthy and complex process of proving that they are deserving of refugee status. JRS also contributes to the strengthening of the international protection system through the advocacy work of our representative to the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) in Geneva. We campaign for safer routes and options for people fleeing violence and persecution, and for alternative legal pathways for rejected asylum seekers.

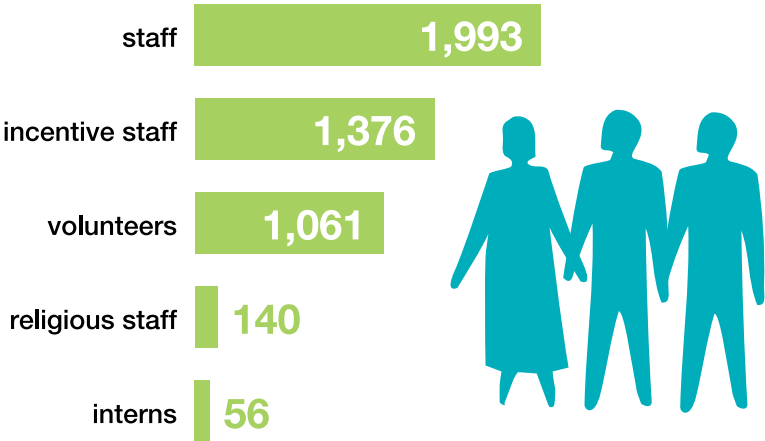
**JRS promotes**

the integral human development of refugees through our education and livelihood-training programmes. Refugees flee violence and conflict to survive, and they then seek opportunities to rebuild their lives. Education and employment are the key to the kind of development that refugee communities need to thrive. JRS recognises that refugees are the agents of their own change. We strive to include the participation of refugees in all aspects of the planning and implementation of our education and training programmes.

**JRS integrates**

refugees through all our programmes and initiatives. The integration of refugees into host communities, or into the societies that in some cases they eventually return to, is the goal of everything that JRS does. Given the opportunity, refugees can and do make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live. Our approach is rooted in the “culture of encounter” promoted by Pope Francis, which invites us to see the other as one who enlarges our world, rather than as one who diminishes it.

**4,626 people work for JRS:**



**OPERATIONS**

- 52 countries
- 637,640 people served
- 150 projects

# People served during 2017

## North America

PROGRAMME	PEOPLE SERVED
Psychosocial/Pastoral	11,384
Advocacy/Protection	33

## West Africa

PROGRAMME	PEOPLE SERVED
Education	80,245
Livelihoods	814
Psychosocial/Pastoral	3,651
Advocacy/Protection	1,366

## Latin America & Carribean

PROGRAMME	PEOPLE SERVED
Education	1,144
Livelihoods	7,331
Psychosocial/Pastoral	2,552
Emergency	6,064
Advocacy/Protection	28,087
Healthcare	40

## Southern Africa

PROGRAMME	PEOPLE SERVED
Education	11,021
Livelihoods	1,278
Psychosocial/Pastoral	8,796
Emergency	67,000
Advocacy/Protection	3,263
Healthcare	3,147

## Europe

PROGRAMME	PEOPLE SERVED
Education	2,662
Livelihoods	7,449
Psychosocial/ Pastoral	9,552
Emergency	19,123
Advocacy/ Protection	7,342
Healthcare	12,224

## Middle East

PROGRAMME	PEOPLE SERVED
Education	8,928
Livelihoods	164
Psychosocial/ Pastoral	75,638
Emergency	69,864
Healthcare	16,698

## South Asia

PROGRAMME	PEOPLE SERVED
Education	13,216
Livelihoods	1,350
Psychosocial/ Pastoral	1,541
Emergency	420
Advocacy/ Protection	813

## Asia Pacific

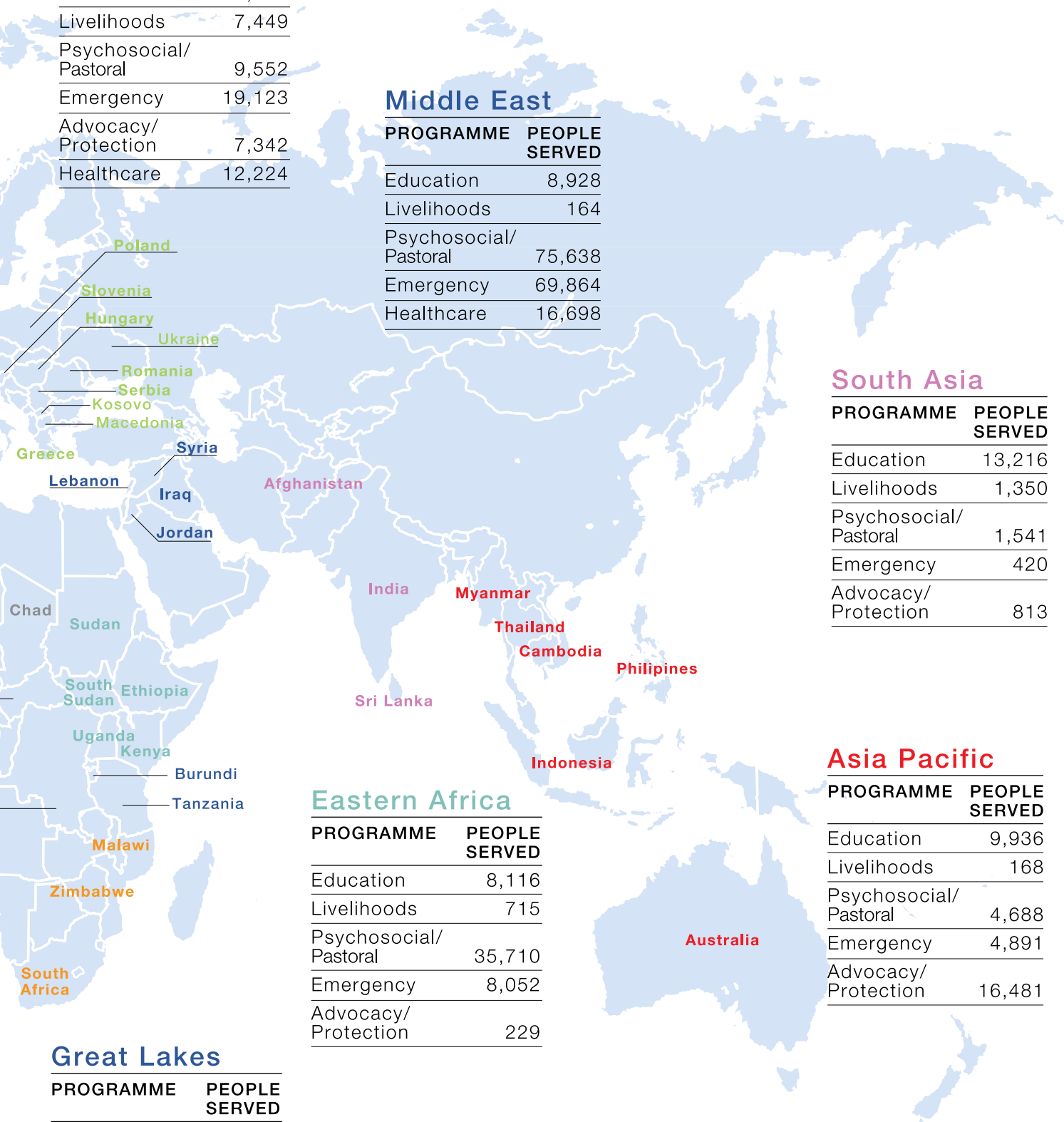
PROGRAMME	PEOPLE SERVED
Education	9,936
Livelihoods	168
Psychosocial/ Pastoral	4,688
Emergency	4,891
Advocacy/ Protection	16,481

## Eastern Africa

PROGRAMME	PEOPLE SERVED
Education	8,116
Livelihoods	715
Psychosocial/ Pastoral	35,710
Emergency	8,052
Advocacy/ Protection	229

## Great Lakes

PROGRAMME	PEOPLE SERVED
Education	46,000
Livelihoods	1,161
Psychosocial/ Pastoral	10,296





*Biology class at the secondary school of Kounoungou refugee camp, Chad.*

# Serving refugees during a time of unprecedented displacement

## Education

Food, water, shelter, clothing, and access to health care come to mind when considering the situation of refugees, and most refugee-serving organisations make provisions to provide for these needs.

Yet other needs must be considered in situations where refugees find themselves displaced for longer and longer periods. Who could have imagined in 2011 that Syria would still be a war zone seven years later? Throughout Africa and Asia, many refugees have been living in camps for more than a decade. In these protracted situations, refugees need more than food rations and a roof over their heads. Life cannot be put on indefinite hold: children have a right to quality education, and adults need to learn the language of their host communities, and acquire skills to support their families.

Education provides stability and a sense of normalcy; it engenders hope while preparing refugees to meet future challenges. In possession of the skills and knowledge provided by education, refugees find it easier to integrate into new communities. In the right circumstances, economic activity by refugees can create a net increase in wealth for the entire community, both refugees and hosts, because the new goods and services they provide are valued and

purchased by the community. The creation of new wealth and opportunities can thereby contribute to social cohesion. In regions devastated by war and endemic violence, an educated and skilled population is vital for the long-term development and reconstruction of refugees' home and host countries.

Education for children is not just about learning. Being in a school where teachers and members of the community are present and know them provides children with protection. In situations of displacement, education guards against child labour and helps prevent recruitment into armed groups. It also protects children from sexual and gender-based violence, early marriage, and early pregnancy.

It is a sad fact that only 2.7 per cent of humanitarian aid funds are spent on education. As a result, more than half of all school-age refugees have no access to education. Only 61 per cent of refugee

children are enrolled in primary school, and the situation worsens as they get older; just 25 per cent of young refugees have access to secondary education, and at the tertiary level, the number sinks to 1 per cent.

Building on centuries of Jesuit expertise in the field of education, JRS has made the teaching of refugees a key priority. JRS programmes run the span from early childhood development through post-secondary education and vocational training for adults. Our teacher training programmes are also critical, as refugee teachers are among the most important agents of change for their communities. We believe that quality education imbued with JRS values makes a unique contribution to long-term, durable solutions for refugees.

In 2017, 184,403 refugees benefited from JRS's educational programmes – an increase of 30,000 beneficiaries compared to 2016.

**184,403**  
people served  
in education  
programmes



Alphabet  
Aa Bb Cc Dd  
Ee Ff Gg Hh  
Ii Jj Kk Ll  
Mm Nn Oo Pp  
Qq Rr Ss Tt  
Uu Vv Ww Xx  
Yy Zz



Girls attending JRS English classes in Bamyan, Afghanistan.



## AFGHANISTAN: JRS has changed my life.

In Afghanistan JRS is known for the exceptional quality of our educational programmes. Students accepted into a JRS learning centre feel as though they have won a prize just by getting in.

*“Nowadays there are many academic centres teaching English and computer skills, but I think JRS is the best and most effective at providing quality education,”* says Asila Asil, a student from Herat. *“Besides English, I have learned the teaching methods used by the JRS teachers, and I now use these methods in my place of work.”*

JRS learning centres are located in four of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan: Bamyan, Daikundi, Herat, and Kabul. All of JRS’s educational programmes focus on providing quality education for the students, but in Afghanistan, where only 19 per cent of adult women are literate, we have placed a special emphasis on opening up learning opportunities for girls. 70 per cent of our students in the recent winter term studies were female.

JRS programmes in Afghanistan have not only focused on the intellectual formation of the students, but have also sought to instill the value of being *“women and men for others”*. *“My goal is to help my people, many of whom are needy,”* says Sona Tabibzada, who studies English at the JRS learning centre in Herat. *“As a girl, studying at JRS makes me feel empowered. In the future I would like to work with poor children who live on the streets.”*

Zahra, a student from Bamyan, had this to say of her time in the JRS learning centre there: *“JRS has changed my life, and the life of my family. It has changed my ideas about girls. Now I am convinced of girls’ rights to be educated and to work in public life.”*



**8,468**  
people served  
in education  
programmes  
in Afghanistan



**70%** of the students  
in Bamyan are female

## **ETHIOPIA:** **An educated person knows how to protect her children**

*“An educated person knows how to protect her children,”* says Habibo, a mother of eight living in Melkadida, one of the five refugee camps located in Ethiopia’s southeastern border region. Like most refugees living in these camps, she comes from an area of Somalia that is largely under the control of a militant Islamist group.

Since 2017, Habibo has been attending JRS’s Adult Functional Literacy programme, where she has learnt to read and write in English and Somali and to do basic mathematics. Habibo says education has also made her aware about her rights and the rights of her children. In fact, Habibo used to have a difficult relationship with her children, especially her four daughters, because she did not think that these young people had any rights.

*“Before, I thought that girls should be married off once they reached puberty. I did not think that education was important for girls.”*

Habibo is now her daughters’ strongest ally and advocate, determined to protect them from forced marriage and the tradition of female genital mutilation. Habibo is also a member of the refugee elders’ council in her area, where she advocates for women’s rights.

She hopes to continue her education and perhaps even start her own business one day.

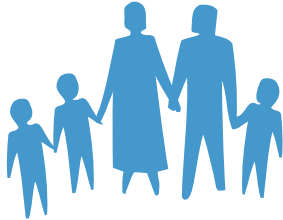


***Habibo attends JRS Adult Functional Literacy classes in Melkadida refugee camp.***

# Livelihoods

The opportunity to work, earn a living, and be self-reliant is one of the most effective ways for refugees to rebuild their lives. Whether it be in the communities that welcome them, in camp settings, or when they return home or are resettled, refugees have their dignity reaffirmed when they are able to earn a living and support their families. Their self-reliance challenges the common preconception that refugees are always a burden on host communities. For example, the World Bank and the United Nations released a study in 2017 that demonstrated how the Kakuma refugee camp in northern Kenya has boosted economic indicators in the host community. The 2,150 refugee-run shops in Kakuma have enlarged and enhanced the local economy, not damaged it.

**20,584**  
people served  
in livelihood  
programmes



JRS's livelihood services include facilitating refugees' access to labour markets and land, equipping them with employment-relevant skills through training courses, and supporting the launching of small businesses by providing grants, loans, and other resources. These initiatives are tailored to adapt to local markets and developing opportunities: from farming and IT in some places, to sewing and tailoring, and the production of food, toiletries, and other commodities, in others.

In total, 20,584 forcibly displaced people benefited from JRS's livelihood programmes in 2017.



***An internally displaced man shows cocoa beans produced with the support of JRS in Magdalena Medio, Colombia.***



*Genifer Paola Serna showing her homemade cocadas.*

## COLOMBIA: I thought I would have to leave this country

Genifer Paola Serna grew up in Quibdó, the capital of Chocó Department in western Colombia. Due to armed conflict and widespread violence, Genifer was forced to leave home and move to Buenaventura, a coastal seaport city in Valle del Cauca and the most impoverished city in Colombia, with 91 per cent of the population living at or below the poverty line.

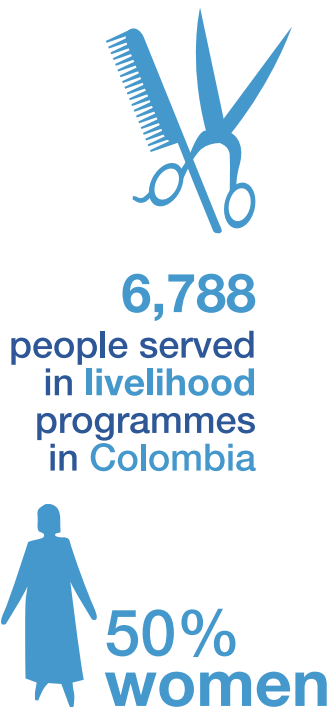
Genifer was determined not to be stuck in poverty and rendered invisible to the rest of the world, like so many IDPs in Colombia. *“There were times when the situation around me was so violent that I thought of leaving this country,”* she said. Having to take care of her young daughter, however, gave her the strength and resilience to keep on dreaming of a better life in Colombia, and finding ways to make that dream come true.

About three years ago, Genifer enrolled in a school that taught the cooking of traditional Colombian food. Within a few months, Genifer and three of her classmates had become experts in making cocadas, a coconut-based sweet found throughout Latin America and particularly popular in Colombia. The four women needed income, and decided to pool their money to buy the ingredients to make cocadas to sell on the street. The plan worked: the sweets they made were so good that they sold out at the end of their first day.

That was the start of a burgeoning business, and the school allowed them to use its kitchen while they were still enrolled. Once they graduated, however, Genifer and her friends needed an alternative. They tried a wood-burning stove, but the smoke affected the cocadas' flavour, and sales plummeted. A client cosigned to buy a good stove on credit. *“We were so scared of the debt that we only got a one-burner stove,”* she remembered. *“We were producing cocadas in two flavours, coconut and passion fruit, and doing that on a one-burner stove took too much time”.*

In 2017, Genifer and her partners discovered JRS Colombia. Through the help of JRS they acquired a stove with multiple burners, and enrolled in a basic accounting course that helped them better manage their business. The four young entrepreneurs are now selling an average of 500 cocadas per day. *“Many people order them in advance, so we no longer have to walk on the streets that much to sell them,”* said a happy and proud Genifer.

The hero of this story is not JRS. The determination, skill, and ingenuity were all Genifer's and her friends'; all we needed to do was to lend them a helping hand.



*Children from Adi-Harush Camp in Southern Ethiopia perform a dance they learnt during their recreational activities sessions.*



# Psychosocial support

Forced displacement is usually accompanied by a breakdown of traditional systems of support: close families are torn apart, vibrant communities seemingly vanish overnight. Such upheaval causes significant psychological and social stress.

Refugees usually experience such stress in three distinct phases of displacement. They flee in the first place because of actual harm, or the threat of harm. The flight also tears them away from the security of relationships, home, work, education, and possessions. The journey away from danger is itself often fraught with risks, from being exploited by traffickers and smugglers, to the perils of crossing a desert on foot, or making a journey in a rickety vessel across wild seas. When they finally arrive at their destinations, refugees often find a hostile reception, and can be subject to detention, family separation, social exclusion, and poverty.

JRS's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support programmes aim to create environments and support initiatives that promote healing and resilience. Additionally, a mental health and psychosocial approach is often integrated across all JRS programme areas, especially education. Whatever we do for refugees, be it the supply of emergency food rations or a class in computer coding, our ultimate objective is always the wellbeing of the whole person and the cohesion of the entire community.

JRS recognises the importance of religious faith in the lives of people who experience violence, displacement, and marginalisation. When appropriate, JRS provides religious pastoral care activities that range from the training of community catechists to the provision of liturgical services for Catholic refugees who request them. Additionally, JRS also offers chaplaincy

services in detention centres, and we support the provision of religious prayer spaces and services for refugees of different faiths, especially in camp and detention centre settings.

In total, JRS served 164,383 people through its psychosocial activities in 2017.

**164,383**  
people served  
in psychosocial  
and pastoral  
programmes



## SYRIA: I found love here

Eight in ten children in Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance, and four in ten are on the run, either as refugees or as displaced people within Syria's borders. 13-year old Sa'ad is one of many children whom JRS accompanies through hardships that no child should ever have to endure.

Sa'ad fled with others from his hometown, and made it to Tartus, a city on Syria's Mediterranean coast. There he was one of many children regularly turning up at the JRS Kafroun Centre, but the staff noticed that Sa'ad was more withdrawn than the other children; he shied away from group activities, and kept to himself. No one could recall him speaking, or even smiling.

The JRS psychosocial support team swung into action, and began one-on-one sessions with Sa'ad. As a result of their patient and intensive work with him, Sa'ad began to open up to the social workers. They discovered that he had grown up in an abusive household, that his mother had eventually left, abandoning him, and that his father then had deposited him in an orphanage. The outbreak of war, and the experience of being uprooted yet again, and in such frightening circumstances, had driven this young boy almost mad with grief and pain. *"I have never seen a beautiful day in my life,"* he burst out one day, finally putting into words the pain that he had been harbouring within himself for so long.

After three months of intensive psychosocial support, Sa'ad began to open up, and to allow himself to experience the simple joys of being a child. He has made new friends at the JRS centre, participates eagerly in its educational activities, and is frequently seen with a beaming smile on his face.



**Sa'ad at the JRS Kafroun Centre, Syria.**

When asked what has changed in his life, Sa'ad's reply was, *"I found love here."*

Like adults everywhere, we always ask the children whom we encounter what they want to be when they grow up. Sa'ad's answer was instant: *"When I grow up, I would like to build something like this centre so that I can help other children."*

# Emergency humanitarian assistance: focus on Syria

## Seven years of war: JRS and the Syrian crisis

JRS Syria began its work in 2008 with a range of programmes to aid Iraqis who had sought refuge in Syria in the aftermath of the 2003 invasion of their country. The focus of JRS Syria changed dramatically with the outbreak of the Syrian civil war in March 2011. By the end of 2017 the country was well into its seventh year of armed conflict, with horrific humanitarian consequences: 400,000 dead or missing; many more injured or incapacitated for life; 5.6 million refugees; 6.6 million internally displaced people. Much of the infrastructure of the country has been destroyed, and the economy is in shambles.

JRS has been serving people affected by the war in and around Damascus, Homs, and Aleppo since the start of the conflict. In 2017, the JRS centre in Aleppo provided daily cooked meals for 11,000 people; for many, this was their one and only meal of the day. 10,000 vulnerable families in Aleppo also received regular food baskets.

Syria's health services have been devastated by the war, and JRS has responded by providing medical services in clinics, medication through our pharmacies, financial aid for urgent surgical costs, laboratory analysis, and prescription eyewear. 22,400 Syrians were assisted through JRS's medical relief programmes in 2017.



**209,445**  
people served  
globally in **emergency**  
and **healthcare**  
programmes



*Two children carry winter supplies for the harsh winter in Aleppo.*

**72,774**  
people served  
in **emergency**  
and **healthcare**  
programmes  
in **Syria**


 **ALEPPO**


 **DAMASCUS**

 **HOMS**

  **2.5 M**  
meals  
distributed

**48,002**  
people received  
food baskets  
and  
non food items

 **54%**  
are women

 **43%**  
under  
18 years old

## SYRIA:

### I didn't think the war would take away my children's health forever

Kifaa's five children have never had what most of us would recognise as a normal childhood. They grew up in Aleppo, Syria's largest city, which became a war zone in 2012 when the city was divided in two, between government forces in the west of the city, and rebel forces in the east. Four years of fierce fighting, before the government finally wrested back control of the whole city in December 2016, has left Aleppo in ruins. Like many other young Syrians, Kifaa's children have never known a life without war. The siege of east Aleppo left areas such as the Sakhour district, where Kifaa lived with her husband and children, without basic services. Running water and electricity were among the first to go, and the family, like their neighbours, lived in darkness after sunset. Kifaa's eldest daughter was of school age at the start of the siege, but could not go to classes because of the security situation.

Two of Kifaa's children have severe medical problems: one has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy, and the other suffers from epileptic seizures. Getting food for her children was a nightmare, let alone getting the sick ones any kind of medical care. *"When the war broke out, I didn't think that it would take away my children's health forever,"* said Kifaa, her eyes filling with tears. Kifaa and her husband, who had been unemployed for ages because of the war, eventually decided to abandon their home, and they fled with their children to Hama, 125 km south of Aleppo. There they found shelter in a mosque, and life continued to be very difficult. Nevertheless, Kifaa and her husband did their best to get medical treatment for their sick children, and they had a small income from selling sweets from a cart.

The family returned to Aleppo as soon as the conflict there ended, despite the fact that much of the city was still in ruins, and most basic services had not yet been restored. They returned to find their house looted, and badly-damaged. *"Things got worse, and we could not feed the children. Then I heard about JRS, that it provides daily meals,"* said Kifaa. *"Since then, we have had hot meals every day at the JRS distribution point. I do not know how we would manage without the help of JRS. There is no other way for us to get food for the children."* Kifaa's family also benefits from daily bread distribution by JRS staff. There is no other way to get bread, a staple of the Syrian diet, in the neighbourhood: all bakeries are shut or destroyed.

Kifaa's story is not unique. The war in Syria has ravaged the lives of its people, and we will see its destructive effects for generations to come. The assistance that JRS gives to families such as Kifaa's provides them with the first basic building blocks to restore their lives.



*Girls laugh as they hold chalkboard tablets in a primary school in Bunji, South Sudan.*

# Campaign focus: The Global Education Initiative

During a private audience in 2015 granted to JRS representatives to mark our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Pope Francis handed us a gentle but insistent challenge: *“To give a child a seat at a school is the finest gift you can give.”* JRS responded with the Global Education Initiative (GEI), a campaign to increase the scale and impact of its education projects for young refugees.

In November 2015, JRS launched the Global Education Initiative (GEI), with two stated aims: to increase the total number of people in our education programmes from the then figure of 150,000 to 250,000 by 2020; and to focus those programmes in three areas: out-of-school children and youth (especially girls, children with special needs, and refugees who have missed out on secondary education); teacher training; and post-secondary education and

training. To meet these goals, JRS hopes to raise USD 35 million.

Two years into the five-year campaign, JRS is well on its way to a successful GEI. The number of children and adults enrolled in JRS's education and livelihoods training courses has increased by 54,987 after two years, more than half our stated goal. Significant new education initiatives for girls have been started in Chad and Malawi. In Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp, a special needs education project is underway. A global Teacher Training Programme has been designed and is being implemented in Africa and Asia. JRS's post-secondary education programmes are being refocused through needs assessments and market analyses.

Thanks to generous donor support, JRS managed to invest USD 13.9 million in the GEI in 2016-2017.

## Goals of the Global Education Initiative (2015-2020)

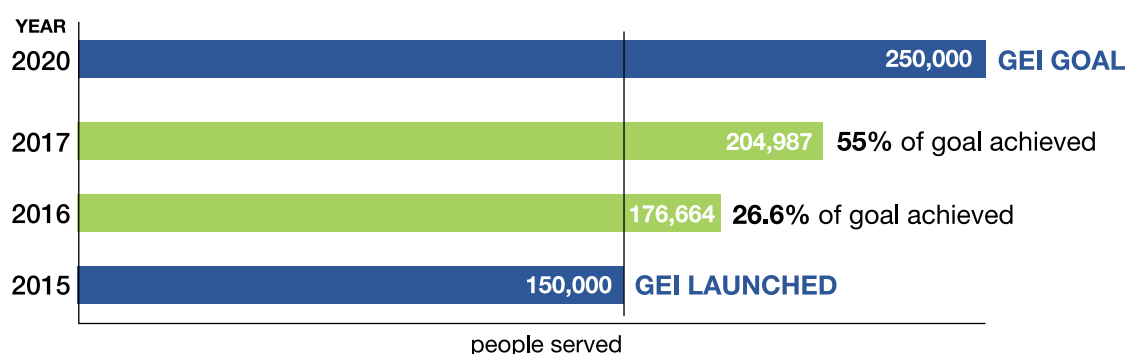
- Increase the number of beneficiaries in JRS's education and livelihood training programmes from 150,000 to 250,000
- Focus on those most in need, teacher training, and post-secondary education that leads to people getting jobs
- Raise USD 35 million to implement education programmes

## Key results through 2017:

- Reached 55 per cent of the beneficiary target (an additional 54,987 children and adults are attending JRS courses)
- Designed a Teacher Training Programme in English, French and Arabic
- Recruited a global team of Education in Emergencies Specialists to assist in the implementation of all our educational programmes
- Accomplished 39.8 per cent of the fundraising target.

## Global Education Initiative goal

100,000 more in JRS's education and livelihood programmes by 2020





*Children standing in a classroom door in Touloum, Chad.*

## CHAD: A safe place where children can learn and thrive

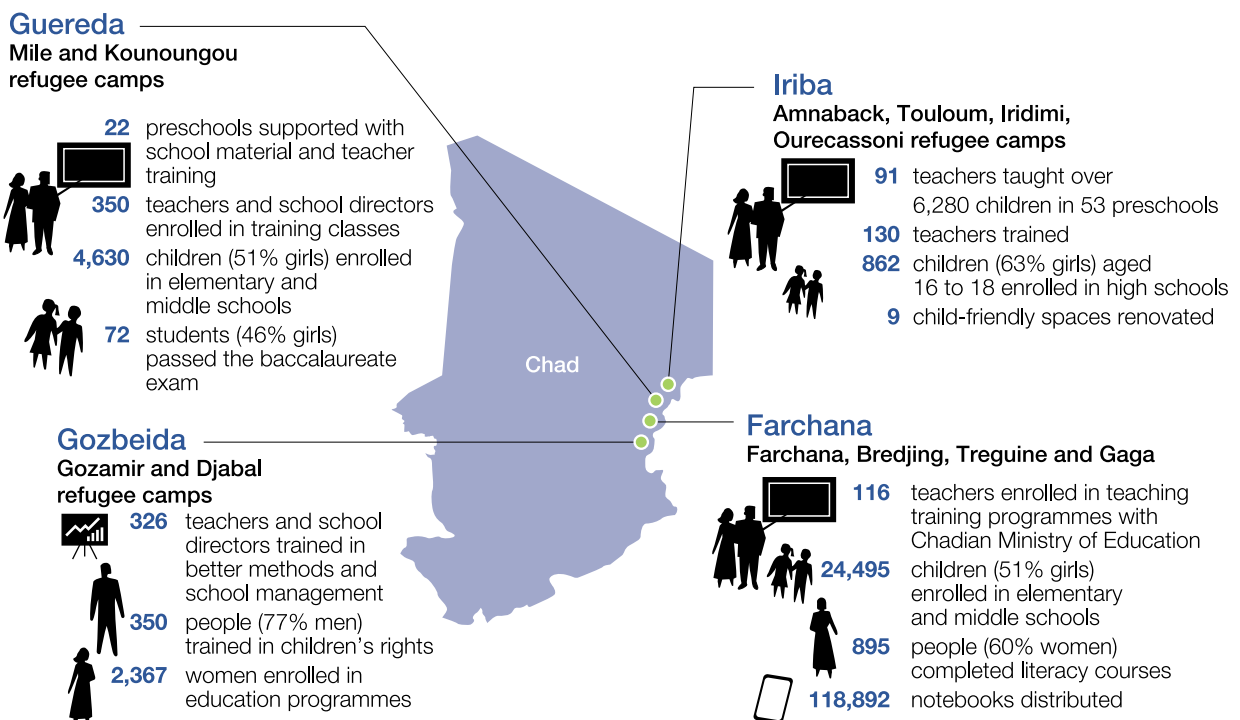
Nadjwa is a 34-year-old mother of seven who fled Sudan 14 years ago. She has been living as a refugee in Chad ever since. Nadjwa is also a graduate of JRS Chad's teacher training programme, which enables refugees to become certified primary school teachers.

Before the certification course, Nadjwa felt powerless to manage her students' emotional problems, and she doubted her competence to make lesson plans, and even to face a roomful of students. The programme included courses in child psychology and pedagogy; when she graduated, Nadjwa felt more confident in her chosen profession.

Since completing the training, Nadjwa has noticed a significant difference in her students' attitudes. *"When they have a problem at home or school, they come to speak to me about it. Now that they see I can help them solve their problems, they respect me."*

Through the certification course, Nadjwa has gained not only a deeper understanding of her students and of teaching methods, but also self-respect and dignity – qualities that have helped her become a more effective teacher.

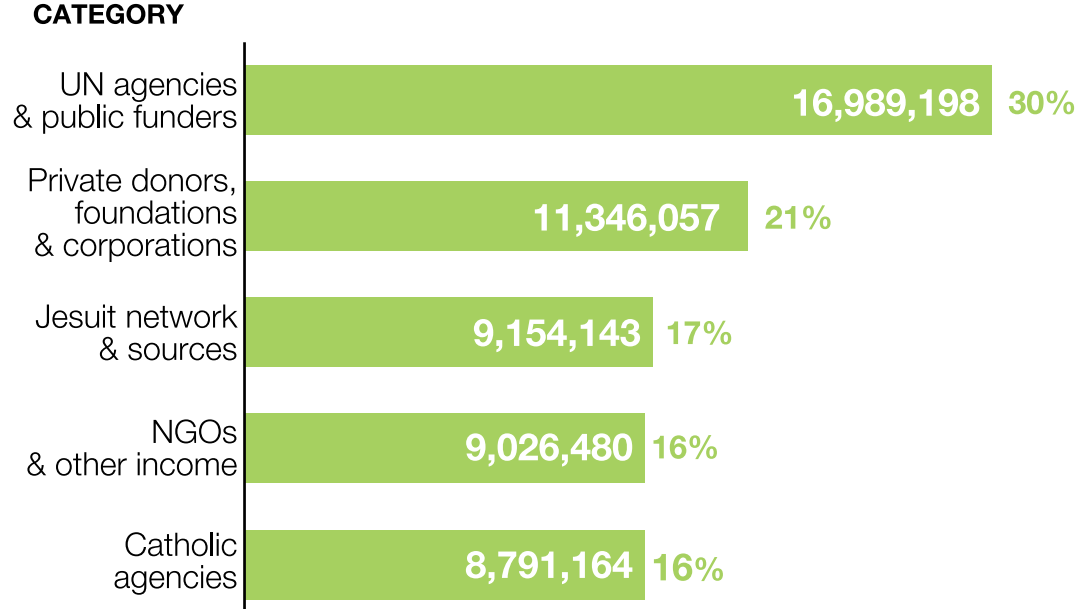
In Nadjwa children see a protector and a listener. She makes the classroom a safe place where children can learn and thrive.



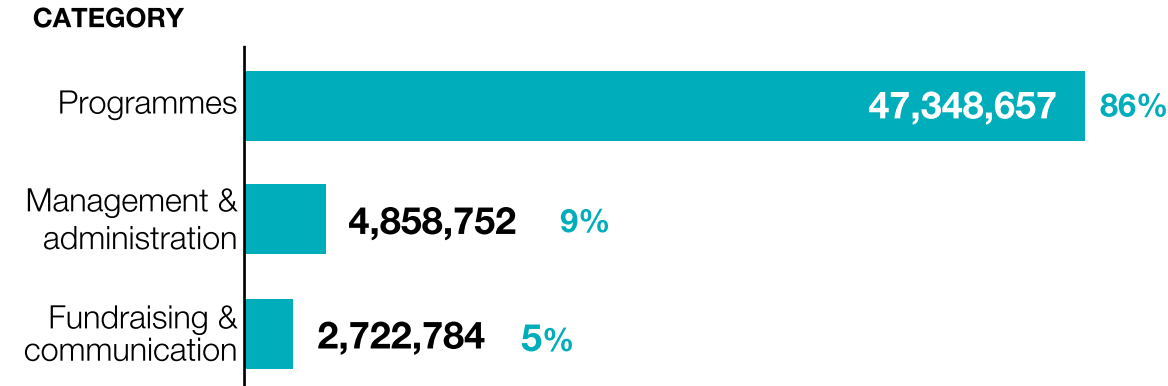
# Financial summary



## 1. Source of income Total USD 55,307,042

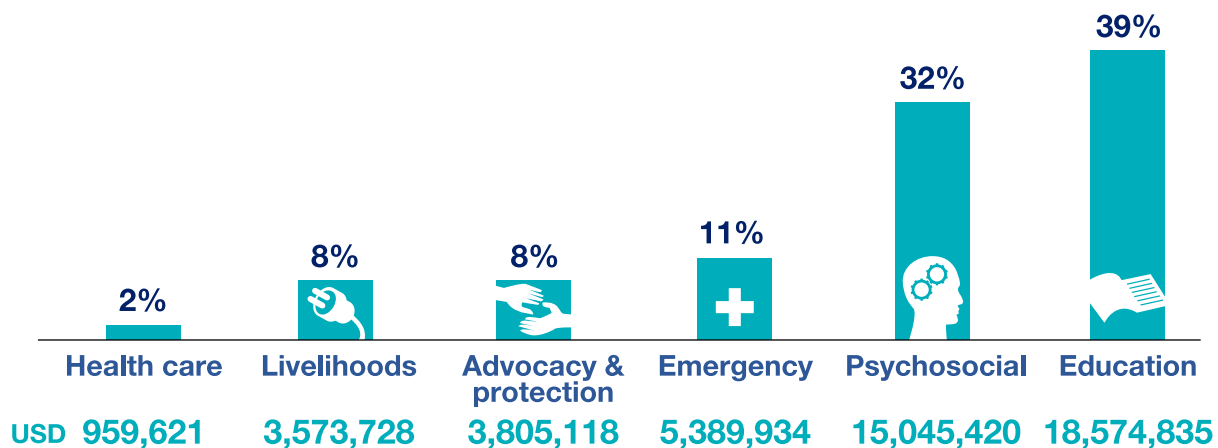


## 2. Expenditure Total USD 54,930,193



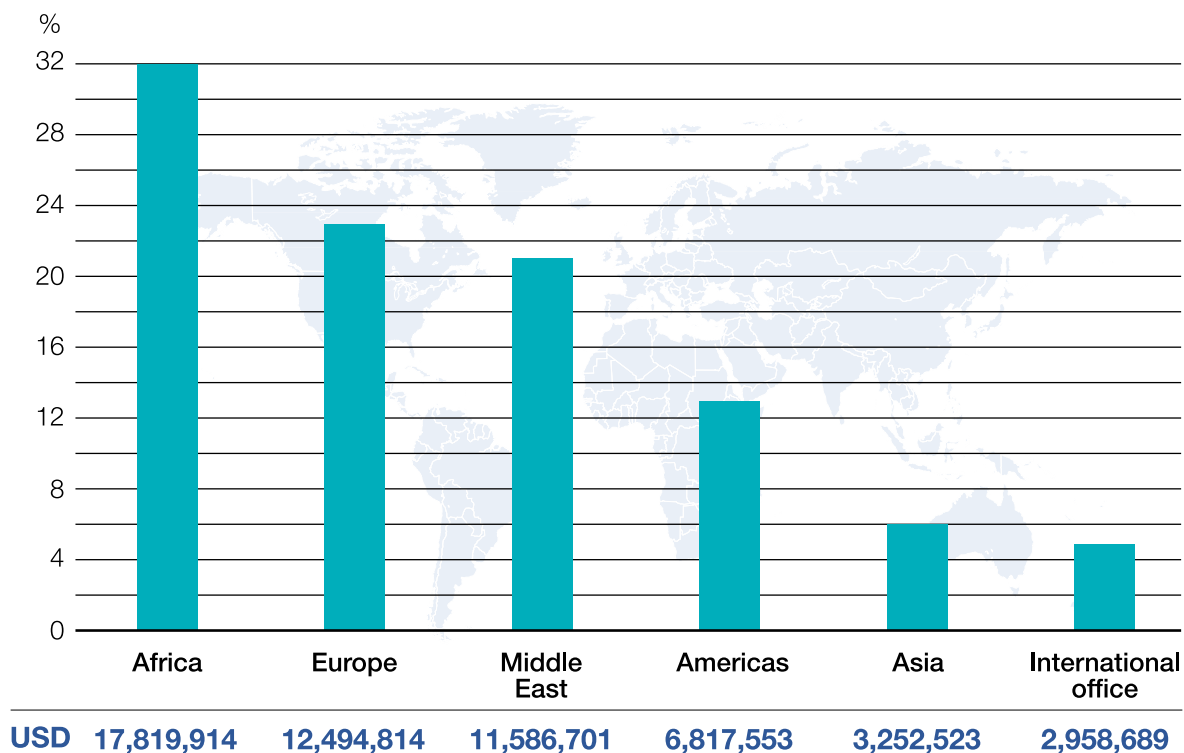
### 3. Programmes expenditure

Total USD 47,348,657



### 4. Expenditure by continent

Total USD 54,930,193



## International Director's message

*Dear Friends of JRS,*

*Gracias, Grazie, Merci, Thank you.*

*As I reflect on our 2017 Annual Report, my first response is gratitude. Gratitude for the JRS mission that encourages us to enter into the lives of our refugee sisters and brothers. Gratitude for the 4,000+ staff members, refugee workers, volunteers and interns who take the mission and put it into practice. Gratitude to each of you for your support—the generosity that enables us to accompany, serve and advocate with and for those most in need.*

*2017 has not been an easy year for forcibly displaced people. Last year, the three countries that sent the largest number of refugees into the world were Syria, Afghanistan, and South Sudan. The three countries with the largest numbers of internally displaced people were Colombia, Syria, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. JRS works in these five countries and in 47 others. From Lebanon to Venezuela, from a Congolese refugee settlement in Angola to the United Nations in Geneva, JRS is present.*

*In 2018, we are beginning work with the Rohingya children in Bangladesh, and we will open an education project in Nigeria in response to the Boko Haram crisis. For JRS worldwide, reconciliation, a priority of Pope Francis and the Society of Jesus, will join education and job skills training as priorities for our service in the years ahead.*

*The stories in this year's Annual Report are snapshots of those we accompany and their situations. While places and faces change, JRS's commitment to journey with refugees does not falter. Whether the need is pastoral accompaniment or preschool, teacher training or peace building, JRS seeks to be present. Your assistance enables us to do so.*

*Thank you again for your generous support.*



**Fr Thomas H Smolich SJ with students at Pagirinya secondary school, Uganda.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas H. Smolich SJ". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas H. Smolich SJ

# Stay informed and support the Jesuit Refugee Service

## Advocate

You can keep yourself informed about our work, and share our messages and stories. Sign up for the JRS newsletter on our website [jrs.net](http://jrs.net) and follow us on social media.

## Donate

The current global refugee situation can appear so overwhelming that people wonder how they could possibly make any difference. Your financial gift to JRS contributes to long-term solutions. JRS accompanies, serves, and advocates the cause of refugees and other forcibly displaced people in 52 countries. Support from public funders and the worldwide Jesuit network is crucial for our work, but we also need the financial help of individual donors, foundations, and companies.

### You can make a gift through our website [jrs.net](http://jrs.net) or via bank transfer:

Bank name: Banca Popolare di Sondrio  
Account Name: JRS

	IBAN	SWIFT Code
Donations in Euros	IT 86 Y 05696 03212 0000 03410 X05	POSOIT22
Donations in USD	IT 97 O 05696 03212 VARUS 0003410	POSOIT22

### You can also contact the JRS office in your country or the International Office in Rome:

Jesuit Refugee Service  
Borgo Santo Spirito 4  
I-00193 Rome – Italy  
Tel.: +39 06 69868605  
Email: [donate@jrs.net](mailto:donate@jrs.net)

## Planned giving

JRS accompanies refugees throughout their journey. With the average length of displacement being more than ten years, refugees are not rebuilding their lives overnight. JRS is in for the long haul.

If you are looking down the road of your own life journey and would like to plan your giving to ensure our future support of refugees, please contact us at [plannedgiving@jrs.net](mailto:plannedgiving@jrs.net).

**Thank you in the name of our refugee sisters and brothers.**

**Website:** [jrs.net](http://jrs.net)

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