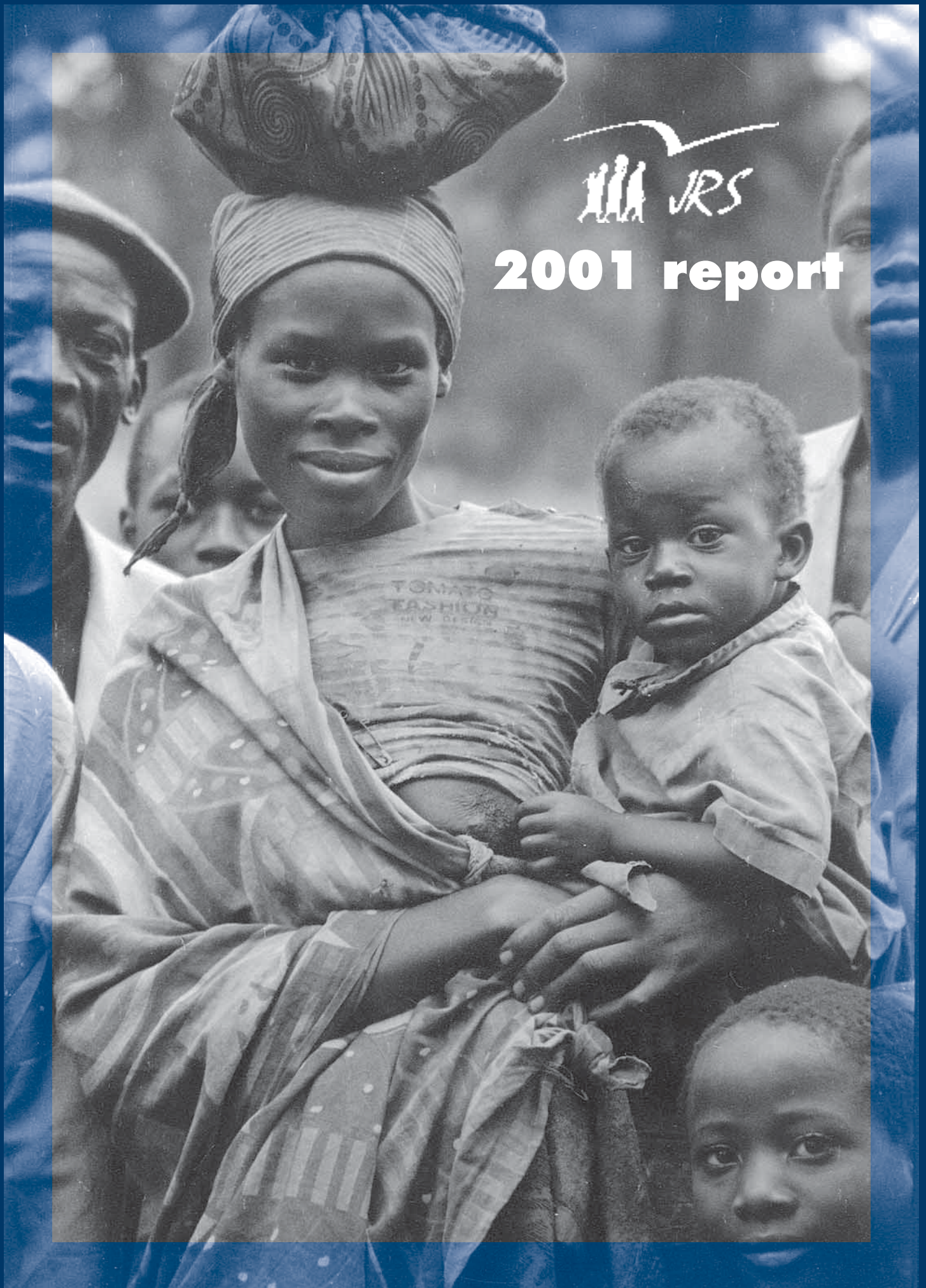


# Jesuit Refugee Service



**2001 report**



Set up by Pedro Arrupe SJ  
in 1980, JRS is an international  
Catholic organisation with a  
mission to accompany, serve  
and plead the cause of  
refugees and forcibly  
displaced people.

The **2001 Report** is published  
in English, Spanish, Italian and  
French.

**Cover photo:**  
John Kleiderer/JRS,  
Mtendeli camp, Tanzania

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with acknowledgement.

A shared commitment to charity and justice on the part of those working with refugees can gradually transform the nature of the refugee problem itself, making the suffering of millions of people less unbearable and giving hope without which no person could live.

*Dieter B. Scholz SJ,  
former JRS International director*



<http://www.jrs.net>

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Mark Raper SJ/JRS



Children in the Suan Phlu detention centre in Thailand



## MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR



**T**he guiding desire we all share as JRS workers is that each forcibly displaced person may freely return to their country of origin and live in peace. Return is indeed possible, but in order to realise this, the causes forcing the refugees to flee in the first place must be addressed and basic conditions need to be met: political stability, aid to return, protection, respect for human rights.

Our mission is to accompany, serve and defend the rights of refugees, especially those who are forgotten and who do not attract international attention. In line with this mandate, over the course of 2001 we implemented over 150 projects in 50 countries, projects intended above all to provide refugees with the necessary

means for eventual reintegration in their own countries. Among the initiatives we have undertaken are psychological and spiritual accompaniment, formal education, women's projects, skills-training and income-generating projects. JRS also develops peace and reconciliation programmes, attempting to address one of the major causes of exile: civil war. Today, there are 36 armed conflicts raging worldwide, provoking massive displacement of civilians within their own countries and to other lands. Seeking to heal the inner wounds and trauma suffered by refugees is part of the path towards peace. Time and again, we have witnessed that when love is expressed through mercy and forgiveness, it is the most sublime expression of humanity.

In addition to direct service to refugees, we defend their rights. Campaigns, research projects and public education are ways we use to safeguard the rights of refugees who live on the margins of society, excluded from social and political relevance.

Since the criminal attacks in the US on 11 September, we are more concerned than ever about protection of refugee rights. The treatment of forcibly displaced people since the terrorist attacks has deteriorated still

further, with an erosion of social protection in many parts of the world, especially in industrialised countries. Several governments have tightened immigration controls and high-level authorities have made declarations demonising refugees and asylum seekers as potential terrorists. Such expressions of xenophobia threaten the right to seek asylum: a basic right of every person.

At the same time, some steps have been taken to build co-operation among nations and these achievements should not be abandoned. Now could be the time when existing international treaties to protect refugees are further developed to meet new challenges.

The work contained in this report is possible thanks to the commitment of over 500 voluntary workers and countless refugees who collaborate with JRS; the support of many private organisations, institutions and donors who have collaborated in one way or another in our mission. I wish to thank all of you because your support sustains our mission.

Thank you very much,

*Lluís Magriñà SJ*



# DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

Amaya Valcárcel, JRS International policy officer

The 11 September terrorist attacks in the US changed the world, profoundly affecting millions of people around the globe, including refugees and forcibly displaced people. JRS was particularly concerned about repercussions felt by those most in need of international protection. An increasing public perception of refugees and asylum seekers as “criminals” was apparent in many countries, provoked by attempts by some politicians to create unwarranted links between refugees and terrorism. Unduly restrictive “anti-terror” legislation was swiftly enacted in several states, and asylum seekers faced greater difficulties than ever in accessing asylum procedures.

JRS firmly shared the belief of UNHCR that “any discussion of security safeguards should start from the assumption that refugees are themselves escaping persecution and violence, including terrorism, and are not themselves the perpetrators of such acts”.

During 2001, JRS strengthened its advocacy network within and outside JRS, and tried hard to defend the rights of forcibly displaced people in several ways.

## Some examples

**Internally displaced people:** JRS continued witnessing the living conditions of internally displaced people by being present among them in places like Burundi, Sudan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Colombia. When security permits, JRS undertakes advocacy at local level, such as on behalf of the Burmese refugees: as a member of the Burma Border Consortium Board (BBC), JRS helped to strengthen cross-border assistance for internally displaced people inside Burma as well as refugees in the border camps in Thailand.

At the international level, JRS was a member of the reference group on internally displaced people in Geneva and gave advice to the Senior Inter-agency Network during field visits, such as those to Colombia and Burundi.

**Repatriation:** JRS voiced concerns about possible premature repatriation of refugees in **Tanzania** to **Burundi**. JRS in **East Timor** and **Indonesia** continued efforts to facilitate a safe and dignified return to East Timor and we lobbied the UNHCR to extend its mandate in East Timor. In **Nepal**, JRS supported initial steps towards the repatriation of 100,000 refugees to **Bhutan**, while expressing concern at the slow pace of verification procedures.

**International protection:** Throughout 2001, carefully built refugee protection standards were eroded. In **Australia**, the government passed several laws that spelt a severe regression in refugee rights, in clear contravention of basic refugee protection principles. JRS Australia organised protests, vigil prayers, lobbied with other NGOs against the government’s restrictive policies and organised a concert and a photo exhibition.

In **Europe**, a group of policy officers from different European countries was formed this year to plan advocacy strategies in Europe. In the **UK**, JRS responded to government proposals, made submissions to operational reviews, such as that of the voucher system,

and put together a pack on asylum issues for use during the general election campaign. In **Germany**, JRS published position papers about proposals for a new migration policy and law. Amendments were made for deportation procedures and gender based persecution, and JRS continued denouncing unfair proposals, including the Anti-Terrorism Act.

JRS **Zambia** focused efforts on building the capacity of local communities along the borders to enable them to welcome and protect refugees. A task force of three major church bodies was created to fight xenophobia and promote local integration as a durable solution for long-term refugees in Zambia.

Advocacy for **Burma**, included lobbying UNHCR for financial assistance for refugees outside camps in **Thailand**, and as a member of the Protection Working Group, JRS contributed to sustained overall protection of refugees.

In **Geneva**, the JRS representative continued to express concerns from the field about violations of refugee protection standards. She also represented JRS in international meetings, particularly the Global Consultations on International Protection.

**Human rights and peace education:** The link between forced displacement and human rights led JRS to hold seminars in places like **Sri Lanka** and **Colombia**. JRS formed part of a network bringing together NGOs to share information and lobby on human rights violations. One example of such collaboration was the **Sudan** Advocacy Resource Group where members addressed issues like abductions, internal displacement, security, oil exploitation and attacks on the civilian population. Peace education was promoted as another means to prevent human rights violations: in Sri Lanka, JRS co-sponsored a peace project together with the Buddhist clergy. And in **Tanzania** and Colombia, JRS conducted different sessions training refugee teachers on peace programmes.

## AFRICA EDUCATION

The aim of the Africa education project is to facilitate the task of field workers by providing human and material resources to those in charge of education projects throughout the continent. Ultimately, the project seeks to contribute to the enhancement of the quality of education and professional formation given to refugee children and teachers. The resource base houses an extensive collection of educational services for JRS personnel and others involved in education projects.

*Achievements this year included:*

- visits of the resource person to JRS projects;
- resource person attended meetings of the task force on education in emergencies (Geneva) and advisory committee on policies and procedures to the Refugees Education Trust (Geneva);
- JRS early childhood workshop held in Nairobi, March;
- facilitation of a workshop on child-centred catechesis in Kakonko, Tanzania.

*continued from facing page*

**Detention:** In countries like **Germany**, the **UK**, **Zambia**, **Thailand**, and the **US**, JRS persevered in assisting and defending the rights of people held in detention just because they are migrants without papers.

In **Zambia**, JRS expanded networking efforts to form a coalition aimed at introducing structural changes in the system of detention. In **Germany**, JRS called on the government to reduce the duration of detention for deportees.

In **Sri Lanka**, JRS defended in court those held in prison under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) or Emergency Regulations (ER), who have been tortured to obtain confessions. In **Thailand**, JRS lobbied UNHCR to pay attention to the needs of asylum seekers in detention and to speed up refugee status determination and resettlement of very sensitive or urgent cases.

**International campaigns:** JRS continued to form part of the *Landmines* campaign and the *Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers*. The tenth ratification of a new UN treaty prohibiting the participation of children in armed conflict marked an important milestone in the campaign to end the use of child soldiers.

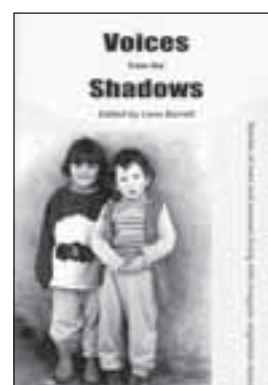
**Racism and xenophobia:** The Durban World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) conference in August offered an opportunity to speak out against racist attitudes targeting refugees worldwide. JRS South Africa and JRS Dominican Republic represented the organisation at the conference.

## JRS PUBLICATIONS

An estimated 80% of the world's refugees are women and children. In March 2001, JRS launched *War has changed our life, not our spirit*, a collection of stories by and about women who have suffered war and forced displacement. The book aims to be a vehicle through which women can tell their stories, their sorrows and hopes. It is a place where others can say how they have been touched by the lives of refugee women they have met. We hope this collection will help to raise awareness of women as a group of refugees with particular strengths and requiring specific protection and assistance.



A new JRS Europe publication, *Voices from the Shadows*, produced in association with six other organisations, attempts to give a voice to the men and women living in Europe with irregular migration status. In their own words, Stavros, Remy, Yuriy, Ali, Maryam, and others tell of their experiences: why they left their homes, how they travelled, and what they encountered on arrival. They speak of fear, of exploitation, and of their own determination to survive and succeed. Designed for a general audience, the booklet draws on the conclusions of the three-year research into the situation of irregular migrants in the UK, Germany and Spain commissioned by JRS. It attempts to explore the phenomenon of irregular migration, looking at the impact on real lives, and at possibilities for change, so the human worth of every person will be acknowledged, regardless of the papers they do or do not hold.





# WEST AFRICA



In recent years, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone have experienced widespread violence and war. Guinea has hosted refugees from Liberia, Sierra Leone as well as thousands of internally displaced people. In December 2000, the border lining the three countries, precisely the zone known as Parrot's Beak, was the scene of intense armed clashes between rebels. The fighting resulted in civilian deaths and the forced displacement of tens of thousands of people, as well as the destruction of some parts of Guéckédou town and a large number of villages in Daro, in Macenta.

## JRS projects in Guinea

The JRS International office commissioned Mateo Aguirre SJ, former JRS Grands Lacs director, to visit the region to contact the local church authorities and to assess the humanitarian situation there. The aim of the mission was assess the needs in West Africa and to see how JRS could respond. At the request of the Bishops of Guinea and in collaboration with the local Caritas, two JRS projects were set up.

### food distribution, shelter

**MACENTA, GUÉCKÉDOU** This short-term project consisted of distribution of rice, palm oil and shelter material to displaced people who are returning slowly to their destroyed villages. The first distribution of food took place on 17 December, as part of the project *Food aid for displaced people Macenta-Guéckédou*.

### reconstruction

**MACENTA, GUÉCKÉDOU** The first steps were taken to set up a project that will be implemented in 2002.

JRS returned to West Africa this year to reach out to newly displaced people in the region.



Mark Raper SJ/JRS



# EASTERN AFRICA

John Kleiderer/JRS

The year 2001 was a time of waiting in eastern Africa. It was a time of hoping and wanting permanent peace based on justice. A transitional inclusive government was set up on 1 November in Burundi but there was no cease-fire. The refugees may return to Burundi in the next months, or there may be more Burundian refugees in Tanzania in the coming weeks. We wait and see. The cease-fire between Eritrea and Ethiopia held with the help of UN peacekeepers. In Ethiopia, university students went on strike for human and academic freedom. Some fled to Kenya and went to Kakuma camp; others faced the rigours of a government crackdown. We wait and watch with concern. In Sudan, exploitation of oil fields generated new money for arms for the government. Ethnic cleansing around the oilfields and government bombing of civilians led to more displacement. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), supported by the government of Sudan, became more active in terrorising people in south Sudan and in northern Uganda. The shortest road into Nimule, south Sudan, from Adjumani, northern Uganda, was closed after the LRA massacred our friends and colleagues in a Catholic Relief Services vehicle. We wait and see if security can be maintained so we may continue our outreach in south Sudan and in northern Uganda. Congolese refugees streamed into Kampala. The people of eastern Congo still suffer: many want to leave and few wish to return as yet. We wait and see and hope for a permanent peace. Kenya, and especially Nairobi, continued to be a magnet for refugees. While there are two official refugee camps Kakuma and Dadaab, the largest unofficial home for refugees, registered and non-documented, is Nairobi. The September tragedy in the USA led to a crackdown on refugees and many were detained. Resettlement was interrupted due to a scandal when UNHCR officials were accused of allegedly seeking bribes to deal with cases. So, many wait and wait for their cases to be heard. Kenya has its own internally displaced caseload since the tribal clashes in 1992. Thousands of Kenyans live in miserable settlements. This year, JRS carried out a research report on their condition and is planning to reach out to them. The eastern Africa region is brewing with conflict and suffering, but it is also alive with opportunities and possibilities for making things happen. Our hope lies in the people who suffer, because they possess within them the solutions to their own great challenges for life. We accompany them in great hope.

*John Guiney SJ, JRS Eastern Africa director*



The overall security situation in Kenya continued to deteriorate this year. Tension was rife in the run-up to the 2002 general election as inter-tribal conflicts escalated. Rates of unemployment, crime and HIV climbed as the economy declined. In such bleak circumstances, refugees and asylum seekers suffered. In the country's two main camps, Kakuma and Daadab, the populations in October were 83,148 and 132,269 respectively. In Kakuma, the refugee population increased by about 15,000 over last year. According to UNHCR, 8,336 refugees lived in Nairobi, but there were thousands more without proper documentation. Material hardship was combined with police harassment in the city. The refugee bill remained stuck: in November, it was ready for consideration by the Home Affairs Ministry.

**JRS Kenya director**  
Jane Munge

## JRS projects in Kenya

### distance learning

**KAKUMA camp** In collaboration with the University of South Africa (UNISA), JRS ran a distance learning project, enabling refugees to continue higher education.

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- this year's intake: 30 students aged between 23 and 42 years

### research

**NAIROBI** Thousands of Kenyans lost their lives and others were displaced in violent general elections in 1992 and 1997. JRS undertook research into election violence, aiming to identify warning signs and to engage in peace work to minimise violence in 2002.

### parish outreach

**NAIROBI** The emergency programme continued to offer shelter, clothing, medical care and food through nine parishes located in the inner city where most asylum seekers reside.

*Beneficiaries:* 602 regular beneficiaries (with an average family size of three)

### income-generation

**NAIROBI** Income-generating activities aimed to help refugees become self-reliant.

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- the Mikono craft shop provided a sales outlet for 70 refugee families;
- provision of small loans to 162 beneficiaries to start projects;
- 100 families as new beneficiaries this year.

### scholarships

**NAIROBI** The scholarship programme this year shifted its focus from primary and secondary education to catering for higher vocational training and university needs of refugees.

*Beneficiaries:*

- 31 students in secondary school, 37 students in primary school;
- 23 scholarships for higher vocational training;
- 12 scholarships for university education.

**KAKUMA** The programme enabled refugee students to attend Kenyan schools.

*Beneficiaries:* 24 primary and 100 secondary school students this year

### social services

**KAKUMA** This comprehensive programme consolidated a wide range of services.

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- 20 new counsellors employed to work in their communities;
- 1,572 received counselling on a regular basis;
- support group and *Safe Haven* set up in May for abused women;
- counselling and vocational training for 17 mothers aged between 13 and 19;
- day care rehabilitation was attended by between 26 and 47 clients;
- 2,714 people received alternative healing.

Tanzania hosted the largest number of refugees in Africa. Statistics as of 31 May showed 535,700 refugees in Tanzania, of whom 386,000 were Burundian, 116,400 Congolese, 27,900 Rwandese and other smaller groups. The majority live in camps in Ngara and Kibondo districts in western Tanzania. Much of the year was marked by an emphasis on repatriation by UNHCR and the Burundian and Tanzanian governments. While a general consensus existed among the refugees to return to their homes in Burundi, the question remained whether the situation was conducive to their return in safety and with dignity. There were small numbers of refugees who returned home independently and, since August, there has been a steady decline in new arrivals into the camps in Tanzania, with the numbers in October reduced to a trickle.



**JRS Tanzania director**

Katie Erisman MM (until December 2001)

## JRS projects in Tanzania

**LUKOLE camp, Ngara** The project continued to operate five pre-schools. The recruitment of two additional staff allowed the JRS team to focus more on children with special needs. While the beneficiaries have been five-year-olds, there was a concerted request from the refugee community to extend the programme to six-year-old children as well. The programme is the fruit of joint efforts between JRS staff, teachers and the refugee community.

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- 1,700 five-year-old children attended school on a regular basis;
- 40 trained refugee teachers in the programme;
- three of the five pre-schools completed the first three-year programme in July;
- major repairs were carried out in three schools with the aid of the community.

**pre-school**

**NGARA, KIBONDO** This year the radio station implemented the recommendations of two project evaluations to offer upgraded and extended services to refugees and the local community in western Tanzania.

*Achievements included:*

- radio equipment at the Ngara base updated;
- a new booster station will shortly be in operation in Kibondo extending the audience to the camps and the national population in this district;
- a second team of Radio Kwizera set up in Kibondo;
- construction of a compound on the Kibondo Catholic church premises;
- programming in four languages – Kirundi, Kiswahili, English and French.

**Radio Kwizera**

**KIBONDO district** The socio-pastoral team was present in six camps, Mtendeli, Karago, Kanembwa, Nduta and Mkugwa in Kibondo district. After a long break JRS resumed a pastoral presence in Lukole camp.

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- training catechists;
- small Christian communities;
- youth movements;
- peace education and conflict transformation;
- collaborating with other agencies in advocating the cause of the refugees;
- working through youth groups in AIDS education;
- addressing child crime and gender-based violence through church structures and with other agencies.

**socio-pastoral**





**JRS Uganda director**  
Aden Raj

Refugees from Sudan kept coming into Uganda this year. Uganda hosts an estimated 200,000 Sudanese refugees: around 100,000 live in 37 settlements in Adjumani, Moyo and other districts in northern Uganda, where they are given land to be self-sufficient in food production. One new settlement was opened this year for people living in areas where land was infertile. Erratic rainfall and an ensuing poor harvest put refugees and nationals at risk of severe hunger. In the first nine months of the year, 12,000 refugees came from Rwanda and DRC.

In addition to hosting refugees, Uganda had a population of 500,000 internally displaced as of September, due to rebel attacks and counterinsurgencies. An estimated 400,000 displaced people live in 'protected villages' in the north, where attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) terrorised nationals and refugees alike. Fr Peter Obore Oromo, the parish priest of Nimule in south Sudan, with whom JRS worked closely, was killed in a LRA attack in Uganda in November.

## JRS projects in Uganda

**pastoral** **ADJUMANI district** JRS and the local church offered pastoral service in the camp settlements, where 80% of the refugees are Catholic.

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- meetings with 25 women's groups at settlement level, with 535 participants;
- workshops for catechists, leaders, youth, drew over 280 participants;
- regular celebration of baptisms, Eucharist;
- outreach to settlements in Palorinya (Moyo District).

**RHINO camp settlements** The project served some 40 settlements with a population of 35,000 refugees from Sudan or DRC.

*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- weekend Eucharist in 18 chapels;
- leadership training: two seminars per month;
- Youth Day celebration attended by over 300 students.

**adult literacy** **RHINO** The programme expanded this year in response to increased demand.  
*Beneficiaries:* 400

**education** **ADJUMANI, MOYO** As implementing partner of UNHCR, JRS supported primary and secondary education of refugees and nationals, providing monthly incentives for staff, funds for classroom supplies and administrative costs. JRS also provided nursery education.

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- 55 nursery schools with 8,256 pupils (20% nationals), 238 teachers;
- 27,000 primary students (20% nationals);
- 2,610 secondary students, 86 teachers;
- training courses for over 600 teachers, including 51 head teachers;
- 28 JRS-sponsored teachers received National Teaching College diplomas.

**RHINO** JRS assisted refugee students and started a pilot nursery school in one settlement.

*Beneficiaries:* 150 students subsidised each term

**urban project** **KAMPALA** Counselling, information and subsistence assistance were provided for newly arrived asylum seekers, usually for up to six months.

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- 823 beneficiaries;
- training local church communities;
- micro finance scheme to support self-reliance.

Despite international and regional peace initiatives, there seemed to be little hope of a resolution to the long-running civil conflict, which pits the Sudanese government (GoS) against the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) fighting for autonomy or independence for the south. Military and ethnic divisions among southerners serve to complicate the war. This year, both rebels and pro-government militia launched attacks in Bahr el-Ghazal province. As oil extraction went ahead, several human rights and humanitarian NGOs accused international oil companies operating in Sudan of being knowingly or unknowingly involved in a government strategy which included the forced displacement of people from oil concession areas. GoS aerial bombing of civilian and humanitarian targets in the south continued throughout the year, frequently disrupting relief operations. An additional 150,000 people were forcibly uprooted in the first eight months of the year, joining an estimated four million internally displaced people and 420,000 refugees in neighbouring countries.



## JRS projects in Sudan

**NIMULE, south Sudan** JRS conducted programmes on AIDS awareness, peace education, and women's role in peace building, as well as youth activities and catechist training.  
*Beneficiaries:* 158 people attended seminars

pastoral

**LOBONE, south Sudan** The population of Lobone is around 30,000. Most of the displaced people belong to the Dinka ethnic group. JRS moved to Lobone on 15 December 2000 with a mandate to assist community-initiated education programmes, and found four schools operating, most lacking basic material, including text books, and staff.

education

*Achievements included:*

- JRS installed administrative systems in the schools and trained administrators;
- two workshops were held for teachers and one for adult literacy tutors;
- formal exams were held and teachers set up a local examination board;
- the community constructed new classrooms and rehabilitated older buildings;
- JRS and another NGO started a school-feeding programme in June.

**NIMULE** The role of JRS here is to strengthen local education structures, supporting primary and secondary schools as well as adult literacy centres. There are 41,946 internally displaced people in Nimule. JRS also serves the indigenous population.

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- 12 primary schools with 4,060 students including 1,633 girls;
- 192 children prepared for primary leaving certificate examination;
- 140 teachers (127 primary, 13 secondary);
- 460 students in secondary school;
- 472 beneficiaries (249 women) in nine adult training centres;
- a workshop was held for 11 secondary school teachers;
- a *trainer of adult learners* workshop drew 28 participants.

**KAJOKEJI county, south Sudan** As in other areas of south Sudan, basic services in Kajokeji were devastated by the war. Over 95% of 317 teachers do not have formal training. JRS conducted teacher training as an initial step in rebuilding the education system.

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- two teacher-training workshops drew 100 participants;
- teacher supervision was carried out;
- JRS staff held consultative discussions with the county education authorities.

**MAPOURDIT** A sister seconded by JRS ran a school for displaced people.  
*Beneficiaries:* 2,000 students (primary and secondary)

**MAPOURDIT** Another sister seconded by JRS was in charge of a dispensary.  
*Beneficiaries:* 12,000 patients per month

health



## JRS Ethiopia director

Ozy Gonsalves SJ (until October); Bernadette Mangan LSA (acting)

Ethiopia was a more peaceful place this year than last. However, political tension, coupled with violently suppressed student riots in Addis in April and May, generated refugees to Kenya and elsewhere. The government's handling of the student protests – in which an estimated 41 people were killed and thousands injured or detained – drew widespread criticism.

Meanwhile, thousands of people internally displaced in 1991 continued to live in deplorable conditions in more than 14 camps and shelters in Addis Abeba. Previously the city administration had pressured the displaced people to leave, but in May this year, their right to stay in the city was officially recognised.

Ethiopia was hosting over 182,443 refugees in July, the majority from Sudan and Somalia. By the end of October, 43,000 Somali refugees had returned home. This resulted in the closure of three of eight camps for Somali refugees. Around 80,000 Somali refugees were still in Ethiopia at the end of the year.

## JRS projects in Ethiopia

### rehabilitation, advocacy

**KALITI camp, Addis Abeba** The JRS team in Kaliti worked towards its goals to train and help relocate internally displaced people from the camp. JRS has also been active in advocacy, both in lobbying to influence decisions made by the city administration and also in sensitising beneficiaries about their rights.

#### *Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- 283 families to benefit from skills training; 83 family heads have completed training;
- JRS and other NGOs successfully lobbied for a revision of the stand of the city administration on relocation and rehabilitation.

### community centre

**ADDIS ABEBA** Around 443 refugees are registered with UNHCR as living in Addis Abeba. Dispersed in the community and facing language problems, the refugees often have little family and community support. The centre, the only one of its kind in the city, offered social support and aimed to enhance the self-reliance of the refugees.

#### *Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- community services: counselling, giving information, workshops, medical referrals, home visits;
- income-generating activities;
- 15 refugees per day use the library;
- 30 people daily attended recreational facilities;
- 25 children benefited from day care activities, especially tutorial classes;
- 94 refugees completed courses in English, French, Amharic and computer in the first and second quarters of the year.

### parish outreach

**ADDIS ABEBA** Set up in 1997, the project assists refugees in collaboration with two parishes in the archdiocese of Addis Abeba, in the areas where most refugees live. Services include: medical care, financial aid in some cases, educational assistance.

*Beneficiaries:* 1,385 refugees between January and June



Nduta camp, Tanzania



children in front of the church library  
in Nduta camp, Tanzania



Nduta camp, Tanzania



praying in the church in  
Mtendeli camp, Tanzania



John Kleiderer/JRS

Michael Coyne/JRS



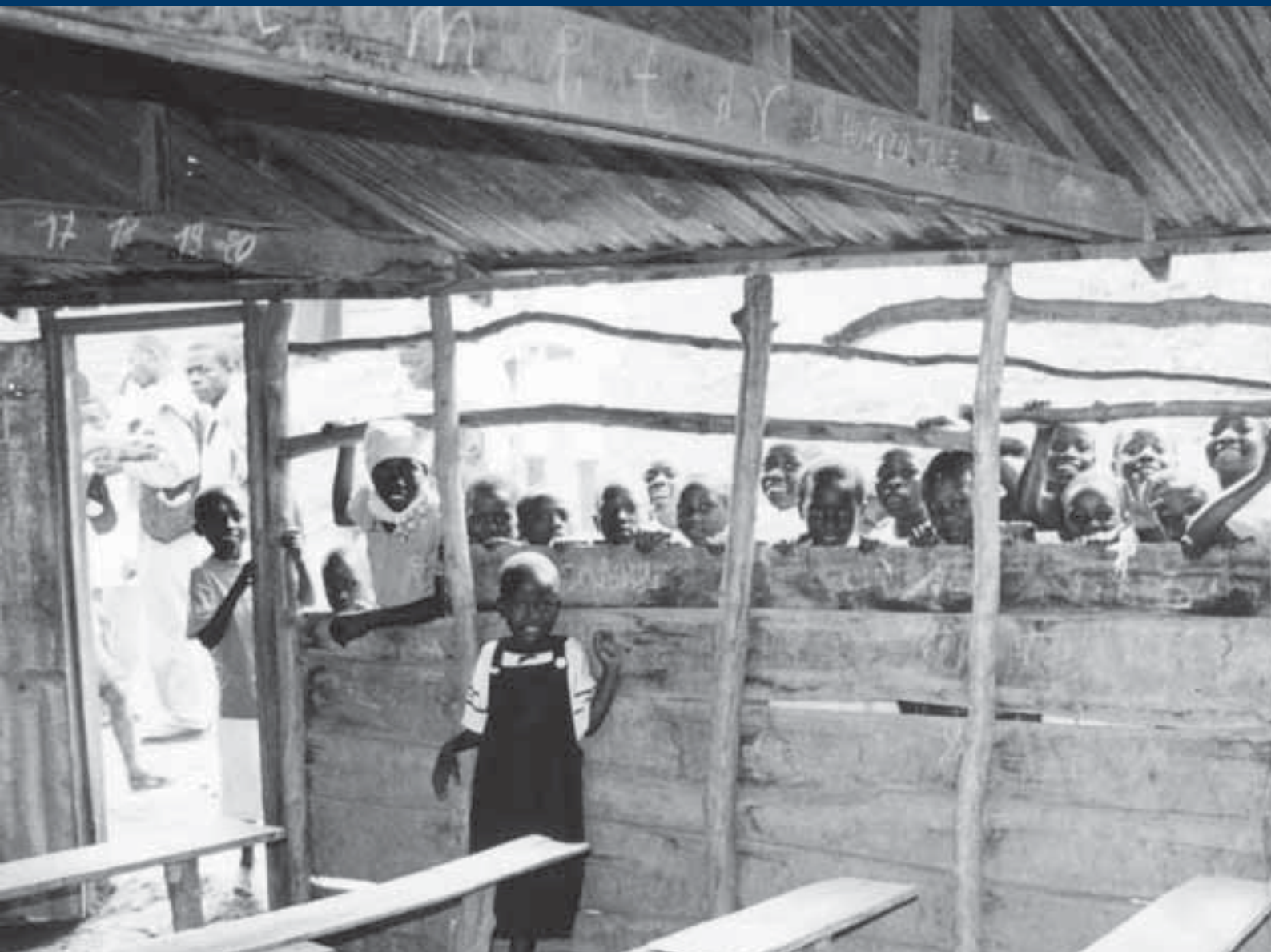
Adjumani settlement for  
Sudanese refugees, Uganda



John Kleiderer/JRS

children in the Lukole camp, Tanzania





Oihana Irigaray/JRS

2001 turned out to be the year when at last the people of DRC started to have hope for peace. Their new hope has a name: Joseph Kabila. The young son of a murdered President surprised everybody with his low-key approach to power, his sincere search for peace, his openness to democratic ideals and the way he has been trying to unravel the knots left by his father. Step by step, the points of the Lusaka accord are becoming reality: a cease-fire, deployment of UN forces, the launch of *dialogue inter-congolais*, although the last had to be re-scheduled for January 2002 in South Africa after a false start in Addis Abeba in October.

It would be nice to think the same happened with the Arusha peace accord in Burundi. On 1 November, a transitional government with parity between Hutus and Tutsis was sworn in. But the whole process was incapacitated because a cease-fire was never reached. With growing insecurity and the thorniest point of negotiations – army reform – around the corner, the question is whether the military will resist the temptation of blowing the accord and everything else away with a coup.

As for Rwanda, the prosperous and disciplined country had to admit to insecurity on some of its roads. JRS has tried to keep abreast of events: we started a new project to rehabilitate the Kinama health centre in Burundi, destroyed by fighting in March and launched an education project for displaced children in Bukavu in DRC. On the other hand, we handed over the dispensary-maternity clinic in Munanira to Bujumbura diocese after four years.

Joaquín Ciervide SJ, JRS Grands Lacs director





JRS Burundi director  
Vincent de Marcillac SJ

A transitional, power-sharing government was set up in Burundi on 1 November. But a cease-fire was not reached with Hutu extremist rebels – *Forces pour la défense de la démocratie* (FDD) and the *Forces nationales de libération* (FNL) – and insecurity, ambushes and armed clashes continued, with civilians caught in the crossfire of rebel attacks and army reprisals. Over 100,000 civilians had newly fled their homes as of September this year. In February, a major rebel assault displaced an estimated 50,000 people from Kinama district near the capital, Bujumbura. Most were forced to return to their homes some weeks later when the worst was over, but thousands of other civilians were subsequently displaced as a result of further warfare. Some 600,000 people were believed to be internally displaced as of September, including 380,000 in 210 displacement sites. Humanitarian conditions remained bad, with insecurity and funding shortfalls resulting in urgent, unmet needs.

## JRS projects in Burundi

### emergency assistance

**BUTERERE** Around 10,000 people fled to Buterere district when rebels attacked Kinama, five km away. The JRS centre in Buterere sheltered some IDPs, mostly women and children.  
*Beneficiaries:* 1,200

### health

**BUTERERE/KINAMA** JRS set up an emergency mobile clinic in Buterere when civilians came from Kinama. JRS followed the people back to Kinama in May, aiming to resume services offered by the health centre there, which was destroyed in the rebel offensive.  
*Beneficiaries:* an average of 200 patients daily

**BUJUMBURA** A project to fight Aids was launched in September 2000 with the Bujumbura diocese. The aims: formation, prevention and accompanying Aid sufferers and their families.  
*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- as of June, nine formation courses comprising 44 sessions, in three parishes;
- 400 participants in these courses.

**KIYANGE** A health post operated in this site, where many displaced people live.  
*Beneficiaries:* 100 patients daily

**MUNANIRA** A health clinic was handed over to Bujumbura diocese after four years.

### assistance to vulnerable

**BUTERERE** JRS served elderly, disabled and sick people. In February and March, JRS distributed rice, beans, flour, oil and soap to families who hosted people from Kinama.

#### KIYANGE

*Beneficiaries:*

- 250 people assisted with distribution of essential items;
- 40 houses destroyed by rain repaired as of June;
- some 50 orphans supported.

### education

**BUTERERE** Adult literacy classes went ahead in this neighbourhood.

**KIYANGE** A kindergarten and pre-school formed part of JRS work, along with catechism for pupils of Kiyange primary school, a small library and adult literacy courses.

*Beneficiaries:*

- 200 children attended pre-school;
- 30 adults attended literacy classes;
- an average of 50 people used the library.

### income-generating, skills training

**KIYANGE, BUTERERE** JRS kept up several projects, including a mill and growing mushrooms for sale, and set up some new ones. Skills training in workshops also went ahead.

The beginning of the year was marked by a significant change in the landscape of politics in DRC: the murder of President Laurent Kabila. The advent to power of his son, Joseph Kabila, brought hope for an end to protracted war. In August, two years after the signing of the Lusaka peace accord, all the warring parties sat at the negotiating table for the first time ever to discuss peace. Dialogue was meant to resume in October 2001 in Ethiopia but was eventually postponed to January in South Africa. The war exacted a high price from civilians: a UN report said 24 million people suffer the consequences of war, and an estimated two million were displaced as of September. At the end of October, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, said the DRC war had “a major impact on the human rights situation in the country”, with torture reported in government as well as rebel-held areas.



## JRS projects in DRC

**SICOTRA, NGANDA-MOSOLO camps, Kinshasa** Residents in these sites for internally displaced faced severe hunger and associated health problems. JRS distributed food to children aged up to two years in Nganda-Mosolo, and children suffering from malnutrition.

### food distribution

**BRALIMA camp, Kinshasa** Monthly distribution in a site for war widows and orphans.

**LUBUMBASHI** Food was distributed monthly to displaced people living in camps in this town, especially those in vulnerable condition and recent arrivals.

**SICOTRA** JRS organised agricultural activities to enable residents to grow food.

*Beneficiaries:* land, tools and seeds for 155 families

### income-generating

**LUBUMBASHI** JRS supported workshops of shoemakers, joiners, and other trades.

**SICOTRA, NGANDA-MOSOLO** Pre-school, primary, secondary education was offered.

### education

*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- 30 secondary school students sponsored;
- 61 children under five years attended pre-school;
- 28 participants attended a teacher-training workshop.

**BRALIMA** A pre-school project was launched in May this year.

*Beneficiaries:* 47 pupils

**LUBUMBASHI** JRS was responsible for education of children in the camps.

*Beneficiaries:*

- all children of primary and secondary school age placed in schools;
- 100 pupils in a kindergarten in one site;
- adult literacy programmes in Swahili and French.

**BUKAVU** JRS launched a project in September to provide primary education to displaced children from rural areas and to improve the infrastructure of several schools.

*Beneficiaries:* 1,200 children

**SICOTRA, NGANDA-MOSOLO, BRALIMA**

*Beneficiaries:* by May, 45 people were trained in dressmaking or secretarial skills

### skills training

**BRALIMA** The overcrowded site housed 645 people in desperate living conditions. JRS set up a medical post and nutritional centre, conducted health education programmes to inform the residents about sanitation in the site, and looked after Aids patients.

*Beneficiaries:* 1,660 consultations at the medical post until June

### health



Peace held in Congo and reconstruction of the country, ravaged by a war which ended in 1999, went ahead despite several obstacles. Although the humanitarian situation improved in towns, it was precarious in remote villages, as these were difficult to reach. The country's health services remained in ruins with 60% of its health centres closed.

Around 150,000 people were still internally displaced as of July, and some 20,000 people were refugees outside the country. Meanwhile, Congo-Brazzaville hosted up to 90,000 refugees from DRC as of September.

## JRS projects in Congo

**health** **NKAYI** A mobile clinic continued to serve civilians returned to their villages from the forests when the war ended. The project faced difficulties to reach villages in great need because they were inaccessible due to the poor state of the roads.

*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- the clinic served 15 villages;
- between 40 and 120 patients daily;
- a total of 5,505 cases seen as of June.

**reconstruction** **KIBOUENDE** Helping civilians rebuild their homes and community was the aim of this project.

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- manufacturing bricks;
- distribution of food for work: 912 beneficiaries;
- repairing tracks and roads;
- contributing to community initiatives of peace and reconciliation.

Rwanda: JRS supported the education of around 8,500 Congolese refugees in two camps.





Rwanda appeared to be moving towards greater democracy by drafting a new constitution and holding local elections. However, the government was criticised by human rights groups for muzzling its critics. The Human Rights League of the Great Lakes Region said the press and political parties faced “continuing infringements on freedom of expression”. Prominent civilians said to have been critical of the government were assassinated or fled the country. As for its relations with neighbouring countries, Rwanda professed a commitment to ending the war in neighbouring DRC, but its troops, allied with the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD), intensified combat in the eastern provinces of north and south Kivu during September and October. At the same time Rwandan troops were reported fighting rebels inside Burundi.

Rwanda currently has over 31,000 Congolese refugees of Rwandan ethnic origin and over 500 others from Burundi.



**JRS Rwanda director**  
Abbé Desiré Seruhungu

## JRS projects in Rwanda

### KIBUYE camp

*Beneficiaries:* 3,410 primary students; 334 secondary.

### GIHEMBE camp

*Beneficiaries:*

- 3,432 children in primary, 303 in secondary;
- 647 pupils in kindergarten;
- 113 children in ‘integration school’;
- 194 refugees aged between 14 and 50 years on adult literacy courses.

JRS followed 19 refugee students on scholarship.

**KIBUYE** This year, JRS emphasised tailoring skills, with trained refugees teaching others.

*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- 136 beneficiaries;
- 2,000 uniforms for the primary school by workshop trainees.

**GIHEMBE** Training in embroidery, sewing, crochet, joining, and car mechanics was provided in workshops.

**KIBUYE** Encouraging workshops to function as independent associations was a JRS aim this year. More refugees were trained in shoemaking, joining and masonry.

*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- 79 refugees received training;
- credit given to small business associations.

**GIHEMBE** JRS supported co-operatives towards autonomy: joinery, tailoring, agriculture, animal-breeding, making nets, a bakery and setting up a restaurant and hair-dressing salon.

**KIBUYE** JRS assisted vulnerable refugees with distribution of food and non-food items.

*Beneficiaries:* 700 people monthly

**GIHEMBE** JRS staff identified refugees who needed help and visited elderly, sick and hospitalised refugees, as well as orphans, distributing essential items weekly to them.

**GIHEMBE** A nutritional centre in the camp took action to both prevent and treat malnutrition.

**KIBUYE, GIHEMBE** JRS offered pastoral support to Christian communities in both camps.

### education

### scholarships

### skills training

### income-generating/ co-operatives

### vulnerable

### nutrition

### pastoral



Byumba camp, Rwanda



refugee camp, Rwanda



refugee camp, Rwanda



JRS workshop, Rwanda



# SOUTHERN AFRICA



Jenny Cafiso/JRS

A triad of interlocking problems – economic marginalisation, political volatility, and socio-economic deterioration – continued to beset the continent, including the region of southern Africa. Refugees and forcibly displaced people found their suffering exacerbated by these problems. Increasing xenophobia remained a serious problem.

The civil war in Angola, a rich country with poor people, benefits the rich elite, while killing over a million people, and creating 3.8 million forcibly displaced people. It has continued to intensify this year, prompting thousands of new refugees to flee to Zambia and Namibia. The movement of refugees to Malawi, Zimbabwe and South Africa has also increased, partly due to instability in Congo and Burundi.

JRS projects have been challenged to do more with less resources during the year. We started new schools in Malawi, Meheba, Viana, Negage. Our advocacy at local, national, international levels included encouraging other churches and groups to become more involved with refugees. Searching for ways of making refugee livelihoods self-sustaining went hand in hand with identifying and accompanying the vulnerable. Shelters for children and needy refugee mothers were established in Johannesburg. Skills training for youth, and for women continued in camps and cities. Social services for marginal groups went ahead, especially refugees in capitals of the region. We ran workshops for upgrading teachers, for disaster preparedness and refugee rights, got involved in peace programmes, anti-xenophobia and human rights awareness campaigns. We withdrew from our implementing partnership with UNHCR in Nangweshi, Zambia, although at the same time we continued our implementing status in South Africa, and took on considerable responsibilities with UNHCR in Angola.

Refugees and displaced people can be for the rest of us signs of hope for a world of justice and peace. In spite of breakdown of family values and loss of traditional support networks, refugees reveal African values of hospitality and respect for life. In their example of living 'on the margins', refugees call us to work for a world of greater solidarity, equality and respect for one another.

*Joe Hampson SJ, JRS Southern Africa director*





**JRS Angola director**  
Marlene Wildner MSCS

Far from being resolved, the armed conflict in Angola became increasingly violent this year as a result of constant attacks from the rebel UNITA movement. The entire country was under severe pressure and even some of the main urban centres, like Benguela, Uige and Caxito, were targeted. Another factor contributing to the escalation of the war was the replacement of the national army commander at the beginning of the year. The number of internally displaced people increased daily, reaching 3.8 million, while 12,000 refugees came from other African countries. According to UN statistics, 500,000 people lived in areas controlled either by the government or UNITA, where humanitarian agencies did not have access. To make things worse, the fundamental rights of the population of the capital, Luanda, were undermined by the government's urbanisation policy, which swelled numbers of internally displaced people and those who were entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance.

## JRS projects in Angola

**education** **VIANA camp, Luanda** During this year, the number of schools, students and teachers assisted by JRS grew. JRS aimed to integrate all children living in five camps into primary schools.  
*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- 2,468 children attending primary schools;
- three teacher-training seminars;
- four new classrooms in Moxico and Mussende refugee camps.

**LUENA** Isolated clashes in villages outside Luena prompted a constant movement of internally displaced people coming to the town. Statistics revealed over 8,000 new arrivals in the first six months of the year. Education programmes expanded as numbers of both teachers and pupils increased.

*Beneficiaries:*

- 673 students in all schools;
- 20 amputees on an adult literacy course.

**NEGAGE** JRS promoted human rights and peace in its education project, which saw numbers of pupils increase this year.

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- 1,955 pupils;
- formation of recreational, dance and theatre groups;
- adult literacy courses for women;
- teacher-training.

**urban project** **LUANDA** JRS continued to provide services to refugees in a community centre for refugees.  
*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- 14 refugees attended skills-training courses;
- four families benefited from micro-credit projects;
- a dispensary was set up at the community centre;
- exhibition of the works of three refugee artists;
- 10 staff members attended English classes.

**peace education** **LUANDA** A priority of the JRS Angola office this year was education for peace, an initiative pursued at national level through different education programmes. JRS promoted peace and reconciliation, emphasising children's rights and formation, conflict resolution and holistic education.

**advocacy** **LUANDA** Apart from other activities, JRS was part of the Episcopal Justice, Peace and Migrations Commission and participated in five OCHA (Organisation for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs) seminars about protection of internally displaced people.



**Luena:** JRS pressed ahead with health, education and social services with internally displaced people living in camps in this Angolan town.

**LUENA** JRS continued to provide basic, accessible health care and health education in camps for internally displaced people.

*Achievements included:*

- Three primary health posts run by qualified nurses, providing free medicine and consultations;
- prevention activities.

## health

**LUENA**

*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- 100 beneficiaries in all;
- skills training: 15 carpenters trained in more complex jobs;
- micro-credit project: 12 women beneficiaries;
- literacy courses;
- hospital visits;
- 95 survivors and their families received non-food items;
- pastoral care, counselling: twice-weekly visits to new victims.

## landmine survivors

**LUENA** Twenty-five elderly women received food and soap monthly, and help in rehabilitation or construction of huts.

**NEGAGE transit camp** JRS welcomed and accompanied displaced people, meeting basic needs like food and health. JRS sought to help the displaced people to adapt to their new circumstances, facilitating contact with governmental and non-governmental organisations.

## social assistance

**BENGO, near Negage** JRS supported the transfer of displaced people from Lundilo transit camp to Bengo neighbourhood, where they have resettled. JRS improved living conditions of the people with more spacious and better constructed homes and implemented income-generating activities.

*Achievements:*

- the transit camp is less crowded and living conditions are improved;
- the displaced people set up their own gardens to grow food.

## resettlement



**JRS Zambia director**  
Christina Northey

Although surrounded by warring nations, Zambia is a peaceful country. An estimated 258,000 refugees have sought refuge there; most of them live in one of several camps. Regulations for refugees to reside out of camps and settlements have been tightened and the government has made it increasingly difficult for refugees to enjoy freedom of movement and to have the possibility of working. Immigration round-ups, often resulting in the imprisonment of refugees, became more common. JRS Zambia voiced concern about a concerted government and media xenophobia campaign, which criminalised refugees and asylum seekers. The campaign gained ground as refugees struggling to survive in the capital, Lusaka, competed with nationals for limited employment opportunities in what is one of the poorest countries in the world. UNHCR has officially registered urban refugees in Lusaka at approximately 14,000 but the actual number could be more than twice that figure.

## JRS projects in Zambia

### urban project

**LUSAKA** The project continued to operate from a peace centre.

*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- an average of 800 people attended the centre each month;
- English and French lessons;
- workshops to combat xenophobia were started in parishes;
- pastoral prison visits;
- a Youth Alive Club continued to expand;
- free email service for refugees.

### advocacy

**LUSAKA** JRS worked to influence policies and procedures and sought to involve local church and NGO agencies in the promotion of refugee rights.

*Achievements:*

- the *Christian Initiative for Refugees in Prison*, with the Archdiocese of Lusaka;
- *Refugee Preparedness Training* workshops for church and other officials;
- a bi-monthly *Press Review on Refugee Issues in Zambia*;
- *Guide for Refugees* leaflets produced for refugees and those who support them;
- research resulting in the *Legal Handbook of JRS Zambia*.

**MEHEBA camp settlement** New arrivals came to the settlement throughout the year. By June, the population had risen to 52,011 refugees. New arrivals suffered hardship in transit centres and newly allocated sites with shortages of food, water, shelter and other basic necessities. JRS workers lobbied the camp authorities to improve conditions.

### social services

**NANGWESHI** The population of Nangweshi camp in Zambia's western province was nearly 25,000 in December, with over 8,800 new arrivals since September. Among the refugees, there are 756 people with physical disabilities, including amputees, paralytics and blind people. JRS focused on programmes for these refugees and their families.

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- all people with disabilities registered and their needs assessed;
- physiotherapy for 14 children and two adults;
- 115 shelters constructed and 59 restored for vulnerable people;
- work provided for 353 casual workers;
- non-food items distributed to 54 families.

### emergency assistance

**MEHEBA, NANGWESHI** In both camps, JRS workers visited the reception areas to keep updated about new arrivals and to assist the most vulnerable.

*Beneficiaries:* blankets, buckets and clothes distributed to 346 people between September and November in Nangweshi.





Jenny Calisto/JRS

**Zambia: JRS ran development projects for women in Meheba camp settlement.**

## MEHEBA

### *Achievements included:*

- 10 fish ponds constructed and stocked;
- seed distribution;
- food monitoring in collaboration with other NGOs;
- small livestock: ongoing rabbit, goat and duck projects;
- agro-forestry: 280 fruit trees distributed;
- 185 women attended development clubs.

**community,  
rural development**

## MEHEBA

### *Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- pre-school: 447 children learning in English, 795 in Portuguese;
- community school: 486 children learning in English, 896 in Portuguese;
- English lessons: 360 adults registered at 10 centres;
- Portuguese lessons: 90 women registered;
- scholarship programme: 224 students;
- four workshops for teachers until June.

**education**

## MEHEBA

### *Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- 45 people attended training sessions in health education, and eight trained educators engaged in ongoing work;
- baby cots with mosquito nets distributed to 29 families;
- 1,005 people treated;
- support and education for 254 families of malnourished children;
- an elderly support project targeted 233 people;
- peer education programmes on alcohol/drug addiction and HIV/Aids.

**health**

**MEHEBA** This year, JRS faced a challenge to integrate 14,000 new refugees into existing pastoral programmes.

### *Achievements included:*

- three new small Christian communities in zone H, where new arrivals were located;
- youth activities;
- offering of the sacraments.

**pastoral**

**NANGWESHI** JRS conducted a number of peace seminars in Nangweshi.

**peace education**



**JRS Namibia coordinator**  
Onesimus Nekondo

The number of refugees seeking asylum in Namibia continued to climb this year, reaching 25,000 from 5,000 two years ago. The refugees live in Osire camp, which is located about 250km northeast of the capital, Windhoek. More than 90% are Angolan, and others came from Burundi and DRC. Discussions started in October 2000, about relocating the camp had not yielded a decision by the end of this year. In December, the Namibia Red Cross withdrew from the camp because of a lack of donor funding.

Meanwhile, Namibia's National Society for Human Rights (NSHR) attributed a reported drop in the number of Angolan men entering Namibia since October to "forced recruitment" into the Angolan army and rebel UNITA forces. The NSHR also charged the Namibian authorities with secretly conscripting young men – both so-called 'illegal immigrants' and Namibian residents – to serve in the Angolan armed forces.

## JRS projects in Namibia

**education** **OSIRE camp** The primary objective of JRS this year was to set up a junior secondary school because no education at that level was available in Osire. The project went ahead as a joint initiative with the archdiocese.

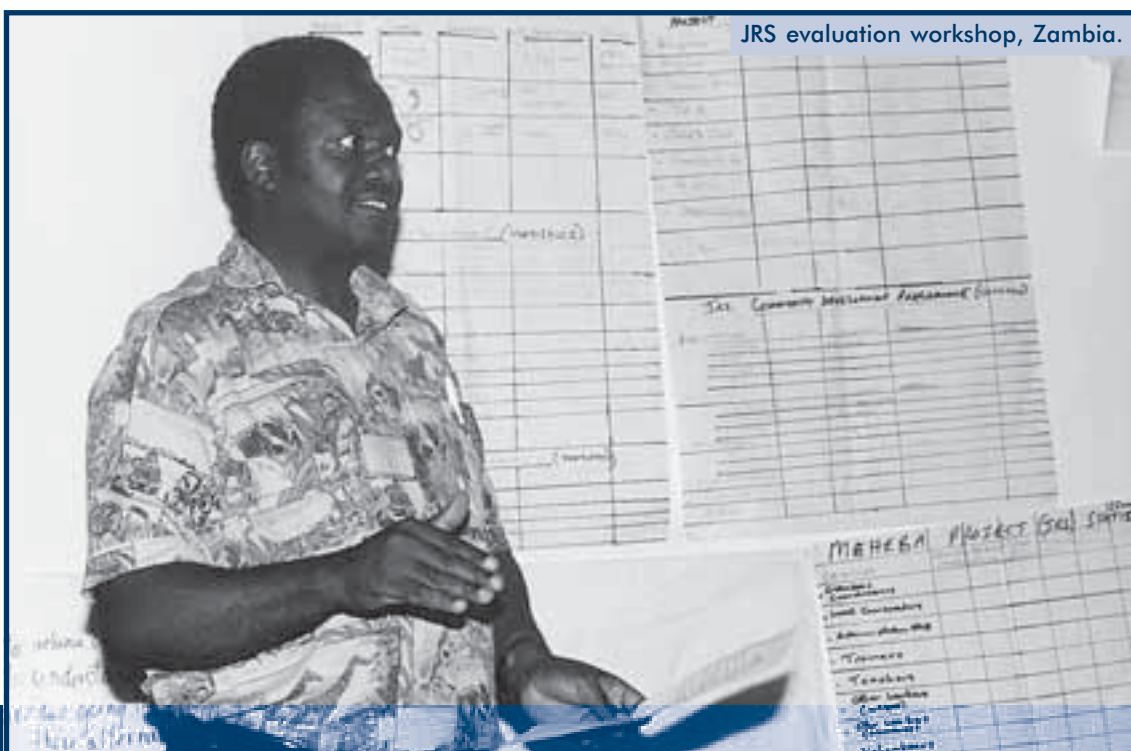
**WINDHOEK** JRS together with the archdiocese supported a small number of refugees who lived in Windhoek, usually to study.

**distance education** **OSIRE camp**  
Beneficiaries: 200

**advocacy** **OSIRE camp & WINDHOEK**  
Beneficiaries:  

- assisted 50 refugees in obtaining study permits, casual work, legal documents, school fees for children, and basic necessities.

**pastoral** **OSIRE camp** JRS supported Namibian churches in Osire camp to provide pastoral care to the refugees.



JRS evaluation workshop, Zambia.

Malawi hosted some 5,000 refugees this year, up from around 3,000 at the end of 2000. Many of the refugees came from Congo-Kinshasa. The majority lived in Dzaleka camp, around 40km from the capital, Lilongwe. A shortage of relief food affected the refugees this year, according to the US Committee for Refugees (USCR). Malawians also experienced hunger, with flood and drought early in the year resulting in pressing shortages of maize, a staple food.



## JRS projects in Malawi

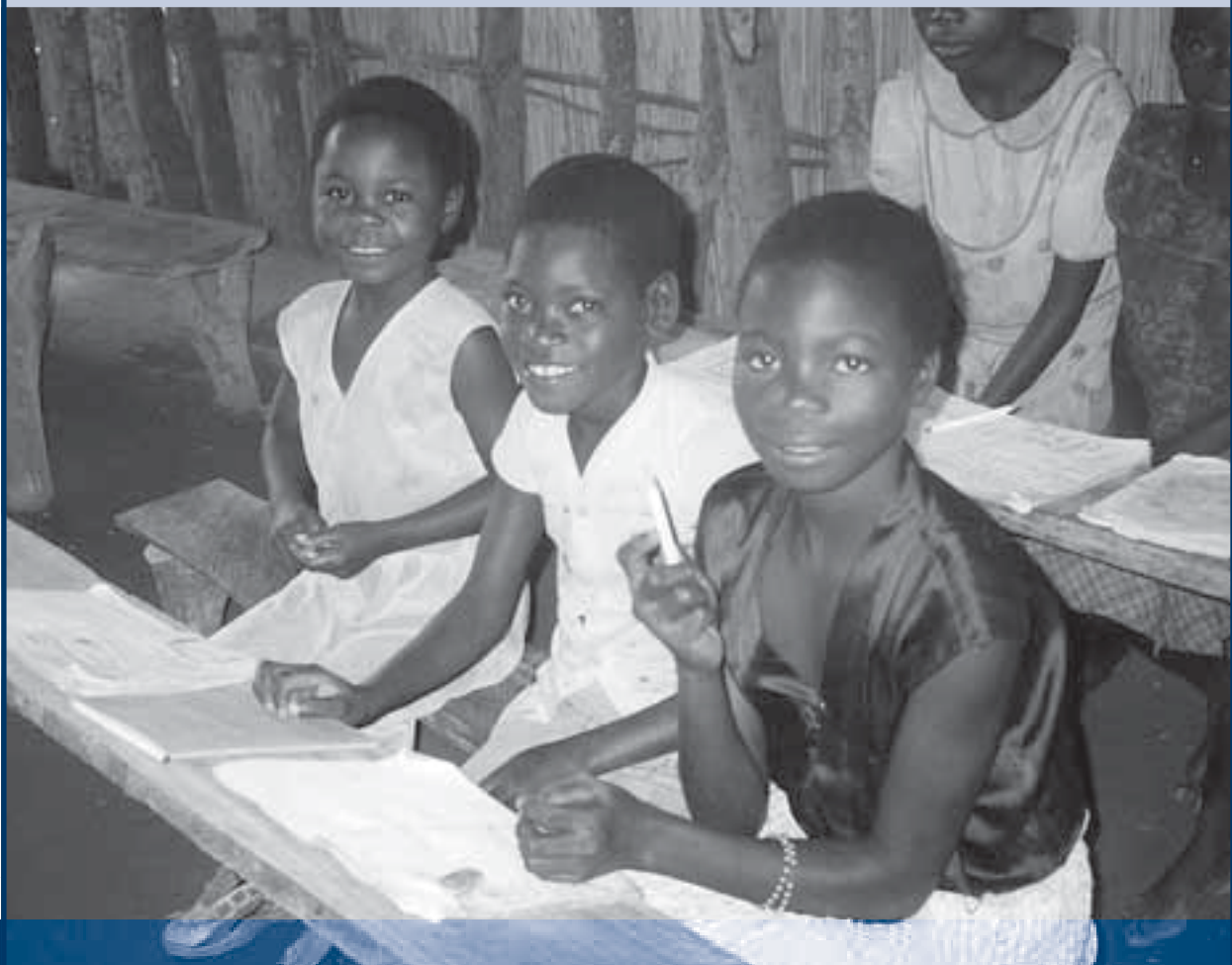
**DZALEKA camp** In Dzaleka, JRS continued to be present alongside the refugees, pressing ahead with pastoral work and education. Construction of a primary school for local people and refugees went ahead.

**informal education,  
accompaniment**

*Beneficiaries:*

- 612 pupils in the primary school;
- 40 people attended two-week courses in English;
- 180 children enrolled in creative art class;
- 16 teachers attended three half-day workshops;
- 56 women and girls trained in knitting skills;
- collected post and subsidised postage for up to 100 people per week.

In Southern Africa, JRS facilitated the education of more than 10,000 refugee children and adults.







Despite a deepening political crisis and severe food shortage, Zimbabwe continued to welcome refugees from DRC, Rwanda and Burundi, with smaller numbers coming from Somalia and Sudan. There are an estimated 3,000 refugees in Zimbabwe. Meanwhile, there has been considerable internal displacement of farm labourers and others in Zimbabwe because of political violence and forced resettlement. Exact statistics were not available, but those displaced were estimated in the tens of thousands. Thousands of others left Zimbabwe because of violence and intimidation, including activists of the main opposition, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). The situation looked set to deteriorate as President Robert Mugabe kicked off his re-election campaign in December announcing a “real war” against the opposition. Presidential elections are planned for March 2002.

## JRS projects in Zimbabwe

JRS assisted refugees both in a transit centre in Harare and in Tongogara settlement, the only camp in Zimbabwe.

### health **TONGOVARA settlement and HARARE transit centre**

*Achievements:*

- JRS offered medical assistance to refugees needing prescriptions;
- this year, an Aids education programme was launched;
- two medical doctors visited the camp twice a month.

### education, training **HARARE**

*Beneficiaries:*

- five professional students who studied English for Business Communications passed exams at end April;
- 24 students for vocational training.

### social assistance **HARARE**

*Beneficiaries:* food vouchers for 131 refugees as of June



South Africa had only 16,672 recognised refugees as at 30 April this year. Official statistics from the Department of Home Affairs revealed an enormous backlog of applications for refugee status at a staggering 64,341 since 1994. The Refugee Act in force since April 2000 does not allow asylum seekers to work or to study pending the outcome of their asylum application. Xenophobia remained a serious problem in South Africa. An ever increasing rate of unemployment – around 35,000 jobs were lost between January and June this year – contributed to this as foreigners were frequently accused of being the principal cause of poverty. However, the Roll Back Xenophobia Campaign appeared to be having an impact: the directors of government departments indicated willingness to meet with UNHCR, JRS and other bodies to discuss the refugee problem.



## JRS South Africa director

Tim Smith SJ (until November); Joan Pearton RSM

## JRS projects in South Africa

Raising awareness about the reality faced by refugees and asylum seekers is part of the daily work of JRS South Africa, in a bid to counter xenophobia.

### advocacy

#### JOHANNESBURG

*Achievements included:*

- a pastoral letter for the Southern African Bishops to mark World Refugee Day;
- anti-xenophobia campaign in schools, churches, tertiary institutions;
- highlighting xenophobia in South Africa at the NGO Forum preceding the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) in Durban in September.

**PRETORIA** JRS assisted refugees in getting documentation.

*Beneficiaries:* 689 people until June

**JOHANNESBURG** JRS started to run two shelters early this year.

*Beneficiaries:* 21 adults and 49 children

### shelter

#### JOHANNESBURG

*Beneficiaries:*

- 219 bursaries were assisted for pre-school, primary and secondary education;
- 43 refugees in skills-training.

### education, skills training

**PRETORIA** JRS sponsored efforts of forcibly displaced people to get schooling.

*Beneficiaries:*

- as of June, 10 refugees/asylum seekers were enrolled in training courses;
- 104 children registered in pre-school, primary and secondary school;
- 89 refugees sponsored for English classes; 62 received certificates.

#### JOHANNESBURG, PRETORIA

*Beneficiaries:*

- 21 families, 74 people assisted with rent and food parcels in Johannesburg;
- 692 newly arrived women with children or chronically ill people in Pretoria.

### social assistance

**JOHANNESBURG, PRETORIA** JRS continued to run health clinics.

*Beneficiaries:* 939 patients in Johannesburg; 560 in Pretoria until June

### health

**JOHANNESBURG, PRETORIA** JRS helped unaccompanied minors to get refugee papers and found guardians for some. Others were placed in shelters thanks to JRS intervention.

*Beneficiaries:* 52 children in Johannesburg

### unaccompanied minors



Jenny Caliso/JRS

South Africa

JRS school



Jenny Caliso/JRS

income-generating  
activities, Zambia



nutritional survey,  
Angola



Piero Gandini/JRS





Mark Raper SJ/JRS

**J**RS Asia Pacific works in Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, East Timor, and Australia. In Mae Hong Son province in Thailand, JRS has a significant role to play in implementing an education project for Karenni refugees in border camps. This year, we started a new programme in a teacher training college. Meanwhile, in Bangkok, asylum seekers struggling to survive in urban surroundings are finding it more and more difficult to be accepted for third-country resettlement, due to the impact of the 11 September terrorist attacks in the US.

This year, JRS set up projects in Aceh and Medan in Indonesia. The conflict in Aceh has provoked the displacement of thousands of people, who live in terrible conditions and who urgently need assistance. We also returned to Ambon in the Moluccas at the beginning of the year, to resume our work there. Since then, our work with internally displaced people in the Moluccas grew and in December, we started a new project in Buru island. And we have continued to work with an estimated 70,000 East Timorese refugees still in camps in West Timor. Repatriation has been the focus of work of both JRS teams in West and East Timor.

*Andre Sugijopranoto SJ, JRS Asia Pacific director*



**JRS Thailand director**  
Andre Sugijoprano SJ

People from Burma continued to enter Thailand this year, either as refugees, asylum seekers or illegal workers. They joined hundreds of thousands of others who fled Burma for Thailand, where they live either in camps, or among the local population, or as asylum seekers in urban areas. Many try to survive as illegal workers. The refugees in the border camps, about 130,000 people, come mostly from Karen and Karenni states in Burma. Meanwhile, about 100,000 ethnic Shan people live in local villages in Chiang Mai and Mae Hong Son provinces together with the indigenous people, since the Thai government does not permit them to live in camps and considers them to be illegal immigrants. Refugees from Burma fled conflict between the government and rebel groups. Human rights abuses perpetrated by the Burmese army including forced labour, arbitrary executions, destruction of food crops, and forced relocation of entire villages. The non-Burma refugees in Thailand came from the Middle East, Africa, and other neighbouring countries.

## JRS projects in Thailand

**education** **KARENNI camps, Mae Hong Son province** JRS ran an education programme in three camps on the Thai-Burma border, in partnership with the Karenni education department.  
*Beneficiaries:* 400 teachers; 6,000 students.

**material assistance** **KARENNI camps, Mae Hong Son province** JRS continued to be a member of the Burmese Border Consortium (BBC), which provided food, housing and other relief supplies. JRS visited families and responded to their emergency needs.

**border outreach programme** **THAI-BURMA BORDER** Assistance was provided to refugees outside the camps, namely the Shan and Mon people.  
*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- landmine victims and others with disabilities assisted to become self-sufficient;
- 110 sick and disabled people helped with transport and treatment;
- education opportunities provided for 300 children;
- 50 children in three orphanages supported;
- pastoral care for refugees in two areas.

**urban project** **BANGKOK** Asylum seekers were assisted with legal counselling in their application to UNHCR for refugee status. Material assistance was provided to respond to emergency needs.  
*Beneficiaries:* 1,000

**detainees, medical** **SUAN PHLU, KANCHANABURI immigration detention centres** A long-running medical programme went ahead in Suan Phlu. Food was given to those with special needs. Monthly visits and distribution of foodstuff were undertaken in Kanchanaburi.  
*Beneficiaries:*

- 3,000 in both centres;
- 52 medical consultations daily in Suan Phlu.

**detainees, release** A release programme, which helped poor detainees to repatriate, was kept up.  
*Beneficiaries:* 220 until June

**landmines** **BANGKOK** The Thai Campaign to Ban Landmines was spearheaded by JRS. We also assisted mine survivors in rural areas who do not receive medical and social assistance.  
*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- attending international and regional meetings on landmine ban issues;
- social work with 300 mine survivors and their families.

The general election in November returned the conservative Coalition to power, supposedly reflecting public support for the tough stand of the re-elected government on 'illegals'. Politicians were accused of lack of compassion and of making xenophobic and inflammatory statements in an election campaign marred by the distortion of asylum, racism and national security issues. In mid-August, the highly publicised *Tampa crisis* occurred, when 433 asylum seekers from Afghanistan and Iraq were rescued from a sinking Indonesian ferry by a Norwegian tanker and not allowed to land in Australia. This started the so-called *Pacific solution*: the use of islands for 'processing' asylum seekers, which continues despite widespread criticism. The 11 September attacks against the US were used to rush border control legislation through Parliament in a manufactured atmosphere of emergency. The new laws, approved at the end of September, spell out a major regression in refugee protection. Meanwhile, around 3,416 asylum seekers were held in bleak detention centres.



**JRS Australia director**  
Nguyen Van Cao SJ

## JRS projects in Australia

**SYDNEY** This year, JRS worked hard to raise awareness of the plight and needs of refugees and asylum seekers in Australia. During the *Tampa crisis*, JRS issued a press release to protest against the government stand, gave several media interviews, wrote articles and participated in demonstrations.

**raising awareness**

*Achievements:*

- photo exhibition and concert in October;
- vigil prayers organised with other agencies;
- talks to Christian communities and groups.

**VILLAWOOD DETENTION CENTRE, Sydney** The JRS director provided pastoral care to detainees at the Villawood detention centre in Sydney.

**detainees**

**SYDNEY** JRS sustained operation of a centre for asylum seekers resident in the community. Services offered by the centre included: a health care programme, English lessons, a job search skills programme, computer and typing skills.

**asylum seekers**

*Beneficiaries:* 312 new beneficiaries, a 20% increase from 2000

**SYDNEY** JRS supported several JRS volunteers who went for overseas placements and also those who returned.

**volunteers**



**A Karenni refugee from  
Burma in Thailand.**





Returns from West Timor continued this year, with 18,151 going home. Throughout its second year of independence from Indonesia, the country persevered to build social, economic and political structures. The rate of unemployment remained high, as did the price of materials and services. On 30 August, UNTAET (United Nations Transitional Authority East Timor) held a general election and 88 people were chosen to form a Constituent Assembly, which will draft a new Constitution. This group will also elect a new President and 12 ministers. Most NGOs and UN bodies left East Timor at the end of this year.

**JRS East Timor director**  
Denis Kim SJ

## JRS projects in East Timor

### returnees, reconciliation

**DILI** JRS monitored returns from the camps in West Timor and visited returnees and others in receiving communities in the districts.

**COVALIMA, BOBONARO districts** JRS accompanied returnees to their communities and provided humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable, especially the sick, visiting them in hospital. JRS assisted vulnerable families among the receiving communities too.

### information

**DILI** JRS worked with the local media to raise awareness of conditions in West Timor.

**COVALIMA, BOBONARO** JRS ran a mail service and facilitated family border reunions between people from the districts and refugees in the West Timor camps.

### health

**BOBONARO** JRS seconded two staff to the local Maliana hospital.

East Timor: Returnees from West Timor waiting to move from the transit centre in September this year.



F. X. Sumaryono

Around 70,000 East Timorese refugees remained in West Timor, mostly family members of militia, civil servants, TNI (Indonesian military) or the police. Some were afraid to return to East Timor because they had committed crimes during the Indonesian period. Others were intimidated by militia, and others still were worried about their future if they returned to East Timor since they continued to receive a salary from the Indonesian government (GOI) as civil servants or military/police. The GOI, which supported the minimal basic needs of the refugees by giving rice and health assistance, announced that at the end of the year it would no longer be granting assistance to the refugees.



JRS Indonesia director  
Edi Mulyono SJ

## JRS projects in West Timor

**KUPANG, BETUN, ATAMBUA** The JRS team supported refugees to make a free and informed choice about their future and helped them carry their decision through if they chose to repatriate to East Timor. In several instances, JRS registered refugees who wished to return and accompanied them to the border. JRS also promoted the reconciliation process by facilitating reunion meetings.

*Beneficiaries:* 8,163 refugees were accompanied by JRS

repatriation,  
reconciliation

**KUPANG, BETUN** JRS continued to run informal schools at kindergarten and elementary levels for children in the camps.

*Beneficiaries:*

- 135 pupils at kindergarten level;
- 476 children at elementary level;
- 16 children given scholarship to attend elementary school in Betun;
- 14 refugees trained as teachers in Betun.

education

**KUPANG, BETUN, ATAMBUA** Direct medical assistance was provided for the refugees in the camps and serious cases were referred to local hospitals. Medicines were supplied to the local health officers.

*Beneficiaries:* 662 refugees assisted each month

health

**KUPANG, BETUN, ATAMBUA** JRS visited families in the camps, especially those in vulnerable condition, providing supplementary food for pregnant women and children. JRS distributed *baby packages* with clothes, blankets, milk and other items for mothers with newly born babies.

*Beneficiaries:*

- 114 *baby packages* distributed as of November;
- 1,259 children and 46 women given supplementary food.

material assistance

**KUPANG, BETUN** 457 pieces of *tais* (traditional Timorese cloth) were provided to refugees undertaking weaving to generate income.

income-generation

**KUPANG, ATAMBUA** JRS facilitated weekly bible discussion groups.

*Beneficiaries:* 73 children weekly in Atambua

pastoral



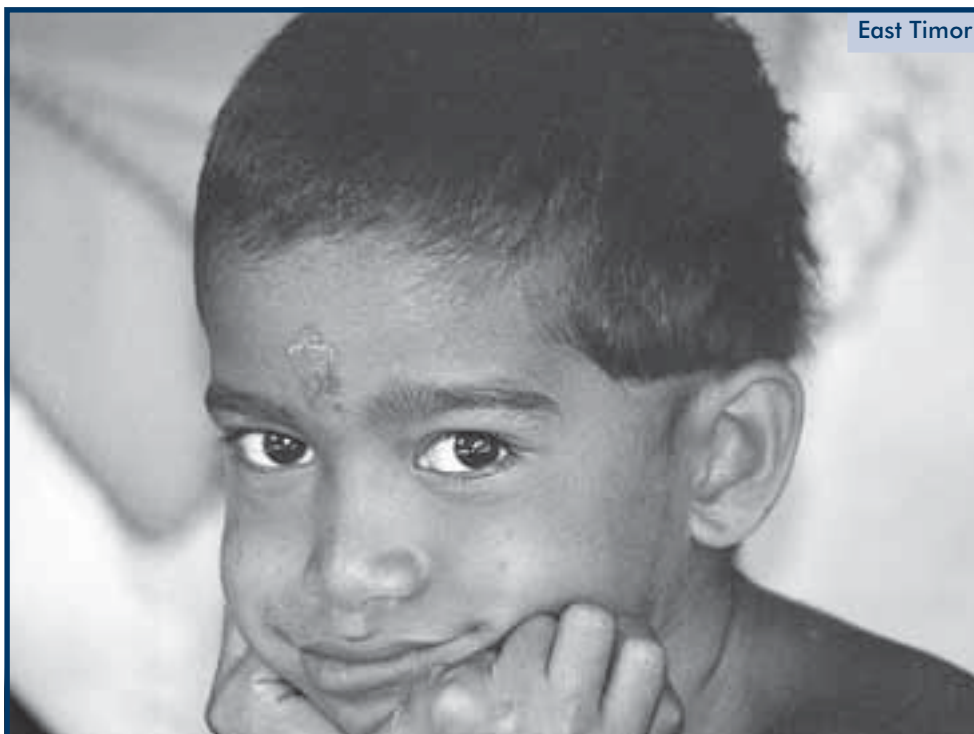
**JRS Indonesia director**  
Edi Mulyono SJ

The separatist war tearing Aceh apart escalated sharply this year, claiming at least 1,300 lives by September and displacing several thousand others within the province and elsewhere in Indonesia. The Indonesian military (TNI) was responsible for most civilian deaths, as well as human rights abuses, including rape, disappearances and prolonged arbitrary detention. On 9 August, a massacre of 31 workers took place in east Aceh. Both sides blamed each other but evidence suggested that Indonesian security forces were responsible. The rebel Free Aceh Movement (GAM) was also guilty of serious abuses and intimidation. The Indonesian province has experienced war between the GAM and TNI for several years, and the conflict worsened dramatically with the fall from power of President Suharto in 1998. Efforts at dialogue did not yield positive results and although President Megawati signed a law giving autonomy to Aceh on 11 August, it did not appear to have widespread support, especially as there was little consultation in Aceh before it was passed.

## JRS projects in Aceh & Sumatra

This year, JRS started to assist people displaced by the violence in Aceh, setting up offices in Banda Aceh, the provincial capital of Aceh, and Medan, capital of north Sumatra. There are about 23,000 displaced people in Medan. JRS supported local NGOs in both areas.

- emergency assistance** **ACEH, SUMATRA** Visits were conducted to displaced people living in remote areas, and emergency assistance provided: food, medicine, clothes, and other basic items.  
*Beneficiaries:* 2,000 in Aceh; 3,000 in Sumatra.
- education** **ACEH** JRS supported the schooling of displaced children in Aceh.  
*Beneficiaries:* 500
- relocation** **SUMATRA** JRS worked with the local government to relocate people forced to flee Aceh.  
*Beneficiaries:* 1,000



East Timor

Mark Raper SJ/JRS



Sectarian violence in the Moluccas continued to flare throughout this year, both in Ambon city and in villages in outlying islands. The aggression between Moslems and Christians, ignited early in 1999 and made worse by the arrival of Laskar Jihad fighters in 2000, has claimed hundreds of lives and displaced hundreds of thousands of others. Bomb blasts and shootings were frequent in the city of Ambon. In May, attacks in Ambon's Christian quarters left nine people – including two soldiers – dead and 17 people wounded.



**JRS Indonesia director**  
Edi Mulyono SJ

## JRS projects in the Moluccas

JRS set up its work in the Moluccas in 2000 and this year expanded both the scope and geographical extent of its work. Projects tackling reconciliation and return were launched, as well as one for the rehabilitation of former child soldiers. Apart from working in Ambon, the provincial capital, JRS was also present in Ceram island. Late this year, a team went to work on Buru island, the home of many displaced people we accompanied in Ambon.

**AMBON, BURU, CERAM islands** JRS provided material assistance to displaced people living in Ambon and Ceram island, visiting camps of people from both religions. A project was initiated in Buru following assessment visits, which revealed urgent, unmet needs among the displaced people on the island.

*Beneficiaries:*

- medicine for 1,300 people;
- emergency food, shelter and other assistance for 177 families.

**material assistance**

**AMBON** JRS supported farming, small businesses, and fishing projects.  
*Beneficiaries:* 253 families

**income-generating**

**AMBON** JRS staff worked hard to be a force for reconciliation between Christians and Moslems in Ambon, encouraging their coming together through trade.

**reconciliation**

JRS accompanied displaced people who wished to return home, facilitating their journey by providing transport and by preparing the receiving communities.

*Beneficiaries:* 84 families

**returnees**

**AMBON** JRS accompanied so-called AGAS (former child soldiers), giving them shelter, formal education, skills training, income generating programmes, and psychosocial support.

*Beneficiaries:* 40 children

**child soldiers**



**JRS Cambodia director**  
Denise Coghlan RSM

Montagnard people from Vietnam began crossing the border to Cambodia in early 2001, following unrest in the Central Highlands in February. The Montagnards claim independence for the Dega people (a combination of 54 minority groups from the Central Highlands of Vietnam). An initial group of refugees were resettled in the US, while others have been housed in two sites in Cambodia, with aid provided by UNHCR. There have been several recorded incidents of forced return of refugees to Vietnam by Cambodian authorities, the latest in December, when more than 160 people were forced back across the border. The Vietnamese government maintained that the Montagnard refugees were "illegal migrants" who left the country without permission. Independent human rights monitors were officially denied access to Vietnam; however since March, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International documented abuse, imprisonment and beating of dozens of Montagnards deported from Cambodia. At the end of the year, 700 Montagnards still remained on Cambodian soil.

## JRS projects in Cambodia

### legal assistance

**PHNOM PENH** Legal assistance was given to 60 asylum seeker families from Afghanistan, Vietnam, Algeria, China, India, Iran, Pakistan, Palestine, Iraq, Somalia and Sri Lanka. The legal officer interviewed the asylum seekers and prepared the brief for their primary application for refugee status. In addition they were helped to appeal against refusal of refugee status, with advice and assistance in pursuing resettlement.

JRS was also involved in providing protection and legal assistance to 38 vulnerable Montagnards who were resettled in the US.

### social assistance

**PHNOM PENH** Social assistance to asylum seekers was given through two Cambodian social workers, who assisted asylum seekers to find housing and to have access to health care, and education for their children.

### landmines

JRS completed the Landmine Monitor for Cambodia for the third year in succession and reported 800 new victims from landmines. Four JRS workers campaigned in Washington in March.

**Cambodia: JRS completed the Landmine Monitor again this year.**





Shan refugees



Nang Yoey

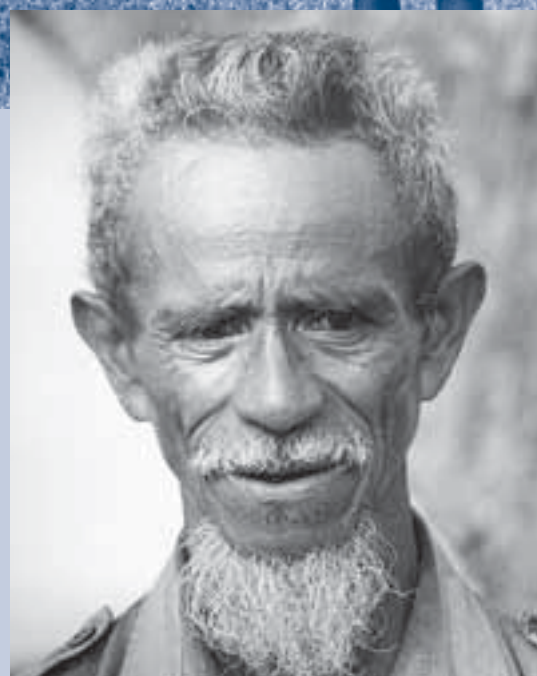
F. X. Sumaryono

refugees arrive in  
Ainaro, East Timor



Shan refugee,  
Thailand

returnee in Maliana,  
East Timor



Mark Raper SJ/JRS





Suan Phlu immigration  
detention centre, Thailand

F. X. Sumaryono



returning to East Timor



refugees from Ainaro,  
East Timor, returning home

F. X. Sumaryono



# SOUTH ASIA



Mark Raper SJ/JRS

South Asia underwent disturbing turbulence this year. History was redefined by war in Afghanistan, while chronic war continued to rage in Sri Lanka. Hope was born among the Bhutanese refugees in Nepal when a team with representation from the Bhutan and Nepal governments started a verification process in the camps. In Sri Lanka, peace moves collapsed early in the year and were resumed in December with the election of a new government.

JRS responded effectively to the crisis in three countries – Tamil Nadu, Sri Lanka and Nepal – and at the end of the year, we were exploring the possibility of working inside Afghanistan. In Nepal, in comparatively peaceful surroundings, a small team of five people reached out to 40,000 students, and was also involved in vocational training and lobbying. JRS can be proud of its contribution to raising an enlightened generation. The joint verification team has completed work in the first of the Nepal camps and we hope repatriation will follow shortly.

The story of Tamil Nadu is the story of refugees. We received them when they landed on India's shores, looked after them according to our means and have grown with them. Owing to a common language, we could translate the concept of accompaniment into building strong communities in the camps. The formation of the young generation through education, student clubs and student magazines bore fruit as responsible leadership is springing up in the camps.

Sri Lanka needed special attention. Two Jesuits continued to live in the heart of the war zone, serving a vast number of homeless people and children. Elsewhere in militant-controlled areas, JRS ran homes for war-affected children. We also turned our attention to peace building and human rights. In all, nearly 50,400 people benefited directly from JRS programmes in the region.

*C. Amalraj SJ, JRS South Asia director*



An estimated 67,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees continued to live in 116 camps scattered around the southern province of Tamil Nadu. Despite a strict blockade imposed by the Indian Navy, more refugees reached India, where they would be detained for 30 days on arrival. Young refugees were frequently sent to 'special' camps and eventually deported to Sri Lanka. The camps for the Sri Lankan refugees are in a pitiful state: international agencies are not allowed access and refugees must survive on a monthly ration of four US dollars and compete with the local population for manual work to survive.

**JRS India director**  
Vinny Joseph SJ

## JRS projects in India

JRS workers continued to be present in all the Tamil Nadu camps, offering services together with a group of 220 refugee co-workers.

### education

The focus of JRS remained value-based education: running nursery schools and evening tuition centres in the camps, placing children in schools, and supporting local schools.

*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- 92 educational centres inside the camps;
- seven local schools supported;
- 8,905 student beneficiaries;
- 434 children in boarding school or college;
- 120 teachers benefited from training.

### seminars, formation clubs

Summer camps in supplementary education were held, including components of counselling and personality development. Student formation clubs functioned in 80 camps.

*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- 34 seminars conducted for 2,378 students;
- 12,000 students in clubs.

### income-generating

JRS supported widows and orphans so they could earn their living.

*Beneficiaries:* 40

### skills training

The *Grihini* programme, offering residential courses outside the camps to girls who dropped out of school, continued this year, as did informal training for boys as electricians and motor mechanics. In the camps, JRS launched training centres and held leadership courses.

*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- 36 girls in two *Grihini* centres;
- 84 boys received technical training;
- 31 tailoring and mat-weaving centres in the camps;
- 480 girls awarded certificates; 60 women received leadership training.

### emergency, medical

JRS provided material and medical assistance to new arrivals in Mandapam transit camp and to fire and flood victims. This year, 106 shelters in two camps were destroyed by fire.

*Beneficiaries:* 330

### shelter for children

Children in vulnerable condition were identified and placed in safe surroundings.

*Beneficiaries:* 434



The year 2001 ended with hope for peace in Sri Lanka, wracked by civil war since 1983. The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) declared a truce on Christmas night while a new government moved to resume the peace process. Once again, the government of Norway was called upon to act as mediator. Meanwhile, there were an estimated 720,000 internally displaced people in Sri Lanka, many held in welfare centres, that is, government-run camps for displaced, and 330,000 refugees abroad. Around 37,000 people have “disappeared” in the course of Sri Lanka’s war, the second largest caseload of disappearances this decade, after Iraq. Thousands of people, mostly Tamils, languished in prison, usually under Emergency Regulations (ER) or the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), which allow for arbitrary arrest, torture and prolonged detention without trial. Many have been in prison for years awaiting justice.



## JRS projects in Sri Lanka

**COLOMBO** JRS defended detainees unable to retain lawyers.

*Beneficiaries:* 145

detainees, legal aid

**COLOMBO, BATTICALOA** Apart from regular prison visits, JRS facilitated contact between detainees and their families. JRS also subsidised the education of children of detainees.

*Beneficiaries:* 36 families

detainees, family support

**VANNI** Two Jesuits accompanied civilians in this northern region held by the LTTE.

*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- nutrition for pre-school children: 320 beneficiaries;
- support for widows and orphans;
- sewing classes for young women;
- shelter construction and repair: 237 beneficiaries;
- emergency assistance, especially during aerial bombing.

pastoral, social services

**VAVUNIYA district** JRS continued to administer a school in a welfare centre in Vavuniya, a town bordering on rebel territory. We also supported children to attend nearby schools.

*Beneficiaries:* 432

education

**SURIADY, Batticaloa district** JRS offered education and training to displaced families.

*Beneficiaries:* 90 children attended nursery school and tuition classes

**VAVUNIYA district** In one welfare centre, JRS ran training programmes for women in typing, sewing and tailoring with a view to self-employment.

*Beneficiaries:* 105

skills training

**KOKKADICHOLAI, Batticaloa** A Jesuit continued to run a home for war-affected children in LTTE-controlled territory.

*Beneficiaries:* 40

orphans

**MURUNKAN, Mannar district** JRS sponsored 15 children in an orphanage.

JRS supported human rights training and a peace campaign of Buddhist clergy.

*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- three training programmes for Buddhist clergy;
- 700 participants in four village-level peace campaign programmes.

peace-building



JRS Nepal director  
PS Amalraj SJ

The prolonged saga of the Bhutanese refugees in Nepal dragged on for another year. A Joint Verification Team (JVT), composed of representatives of the Nepal and Bhutan governments, conducted interviews in Khudunabari, one of seven camps, completing this process in December. However, the refugees may not learn the verification results for some time as, by the end of the year, Nepal and Bhutan had not harmonised their stands on categorisation of the refugees. Resolving differences about what category the Bhutanese refugees will fall into after verification is essential to reaching a solution to their plight. The journey of around 100,000 Bhutanese refugees started in 1990 when Bhutan government forces forcibly evicted people of Nepalese origin from Bhutan, where they had lived for generations. Geo-political considerations played a major role in making one-sixth of Bhutan's citizens stateless and refugees in Nepal.

## JRS projects in Nepal

- education** JRS continued to implement a UNHCR-funded education programme in the camps for Bhutanese refugees. In addition, JRS provided educational and infrastructure assistance to six local schools.  
*Beneficiaries:*
- 40,363 students, an increase of 10% over last year;
  - 1043 teachers, 140 support staff;
  - teacher-training: 300 beneficiaries;
  - two workshops in counselling techniques for 400 teachers.
- skills training** JRS offered vocational education to dropout students and youth from vulnerable families, with 25% of the places in the courses allocated to the local population.  
*Achievements:* six courses of five months' duration: electrical wiring/plumbing, electronic goods servicing, welding, carpentry, mechanics and cosmetics.
- pastoral** JRS provided pastoral care to adolescent students, meeting a felt need in responding to frequent frustration and depression among students.
- child play centres** JRS operated eight centres for children aged between three and five years. The children attended for shifts of 90 minutes each.  
*Beneficiaries:* each shift has 120 children on average
- disability** The programme covered all people with disabilities in the seven camps, with a centre in each camp, offering facilities for learning, playing, singing, and physiotherapy.  
*Beneficiaries:* 2,818
- advocacy** JRS persevered in lobbying for the return of the refugees to Bhutan, in collaboration with refugee leaders, and also played a major role in awareness-building among the people.

income-generating  
activity, India



Jenny Caliso/JRS

JRS schools, Sri Lanka



Amaya Valcárcel/JRS



Amaya Valcárcel/JRS

Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka

Amaya Valcárcel/JRS



schoolchildren  
in Sri Lanka



Amaya Valcárcel/JRS

Amaya Valcárcel/JRS



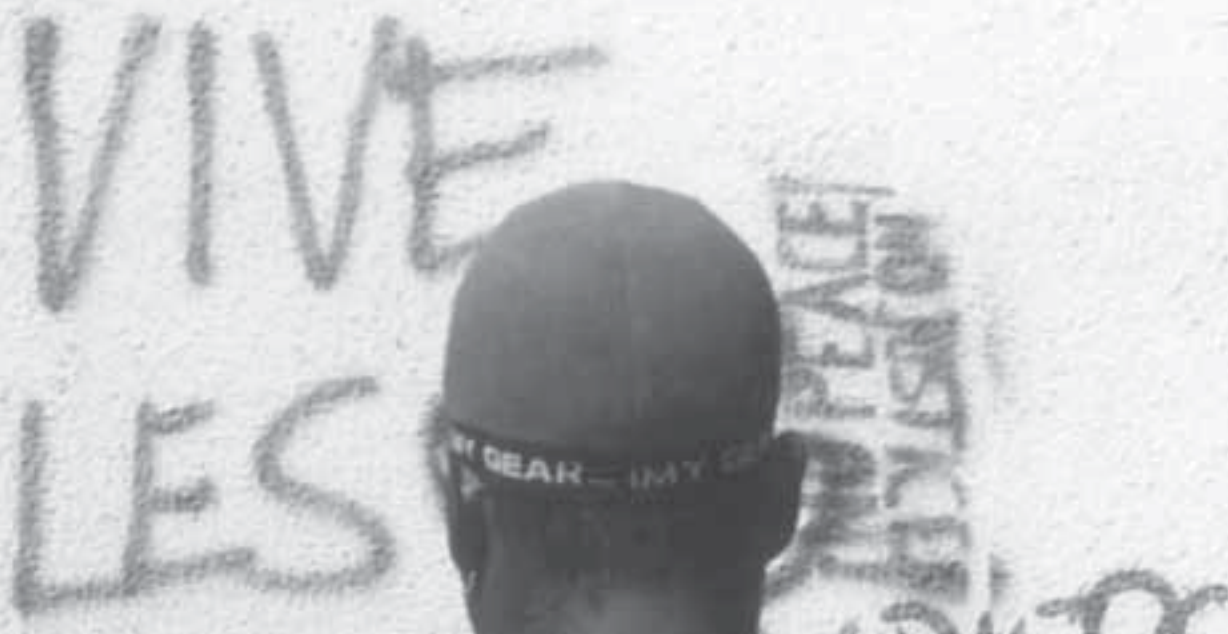
Sri Lankan camp



Jenny Catfiso/JRS

Sri Lankan internally  
displaced people





JRS Germany

**N**ews headlines continue to reflect the sad reality of hundreds of thousands of refugees coming to Europe displaced by war, famine, persecution and other causes. Hundreds of thousands of refugees streamed from Afghanistan in the wake of 11 September. Migration is fast becoming one of the defining problems of the 21st century. At popular level in Europe, reactions are mixed, ranging from acceptance and welcome to fear and xenophobia, and they change depending on events. At political level, the EU hopes to harmonise its asylum legislation by 2004 and is working on four main areas: reception conditions, asylum procedures, refugee definition and subsidiary protection. The NGO community is actively involved in debate. This is our chance to build a fair system that respects fundamental rights and promotes human dignity. During 2001, JRS was in active dialogue with the EU Commission and Parliament about proposals for a new asylum system. Across Europe, there are widespread differences from Portugal and Ireland in the west to Romania in the east. Previously transit centres, Slovenia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Poland are now becoming destinations where people lodge claims for asylum and hope to settle. JRS is establishing itself there. As countries increase their border controls and tighten entry requirements it becomes harder for people to gain access to territory to make an asylum application. Traffickers have become increasingly powerful and the misery they cause is a modern form of slavery. If you are working in Dar es Salaam or in Delhi, you can feel so many decisions are being made in Washington or London or Brussels in which you have little say. The JRS Europe office tries to link up with our JRS colleagues, especially in Africa and Asia, to represent their views at EU level. The fundamental question: 'why are there refugees?' is one which increasingly needs to be addressed. Yes, we can harmonise legislation. Yes, countries can tighten border controls. But does it solve anything? The reason there are refugees, that people move, is because the world system is not working for them. Rather than remain victims, either of war, famine, or unjust economic systems, they take their destiny into their hands and migrate. As a world community, we have to look at our system and work to change it. The JRS with its basis in Catholic social teaching and in the Gospel offers solid principles on which change can occur. We have to work at this level to ensure justice for all.

*John Dardis SJ, JRS Europe director*



By the end of November, 27,747 asylum applications had been filed in **AUSTRIA**. In December, UNHCR strongly criticised the government's policy of providing federal assistance to only one-third of asylum seekers. Some 13,000 were left to fend for themselves, seeking help from NGOs which were overwhelmed. Every week, 50 to 100 asylum seekers had to sleep rough. In **BELGIUM**, the general trend revealed an increase of children and young people entering the country. In the main open reception centre in Brussels, out of 350 residents at the beginning of April, 107 were minors. As of the end of November, 22,840 asylum seekers had lodged applications. In the same period, 43,098 applications for asylum were lodged in **FRANCE**. And 82,787 asylum requests were made in **GERMANY**, where on 13 December, the Federal Government presented its Immigration Bill to the Bundestag.

## JRS projects in Europe

**AUSTRIA** JRS went ahead with a programme for children, youth and families in the main refugee centre in Traiskirchen, where on average 900 refugees were accommodated. A team made up of an Austrian and seven refugees ran the programme. JRS also offered pastoral care.  
**JRS Austria contact person** Erich Drögsler SJ

**BELGIUM** **JRS Belgium coordinator** Eddy Jadot SJ  
*Achievements:*

- representation on NGO coalitions and participation in lobbying activities;
- accompanying asylum seekers throughout their application for refugee status;
- visits to closed detention centres to offer pastoral support.

**FRANCE** JRS France has a part-time coordinator, and is integrated into the international missionary service of the French Province.  
**JRS France contact person** Bernard Chandon-Moët SJ  
*Achievements included:*

- dissemination of information;
- financial support and contact with individual refugees.

**GERMANY** A JRS team of seven offered a number of services to refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants, while undertaking extensive lobbying.  
**JRS Germany director** Dieter Müller SJ

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- pastoral care in two detention centres in Berlin-Brandenburg, where 350 detainees are held. JRS workers visited the detainees regularly, offering legal assistance and companionship, and celebrating a weekly Divine Service. In another centre in Munich, the visiting Jesuit was officially recognised as pastor to the detainees;
- pastoral care of the Vietnamese community, including regular group meetings and visits to Vietnamese people in prison in Berlin;
- legal counselling and other assistance for asylum seekers and refugees at the JRS office;
- material assistance: telephone cards, newspapers, clothes, tickets for public transport and money for those in particular need;
- JRS continued to draw public and political attention to the plight of undocumented migrants, detainees and other situations.



In **GREECE**, 2,906 people had applied for asylum until the end of September.

Until the end of October, 8,461 would-be refugees had sought asylum in **IRELAND**. In December, the bodies of eight immigrants, including three children, were found in a container opened near Wexford in Ireland.

There were no clear figures indicating the number of asylum seekers and refugees in **ITALY**, but rough estimates indicate that 30,000 asylum seekers arrived in the country this year. For most of them, Italy was only a stepping stone in their journey: about 10% of arrivals ask for asylum in Italy and wait here until their status is determined.

A total of 627 people lodged asylum applications in **LUXEMBOURG** until the end of November this year, an average of 57 applications monthly.



## JRS projects in Europe

The refugees in contact with JRS came mostly from Kurdistan, Burundi, Albania, Russia, Roumania. JRS helped with language training, legal advice, food, medical needs.

**JRS Greece contact person** Michel Roussos SJ

### GREECE

JRS helped recruit personnel for JRS projects in other parts of the world. One of its concerns was the integration of refugees into the local community. In this area, it implemented practical steps, examined their effectiveness and advised on best practice. JRS Ireland also worked on asylum policy issues through the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice in Dublin.

**JRS Ireland contact person** John Dardis SJ

### IRELAND

JRS Italy continued to assist asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants in difficult circumstances. Information and advocacy were extensively undertaken, especially through the Centro Astalli Foundation. Most activities were undertaken in Rome, however JRS also offered social, health and legal assistance in Sicily and accommodation support in Vicenza. This year, JRS was chosen by the Municipality of Rome to run a night shelter for new arrivals in collaboration with other NGOs.

**JRS Italy director** Francesco de Luccia SJ

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- soup kitchen: 300 meals daily;
- medical clinic: an average 350 patients per month;
- four night shelters, with space for 220;
- until October, 331 beneficiaries received legal and other counselling;
- Italian lessons were provided;
- a co-operative laundry service.

### ITALY

JRS worked as part of a NGO coalition to raise public awareness and lobby the government for the just and humane treatment of asylum seekers.

**JRS Luxembourg coordinator** Pierre Meyers SJ

### LUXEMBOURG



By the end of November, **PORTUGAL** received 176 asylum applications.

**ROMANIA** ranks as one of the poorest countries in Europe, with 41% of the population living below the official poverty line. Nonetheless, official statistics revealed 2,257 asylum applications were made there this year, and unofficial figures pointed to 20,000 undocumented migrants.

In **SLOVENIA**, 1,431 asylum applications were lodged until the end of November. Most migrants and refugees passed through Slovenia on their way further west, but the country is fast becoming a place where some wished to stay.

## JRS projects in Europe

### **MALTA** JRS Malta director

Pierre Grech Marguerat SJ

#### *Achievements:*

- talks in secondary schools and university, writing articles and participating in radio and TV programmes to increase public awareness of the needs and rights of refugees;
- legal assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, including those in detention, and other migrants in need of help;
- provision of English lessons;
- home visits and provision of material assistance where needed;
- visits to long-term detainees.

### **PORTUGAL** JRS Portugal coordinator

Afonso Herédia SJ

#### *Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- Portuguese language courses, including a meal for attendees;
- assistance to refugees to find a house and a job: 110 beneficiaries as of April;
- assistance to refugees from Eastern Europe: 285 families;
- facilitating health consultations and medication.

### **ROMANIA**

The main activities of JRS in Romania were psychosocial support, emergency aid, home visits, and pastoral activities. JRS also operated a computer centre, a shelter and protected apartments. Promoting integration through advocacy and public awareness was emphasised. Pastoral care and emergency assistance were provided in a detention centre near Bucharest.

#### **JRS Romania coordinator**

Luc Duquenne SJ

*Beneficiaries:* 2,500 people

### **SLOVENIA**

This year, the Jesuits in Slovenia began a new initiative for refugees and migrants, which will form part of the JRS network. The project involves visiting migrants and refugees housed in the Centre for Foreigners in Ljubljana, providing basic support and assisting with language instruction.

#### **JRS Slovenia director**

Marian Šef SJ

As for **SPAIN**, according to estimates of the Spanish Committee of Aid to Refugees (CEAR), 90% of the 3,273 asylum seekers who applied at Madrid International Airport were Cuban. Statistics indicated a sharp increase of Cubans applying for asylum this year, from 144 in January to 496 in December. Until the end of November, 8,375 asylum seekers had applied in Spain.

The use of detention increased in the **UNITED KINGDOM**, with three new centres opened in recent months and another 1500 detention places opened in prisons. The majority of detained asylum seekers were held in prisons. As of the end of September, 64,024 people had applied for asylum in the UK this year. A new controversial Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act came into effect on 14 December, allowing for detention without charge or trial of any person considered to be a threat to national security. It is aimed partly at people who cannot be repatriated because they could face the death penalty or torture in their home country.



## JRS projects in Europe

This year, JRS set up an office in Madrid to join another office in Barcelona.

### SPAIN

#### JRS Spain coordinator

Josep Ricart SJ

##### *Achievements included:*

- liaised with JRS funding agencies;
- worked with other refugee agencies on harmonisation of national refugee policies;
- provided legal assistance to women asylum seekers;
- in collaboration with another NGO, organised the Spanish translation of *War has changed our life, not our spirit*, a JRS International publication about and by forcibly displaced women;
- joined lobbying campaigns on East Timor, Great Lakes and Colombia.

#### JRS United Kingdom director

Bernard Elliot SJ

### UK

##### *Achievements included:*

- our main ministry continued to be with detainees and those recently released from detention. JRS workers regularly visited asylum seekers in prison and detention centres and liaised with solicitors concerning individual cases;
- JRS networked with other agencies through the Asylum Rights Campaign, a network for sharing information and campaigning of 100 church and secular agencies working with refugees and asylum seekers;
- lobbying for asylum rights, particularly as regards legislative changes.



medical clinic, Rome, Italy



soup kitchen, Rome, Italy



Vietnamese refugees  
in Berlin, Germany



# SOUTHEAST EUROPE



Sarah Ogilvie/JRS

**T**his year, Macedonia was marked by a low but continuous scale of armed conflict, terminating with a compromise imposed by the international community. The clashes were between government forces and rebel ethnic Albanians, who make up around 20% of the population. The ethnic Albanians living along the Kosovo border and in the cities of Tetovo and Kumanovo tried to secure their rights by force, provoking the displacement of both ethnic Macedonians and Albanians. After long negotiations, the government agreed to constitutional changes to guarantee the rights of minorities to have schools in their own language, proportional participation in police forces and equal status for Orthodox, Muslim, Catholic and Protestant faith communities.

As for Kosovo, the political status of the province, which remained under UN administration and crowded with international armed forces, was uncertain. The role to be played by elected local and provincial administration is not clear since all decisions are made by the United Nations Mission In Kosovo (UNMIK). When former Serb president, Slobodan Milosevic, changed the Constitution in 1988, Kosovo was left without the autonomy it had enjoyed for almost 45 years. So it is not certain under what legislation UNMIK organised the elections in Kosovo. The Kosovars hoped to gain full autonomy, while the Serbs feared they would lose part of their territory. Overall insecurity for ethnic minorities in the province meant that around 170,000 displaced Serbs did not dare return. Those who remained lived in enclaves under guard, practically as prisoners.

JRS was able to offer immediate assistance to people displaced in Macedonia as the infrastructure was already in place. After the Red Cross began to offer assistance, JRS focused on serving vulnerable displaced people whose needs were not being met. In Kosovo, JRS sustained aid for smaller ethnic enclaves in Kosovo.

*Stjepan Kušan SJ, JRS Southeast Europe director*

# BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA



**JRS Bosnia director**

Jeannot Randrianarison SJ

Around 470,000 people remained internally displaced within Bosnia and Herzegovina this year, and 230,000 were refugees abroad. Although less than 15% of returns took place to areas dominated by other ethnic groups, the number of people going back to areas where they will be minorities rose this year. A total of 55,700 minority returns were registered between January and October, roughly double the amount in the same period in 2000. Despite progress, people returning to areas where they would be part of a minority faced intimidation and security problems, and attacks against those returning to Republika Srpska increased, with four Bosnian returnees murdered.

Access to housing continued to pose problems, a legacy of the brutal war ended in 1995. Around 200,000 houses were destroyed in the conflict. Social services were still rather poor, as the country struggled towards economic and political recovery. Services provided by law tended to be just words on paper without any impact for people in need.

## JRS projects in Bosnia & Herzegovina

**reconstruction** **SARAJEVO** To facilitate returns to the city, JRS undertook reconstruction work on destroyed houses.  
*Beneficiaries:* 25

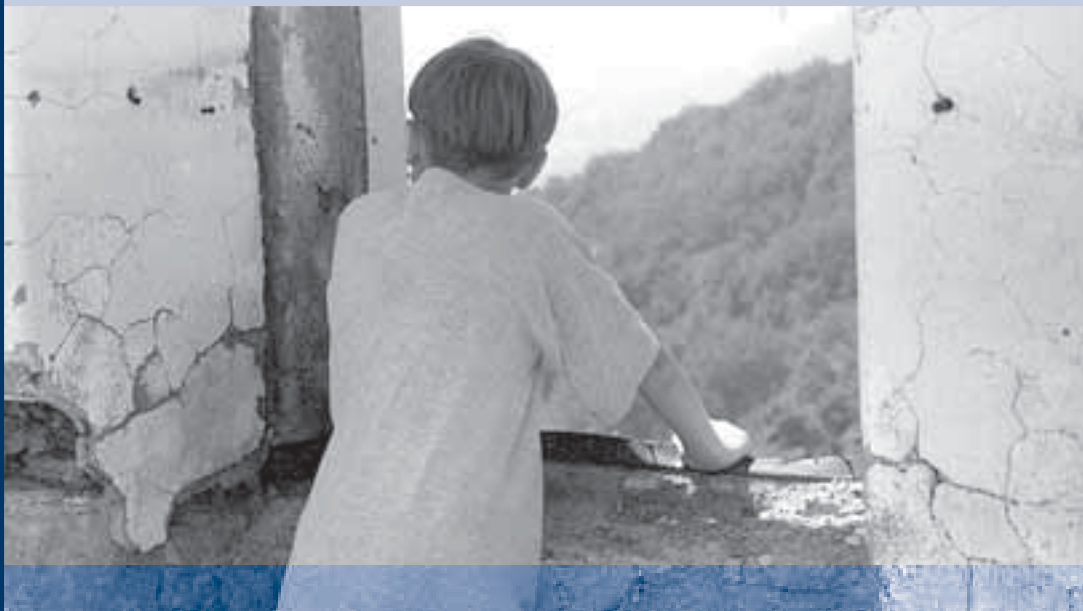
**child mine victims** **SARAJEVO** Medical, material, psychosocial and legal assistance was given to young mine survivors through the Mine Victims Assistance Programme (MVAP). Based in Sarajevo, the MVAP catered to people all over Bosnia.  
*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- 173 beneficiaries;
- 916 field visits;
- summer camp for 27 children.

**elderly mine victims** **SARAJEVO** This assistance project served older mine victims, providing medical and rehabilitation support, as well as material aid.  
*Beneficiaries:* 32

**home care** **SARAJEVO** JRS continued to accompany elderly returnees through this project, keeping up home visits and material assistance, like food, medical aid, firewood and home repairs where necessary.  
*Beneficiaries:* 80

**Bosnia: access to housing remained a pressing problem for people returning home.**



Sarah Ogilvie/JRS



In October, Croatia signed the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU, reaffirming its pledge to ensure the return of refugees and displaced people, especially those belonging to minority groups. A major obstacle faced by very many returnees was that they had no home to return to, despite positive steps taken to amend discriminatory legislation regarding reconstruction of war-damaged property. At times, return was impeded by failure to enforce legislation regarding the repossession and repair of properties. Meanwhile, many refugees remained wary about returning to Croatia even if the security situation was stable, because the fear of hostility and antagonism lingered.



## JRS projects in Croatia

**SISAK transition camp** JRS continued to offer assistance on a number of levels to Serb returnees in this camp south of Zagreb.

*Achievements/beneficiaries included:*

- 140 people (all the camp residents);
- recreational activities for children and teenagers;
- assistance for elderly and sick people with medicine and hygiene items;
- income-generating programme for women;
- soup kitchen to give breakfast in the camp.

**support to returnees**

**KNIN & elsewhere in CROATIA** JRS assisted some returnees who left Sisak camp in repairing their homes, and also supported reconstruction of the homes of returnees to Knin.

*Beneficiaries:* 70 people in Knin

**reconstruction**

**KNIN** Through psycho-social assistance, JRS aimed to facilitate the reintegration of Serb returnees in Knin, as well as the integration of Bosnian Croat refugees who settled in the region. The project finished in August this year.

**psycho-social**

**KNIN** A kindergarten project was launched by JRS this year to promote integration.

**education**

**ZAGREB** Through scholarships, JRS sponsored the education of a number of students.

*Beneficiaries:* 75

**SLAVONSKI BROD, OPATIJA** In this long-running project, JRS and other agencies continued their collaboration to organise seminars to train lay people for involvement in the church and community.

**training**

*Beneficiaries:* 77 participants in the latest two seminars, which started in November 2000

# MACEDONIA



**JRS Macedonia director**  
Fr Mato Jakovic

In February, civil strife broke out between the Macedonian armed forces and rebel ethnic Albanians in the north-west of the country. An internationally-brokered peace agreement was signed in Ohrid in August, and ratified in Parliament in November, along with several changes to the Constitution. The changes grant more rights and equal opportunities to the country's ethnic Albanian minority. However, peace remained precarious and violence was not yet over at year's end, with frequent terrorist attacks. At least 100,000 people were displaced: ethnic Albanians went to Kosovo and the Slavic population sought refuge elsewhere in Macedonia. At times the government minimised the needs of internally displaced people to demonstrate its capacity to beat the enemy. At other times, it exaggerated the actual situation. Return home was not possible for many displaced people as homes were damaged or completely destroyed. And people feared to return to villages where they would form part of an ethnic minority. At the end of November, 55,000 people had not yet returned home.

## JRS projects in Macedonia

- emergency** **all over MACEDONIA** JRS provided immediate assistance to people displaced by the civil war, until the national Red Cross took over. Even after the Red Cross started to supply food, JRS continued to assist vulnerable displaced people like the elderly and children.  
*Beneficiaries:* 844 food parcels distributed to 3,376 beneficiaries
- education** **SKOPJE, STRUMICA** Computer courses were provided for students in centres operated by JRS.  
*Beneficiaries:* 293 young people

**Kosovo: JRS continued helping people rebuild their lives. In this project, JRS supported disabled women with a skills training programme.**



# FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), comprising Serbia and Montenegro, continued to house the largest refugee population in Europe, mostly Serbs who fled one or other of the wars that rocked Southeast Europe since 1991. UNHCR statistics revealed 377,131 refugees and 197,645 internally displaced people in Serbia and around 23,200 refugees in Montenegro. Forcibly displaced people in FRY relied mainly on humanitarian aid, and an estimated 25,000 refugees and internally displaced people lived in collective centres.



JRS FRY director  
Viktor Glavina

## JRS projects in FRY

**BELGRADE** JRS supported refugees trying to survive outside the collective centres.  
*Beneficiaries:* 4,732 beneficiaries; 1,015 family parcels distributed.

urban project

**SERBIA, MONTENEGRO** JRS persevered in improving living conditions of displaced people in collective centres scattered over FRY.

material assistance

*Beneficiaries/achievements:*

- assessment carried out in 94 camps to identify needs;
- 6,351 beneficiaries;
- 11,739 parcels of sanitation items distributed;
- fresh meat, blankets and oil distributed;
- food distribution centre built in one camp.

**SMEDEREVO, BELGRADE** JRS set up computer schools in these two locations.  
*Beneficiaries:* 1,060

education

# K O S O V O

The social and economic situation improved in Kosovo, largely thanks to assistance from the international community. However, many international governmental agencies and NGOs closed or reduced their mission there. Meanwhile, ethnic minorities continued to face intimidation. On 17 November, the inhabitants of Kosovo voted for their political leadership, choosing Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the Albanian Democratic League of Kosovo. All ethnic minorities will be represented in the local parliament, which will be overseen by the UN.



## JRS projects in Kosovo

**PRIZREN** A mine victims assistance programme was set up in February this year, aiming to reduce dependency of mine survivors and to reintroduce them into society.

mine victims

*Achievements/beneficiaries:*

- assessment visits to 155 mine survivors;
- 59 children are beneficiaries;
- assistance with school materials;
- distribution of food parcels and firewood to 30 families.

**FERIZAJ** This project moved into its second year, aiming to help women with disabilities become self-sufficient through training workshops.

training

*Beneficiaries:* 60 women completed training. A new group started in October.

**GUSTERICA, JANJEVO, LETNICA enclaves** JRS from Serbia assisted Serb and Croatian enclaves in Kosovo with regular deliveries of food, medicine, firewood and school items.

material assistance



refugee camp,  
Croatia



Sarajevo,  
Bosnia



Mostar,  
Bosnia



Serbia



# LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



Mark Raper SJ/JRS

**T**he conflict in Colombia continued to act as a destabilising influence throughout the whole of the region during 2001, resulting in mass internal displacement as well as the flight of thousands of refugees to neighbouring countries, in particular Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama. Despite efforts at peace negotiations, Colombians continued to suffer, with an increase in terror attacks and forced displacement of the civilian population. An emphasis on drug eradication failed to address the root causes of the conflict, with the US-funded Plan Colombia seeming only to create new problems of poverty and displacement without affecting the drugs trade.

Neighbouring Venezuela was the destination for an increasing number of those who fled the conflict in Colombia during 2001. The Organic Law on Refugees and Asylum Seekers came into law on 3 October, establishing the right to seek asylum in Venezuela, a move that was very much welcomed by JRS. Ecuador and Panama also hosted a rising number of Colombian refugees during the year, though in Panama, the official status of the vast majority of those seeking protection remained unclear, as the authorities there refused to recognise them as refugees.

Key representatives from Church organisation in Colombia and neighbouring countries, including JRS, held a meeting in Panama from 14 to 16 August 2001 to develop a co-ordinated response to the humanitarian tragedy provoked by the war. The initiative for such a continental gathering came from the realisation that the Colombian conflict goes beyond the national borders, both in causes as well as consequences. Little changed during the year for the estimated between 600,000 and 700,000 Haitians living in the Dominican Republic. Even many people born in the Dominican Republic, of Haitian decent, are considered as illegal foreigners and therefore subject to forcible repatriation and ill treatment at the hands of security forces. 2001 witnessed large-scale forcible repatriation to Haiti, where returnees faced the prospects of further human rights abuses. These repatriations take place without any due process. Trafficking of Haitian migrants into the Dominican Republic continued on a large scale, with some knowledge and collaboration by the Dominican authorities – a number of the trafficked immigrants died in violent incidents involving the Dominican authorities or in accidents en route.

*José Nuñez SJ, JRS Latin America director*



**JRS Colombia director**  
Jorge Serrano SJ

The negative impact of US-funded *Plan Colombia* was felt this year. *Plan Colombia* is a 1.6 billion dollar aid package approved in 2000 – with 80% destined for army aid – as part of a US military drug eradication strategy. But the plan only served to increase drug profits and to fuel more displacement. In April, US President George W. Bush announced a new programme, the *Andean regional initiative*, to extend *Plan Colombia* to the rest of the Andean countries. The civil war continued, with an estimated two million displaced. In Europe and North America, over 6,000 Colombian asylum applications were received in the first half of 2001, more than twice the number received in the same period in 2000. This year, UN Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson said massacres, extra-judicial executions, enforced disappearances, forced displacement and attacks against the civilian population in Colombia had risen dramatically. She said government efforts to comply with international recommendations on human rights protection had “failed to produce tangible results”.

## JRS projects in Colombia

JRS pressed ahead with work in Colombia, accompanying internally displaced people from the emergency phase when they fled their homes, through transition towards resettlement. The direct beneficiaries of JRS added up to 2,498.

### emergency assistance

**BARRANCABERMEJA** Assistance – food, health care, security – was given to a large number of displaced people housed in shelters in Idema and Antigua Normal in Barranca, and also to others in Puerto Nare.

**SAN PABLO** JRS set up a team in San Pablo after evaluating the situation there, in order to provide assistance to IDPs.

**CENTRO DEL VALLE, BUGA** JRS provided assistance in two shelters for displaced people.

### education, skills training

**BARRANCABERMEJA** JRS operated elementary schools for all the children in Idema and Antigua Normal shelters, ran literacy courses and offered skills training to youngsters.

**CENTRO DEL VALLE, BUGA** Education was provided for displaced children and theatre groups formed.

### income-generating

**CENTRO DEL VALLE, BUGA** JRS supported income-generating projects in this region.

### personnel training

**TIERRALTA, RIO VIEJO, CENTRO DEL VALLE, BUGA** In these areas, JRS supported grassroots organisations and trained personnel to work with displaced people.

### legal aid

**BARRANCABERMEJA** JRS provided legal counselling to displaced people in this region.



Some 900,000 Haitians live in the Dominican Republic. This minority is exposed to economic exploitation and social discrimination and enjoys few or no rights. Most Haitians in the Dominican Republic are in fact considered illegal and many are forcibly repatriated by security forces. The police and army periodically carry out round-ups in *bateys*, where a large part of the Haitian minority lives, arresting people whether they carry identification documents or not, and deporting them to Haiti. Late this year, large-scale repatriation operations resumed in some border zones, and in December, members of the Dominican armed forces tried to intimidate a monitoring group of the Jano Siksè Network for the Defence of Human Rights. The network had decided to set up a group to gather information about constant abuses allegedly committed by soldiers at the border.



JRS Dominican Republic director  
José Nuñez SJ

## JRS projects in the Dominican Republic

**SANTO DOMINGO** JRS pressed ahead with activities advocating for the right to citizenship for all those born in the country, including people of Haitian descent who under current law are excluded. JRS also worked to influence national migration policy.

human rights

**DAJABÓN border town, Dominican Republic; WANAMENT, Haiti**

JRS worked to strengthen human rights groups, especially those operating in a network of local organisations on the border. The team in Haiti worked in co-ordination with the office in Dajabón, implementing the same programmes across the border.

*Beneficiaries:* nearly 6,000 people, who belong to organisations of the network *Solidaridad Fronteriza*, which has members of both Dominican and Haitian nationality.

**DAJABÓN border town, Dominican Republic, WANAMENT, Haiti** JRS ran a community development project with farmers at the border.

integration

**LA CIÉNAGA neighbourhood, Santo Domingo** JRS promoted community integration of different ethnic groups, running schools for children and a parents' association.

education

**SANTO DOMINGO** JRS accompanied people without legal documents, providing legal and other assistance.

*Beneficiaries:* 124

legal, material  
assistance

# VENEZUELA



In Venezuela, the Organic Law on Refugees and Asylum Seekers officially came into effect on 3 October. The law established the right to seek asylum in Venezuela, and outlined asylum procedures and the rights and responsibilities of the state and of refugees in Venezuela. Venezuela's National Assembly had passed the law on 28 August. This was an important step as previously Venezuela did not recognise the presence of refugees on its territory, calling them 'people in transit'. The number of people escaping the civil war in Colombia to seek refuge in Venezuela increased this year.

**JRS Venezuela director**  
Alfredo Infante SJ

## JRS projects in Venezuela

### alliances with other NGOs

**CARACAS** JRS collaborated with other human rights NGOs in the preparation of a Law project and formed part of a number of networks, namely:

- *Foro por la Vida*, a network of human rights organisations;
- *Iniciativa de Solidaridad con Colombia*;
- *Red Fronteriza*, a border zone network.

### advocacy

**CARACAS** JRS participated in drafting the law relating to refugees and asylum seekers.

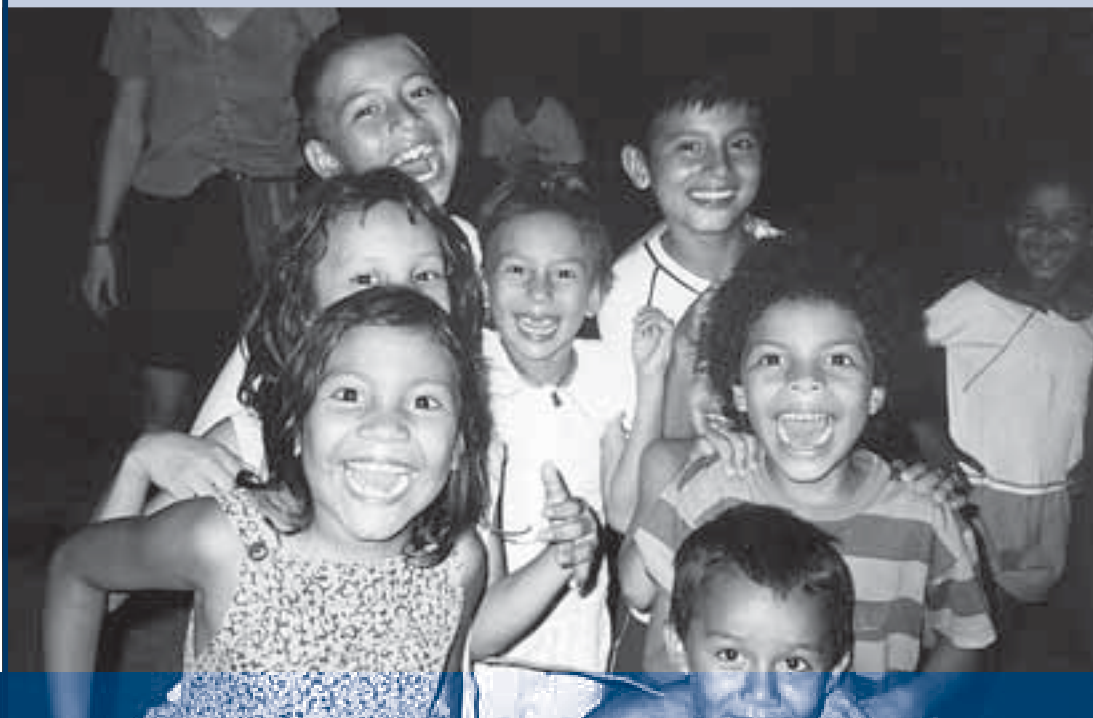
### legal, material assistance

**ALTO APURE** JRS offered accompaniment and pastoral care to Colombian refugees in Alto Apure, which borders with the region of Arauca in Colombia. The JRS team recently prevented the refoulement to Colombia of seven families in Guasdalito, Alto Apure. JRS also defended illegal migrants who are labourers in the area.

### raising awareness

**ALTO APURE** JRS participated in *Fe y Alegría* radio station programmes to inform the population about the war in Colombia and also co-ordinated activities with *Fe y Alegría* educational centres.

Displaced children in Colombia. JRS reaches out to people uprooted by the war in Colombia within the country itself and in neighbouring countries too.





Despite promises of justice made by the local authorities, impunity prevailed in the southern state of Chiapas. The number of internally displaced people decreased by one-third following the recent return of 1,500 indigenous people to their communities. Some 6,500 are still displaced.

For several years now, armed conflict has raged there, due to marginalisation and injustice suffered by indigenous people at the hands of large landowners and governmental authorities.

Paramilitary groups harass families who have been linked to demands for justice. The displaced people continue to resist and to demand justice in order to return to their communities.



**JRS Mexico director**  
Pedro Arriaga SJ

## JRS projects in Mexico

JRS accompanied and gave social assistance to some of the internally displaced people – 6,500 displaced people live in a camp, and 4,000 people in dispersed communities – in Chenalho, part of the diocese of Chiapas, southern Mexico.

**CHIAPAS** JRS provided assistance to a cooperative *Unión de Productores de Café Maya Vinic* with administrative, agricultural and legal help.

**income-generating**

**CHIAPAS** JRS worked closely with the civil organisation, *Las Abejas*, which won the 2001 Human Rights Award of the French Republic, an annual award the French government gives to NGOs that have distinguished themselves in the struggle for human rights. *Las Abejas* is a movement of indigenous people in Chiapas, struggling for peace and justice through non-violence.

**support to organisations**

**CHIAPAS** JRS formed catechists and ministers of *Las Abejas* organisation and gave pastoral care to 40 communities.

**pastoral**

**CHIAPAS** JRS organised workshops in human rights training and for the formation of educators.

**training**

Thousands of people are internally displaced in southern Mexico as a result of injustice suffered by indigenous people.



# E C U A D O R



In the first half of this year, Ecuador received over 1,800 asylum applications: a rise from just 30 requests in the first half of 2000. Many new arrivals came from the Narino and Cauca regions of Colombia and were staying in Imbabura and Carchi provinces in Ecuador. Meanwhile, the majority of 12,000 refugees who fled to Ecuador from Colombia's Putumayo Department in the second half of 2000, returned to Colombia without requesting protection or settled in the interior of Ecuador. However, some 1,480 were recognised as refugees, and lived mainly in shelters constructed by UNHCR and the government early this year, in Lago Agrio, near the Colombian border.

**JRS Ecuador coordinator**  
Hugo Vinicio

## JRS projects in Ecuador

**social services** **LAGO AGRIO** JRS accompanied refugees, trying to meet their material, psychological and spiritual needs and also helped to register them.  
*Beneficiaries:* between 500 and 1,000

**advocacy** **TULCÁN and IBARRA** JRS collaborated in initiatives to promote refugee rights.

# P A N A M A



An estimated 1,000 Colombians, most of whom arrived in the past year, remained in Panama's Darién region bordering on Colombia. Panama referred to refugees who crossed its border as 'displaced' or 'people needing protection'. By using these euphemisms, Panama sought to avoid meeting its obligations towards Colombian refugees. Only 68 people were officially recognised as refugees.

**JRS Panama director**  
Miquel Córtes SJ

## JRS projects in Panama

**income-generating, pastoral** **JAQUÉ, DARIÉN region** Two projects with refugees from Colombia are being developed in a community development programme for refugees settled in Jaqué. Poultry farms have been set up to feed the refugees.  
*Beneficiaries:* 400





Jenny Cafiso/JRS







**JRS USA director**  
Rick Ryscavage SJ

The US Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) detained more than 20,000 people on any given day, a result of the 1996 immigration law that includes mandatory detention policies, even for asylum seekers. This year, the US Supreme Court issued decisions prohibiting the indefinite detention of certain immigrants and reinstating judicial review of immigration decisions. But other efforts at reform, such as legislation protecting the rights of refugees and unaccompanied juveniles in detention, were stopped dead in their tracks by terrorist attacks in the US on 11 September. Instead, new regulations and laws were passed allowing for increased use of detention and civil liberty infringements such as monitoring privileged communications between detainees and their lawyers. More than 1,000 people have been detained under a broad definition of “suspected terrorism”. Refugee arrivals in the US and the processing of most new cases abroad were suspended after 11 September. The review process may result in changes in the nature and number of refugees admitted.

## JRS projects in USA & Canada

### detainees, pastoral

**LOS ANGELES** JRS served four detention centres with a staff of three Jesuits, a laywoman, and over 50 volunteers. The ministry was prison chaplaincy: sacraments, bible studies, and pastoral counselling. JRS tried to ensure at least weekly access to mass/communion service in each facility.

**EL PASO** A Jesuit is the chaplain at the INS facility, ministering to both detainees and staff.

### pastoral

**TORONTO, Canada** Pastoral services to community of asylum seekers

### detainees, children

**LOS ANGELES** Direct services and accompaniment were provided in three detention centres. JRS was involved in creating alternatives to detention for children and to bring this need to the attention of Catholic agencies, organisations, and congregations.

### detainees, legal

JRS sponsored three legal fellowships in conjunction with the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC), the legal services arm of the US Bishops Conference in Washington, and the Jesuit universities of Georgetown and Loyola/New Orleans.

### post-release

**NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY** JRS provided post-release services for those released from detention after being granted asylum. The services connect refugees with social services, including job training, placement programmes, medical care, counselling, and English-as-a-second-language programmes. JRS opened *Wayfarer House*, a transitional emergency home for newly released detainees.

### advocacy

JRS continued to advocate for the establishment of full-time paid chaplains in all facilities holding INS detainees. In coalition with other faith-based groups, JRS met regularly with the INS to develop a plan to install a chief chaplain and to utilise volunteer chaplains and volunteers from the community.

In addition, JRS participated in advocacy efforts regarding the US policy in Colombia and the needs of internally displaced people, and co-ordinated Ban Landmines Week as part of the US Campaign to Ban Landmines.

**TORONTO, Canada** JRS is represented in organisations working in advocacy for refugee rights.

**JRS Canada contact person** Jack Costello SJ

# JRS FINANCES 2001

## Some brief notes of explanation

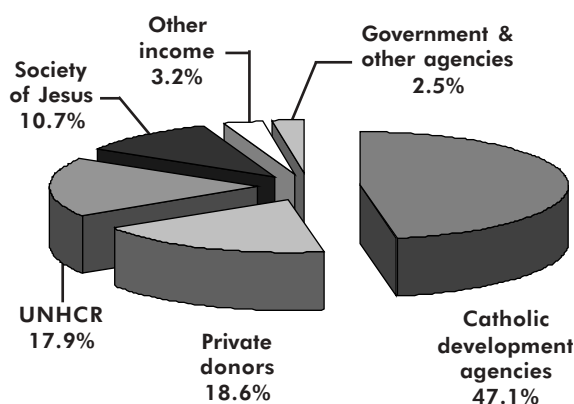
### Sources of funding:

- Information extracted from financial reports (income & expenditure) received from the country and/or regional offices;
- Catholic agencies include donations received from religious congregations and Bishops' conferences;
- In-kind support received from Jesuit provinces includes office space, equipment, personnel, scholarships in Jesuit schools awarded to refugees;
- In-kind support of 1 million US dollars from US donors included in total for Private donors.

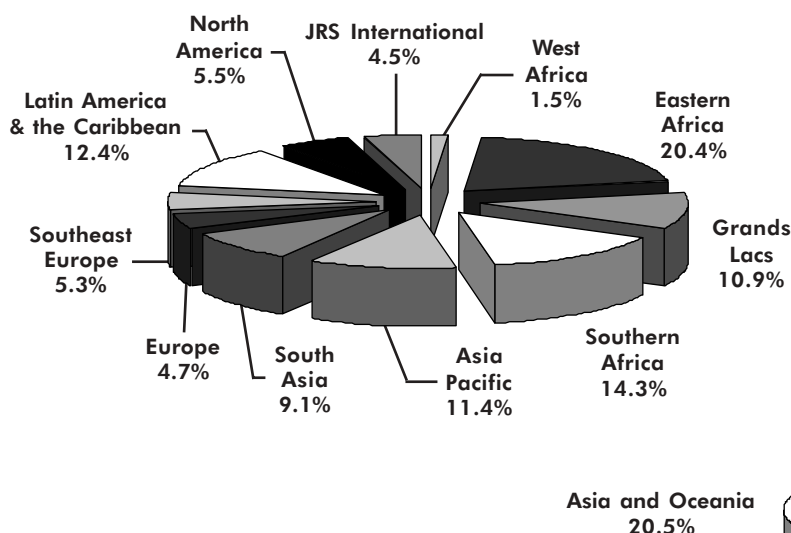
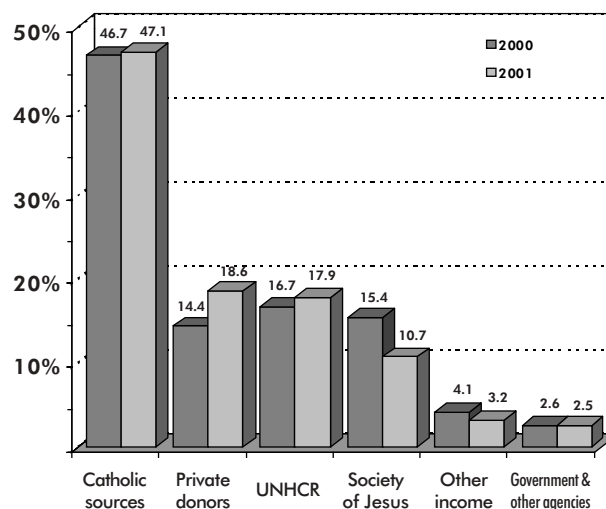
## SOURCES OF FUNDING JRS WORLD-WIDE (in US dollars)

Sources of funding	Amount
Catholic development agencies	6,591,099
Private donors	2,601,855
UNHCR	2,505,798
Society of Jesus	1,492,902
Other income	441,433
Government & other agencies	353,669
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13,986,756</b>

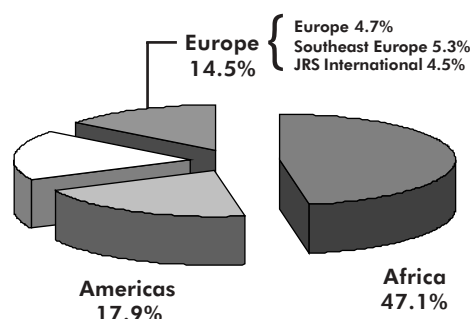
## SOURCES OF FUNDING BY PERCENTAGE



## SOURCES OF FUNDING: COMPARISON 2000-2001



## PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE BY REGION



## PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE BY CONTINENT



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# SUPPORT OUR WORK WITH REFUGEES

Your continued support makes it possible for us to help refugees and asylum seekers in over 50 countries. If you wish to make a donation, please fill in this coupon and forward it to the JRS International office. Thank you. (Please make cheques payable to Jesuit Refugee Service)

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### For bank transfers to JRS

**Bank:** Banca Popolare di Sondrio, Roma (Italy), Ag. 12  
ABI: 05696 – CAB: 03212

**Account name:** JRS

**Account numbers:** • for Euros: 3410/05  
• for US dollars: VAR 3410/05



Amaya Valcárcel/JRS

