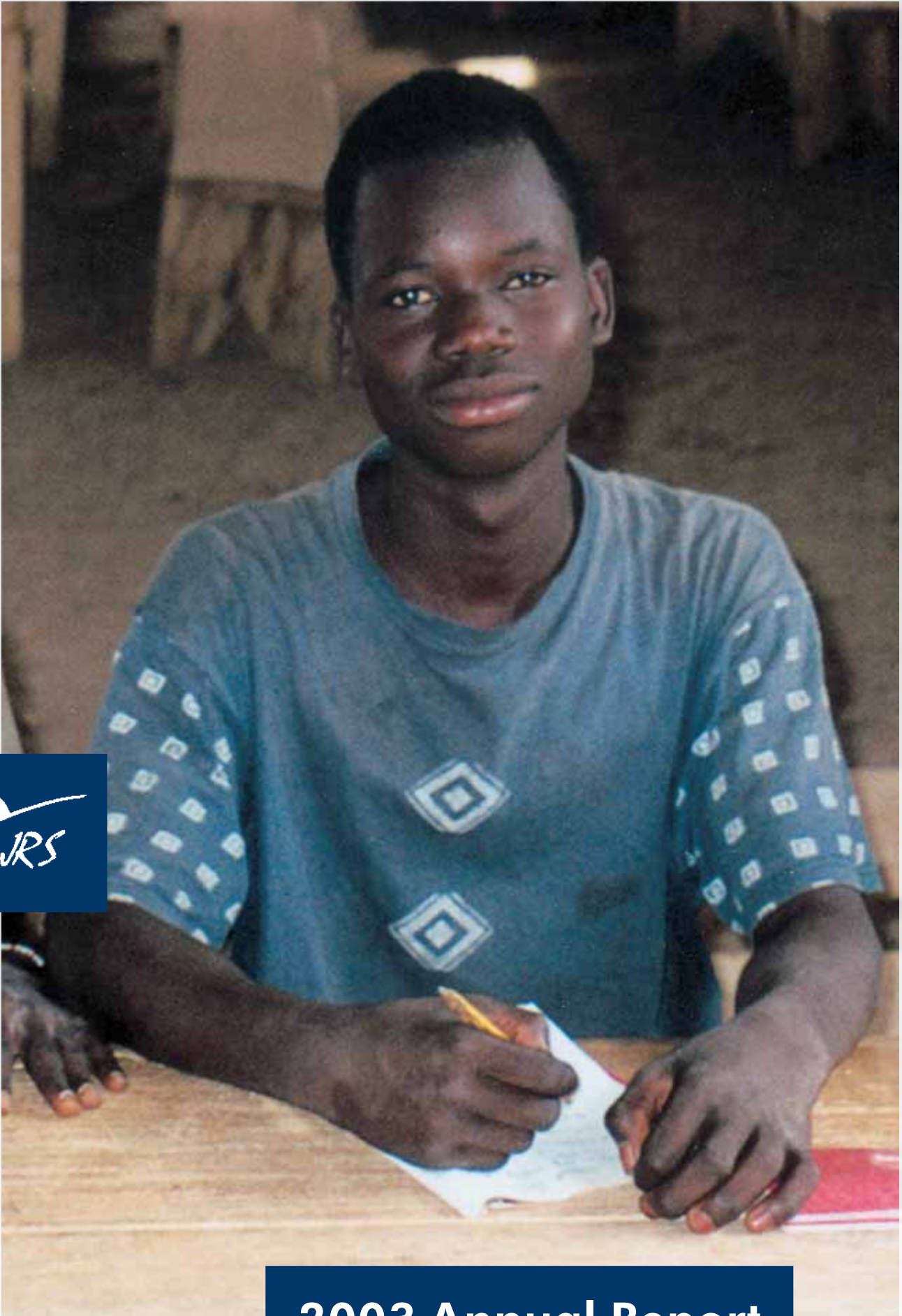


Jesuit Refugee Service



2003 Annual 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 **2003 Report** is published in English, Spanish, Italian and French.

Cover photo:

Lluís Magriñà SJ/JRS

A Liberian refugee student Lainé camp, Guinea

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Regular publications from the JRS International Office

Dispatches, a twice monthly news bulletin from the JRS International Office detailing refugee news briefings and updates on JRS projects and activities, available free-of-charge by email in English, Spanish, French or Italian.

Servir magazine, published three times a year, is a 12-page magazine that examines the issues of concern to the work of JRS, telling the stories of the refugees and displaced people, and the projects that have been established to assist them. Also available in English, Spanish, French and Italian.

To receive *Dispatches* and *Servir*, free of charge, subscribe through the JRS web site
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JRS centre in Lisbon, Portugal



Bruno Rascão



Message from the International Director

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organisation with a mission to accompany, serve and defend the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced people. But what does that mission mean exactly?

For those who work with JRS, it has a clear significance. It means recognising the refugees we work with as individuals and not merely as statistics and numbers, despite the scale of the problem. It means walking side by side with those who have been displaced from their homes because of war and violence, assisting them to rebuild their lives. It means working to find durable and just solutions through a long-term commitment to displaced communities. It is about listening to and being with the refugees and giving them the support they require to overcome the trauma, despair and suffering that conflict has inflicted upon their lives.

We do this through projects in over 50 countries, providing assistance in refugee camps, to people displaced within their own country, to asylum seekers in cities and those held in detention. The main areas of work are in the field of education, advocacy, emergency assistance, health and nutrition, income-generating activities and social services. In total, more than 376,000 individuals were direct beneficiaries of JRS projects during 2003.

JRS is also very much concerned with advocacy and human rights work. This involves ensuring that refugees are afforded their full rights and access to services while in exile and during repatriation as guaranteed by the 1951 Refugee Convention. It also involves campaigns and networks to bring about policy change and to exert international pressure on those who do not live up to their obligations towards refugee protection.

During 2003, a lot of attention was focused on the issue of young refugees, a particularly vulnerable group that faces very specific dangers during times of war and conflict, which is by far the main cause of displacement. Lack of educational opportunities, the risk of sexual exploitation and recruitment into armies, as well as the trauma inflicted upon young minds can leave devastating scars on whole communities, creating immense problems that are difficult to resolve.

JRS continued to work with hundreds of thousands of young refugees throughout the world, assisting them to access their rights, such as education or healthcare during times of displacement, as well as providing them with alternative activities such as skills training and income-generating activities, so that they may be afforded the opportunity of a better future. Peace and reconciliation work with the young is also an important aspect of our work, in an effort to break the cycle of violence that often paralyses communities.

Our achievements are made possible by the efforts of over 500 workers, the majority of whom provide their skills on a voluntary basis, as well as through the collaboration of a large number of refugees recruited to take part in the projects. Vital support is also provided by many friends, supporters, partner agencies and donors. To each and every one of you, who have contributed to make the work and positive results outlined in this report possible, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Lluís Magriñà SJ



JRS and Advocacy

As we continue in our mission to accompany, serve and defend the rights of displaced people, advocacy has become more and more important to JRS. But what exactly does advocacy mean for the organisation? For JRS, advocacy involves all action aimed at:

- promoting the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced persons;
- improving the way in which people treat refugees and forcibly displaced persons;
- promoting governmental and institutional action to address root causes of forced displacement; and
- promoting sustainable solutions.

Why does JRS do advocacy work?

JRS is deeply aware of the fact that advocacy work can result in changes in policies that directly affect the lives of refugees and displaced peoples – dealing with the causes, rather than the symptoms, of the problems faced by these groups of people.

JRS' advocacy work has great potential. It is one of the few humanitarian organisations:

- that has a significant field presence working directly with refugees and displaced people;
- whose credibility has been built on the accurate information collected in the field;
- that is present in centres of power (with representatives in Geneva, Rome, Brussels and Washington);
- whose commitment to advocacy work is a fundamental part of its mandate.

2003 was a key year for the development of advocacy in JRS

2003 has been the year in which JRS has focussed on realising its advocacy potential in order to defend the rights of refugees and displaced peoples. During 2003, JRS appointed an International Advocacy Coordinator in order to assist with the development of JRS' advocacy network; and in November 2003,

a first meeting of JRS' international advocacy network was held, with representatives from all the regions in the world where JRS is present – a major step forward for JRS' advocacy work.

For the first time, JRS people – campaigning on such diverse issues as detention of asylum-seekers and irregular migrants, child soldiers, landmines, conditions in refugee camps, urban refugees, internally-displaced peoples, the voluntary nature and sustainability of repatriations, durable solutions for refugees, and empowering refugees to assert their rights – were able to sit down together, and to draw parallels from their work on these issues – in the African, Asian, Latin American, North American and European contexts. The meeting was an opportunity to share information and experiences about advocacy issues and JRS' methods of dealing with these issues around the world. And a chance to reach agreements about such key issues as how JRS prioritises, plans, coordinates, communicates and evaluates its advocacy work.

To follow up on the advances made at this first meeting of the network, the JRS regions are holding regional advocacy meetings and providing training. JRS Europe, Asia Pacific, Southern Africa, West Africa, Grands Lacs and Eastern Africa all have advocacy meetings or training workshops organised for their staff. In this way, JRS is ensuring that advocacy is prioritised in its work, and that all JRS staff and volunteers around the world understand the role that they can play in challenging the unjust situations that they encounter in the course of their accompaniment and service to refugees and displaced peoples.

As first-hand witnesses to the immense injustices suffered by so many refugees and displaced people around the world, JRS has huge potential to influence the policies that affect the beneficiaries of their projects. But only if its advocacy work is well-coordinated and structured and the capacity of its network is built. 2003 has been a year in which JRS has begun to coordinate and structure its advocacy work in order to unleash that huge potential.

**Melanie Teff, Advocacy
and Policy Co-ordinator**





Hugh Delaney/JRS



Paolo Cereda/JRS

War and Peace

By conservative estimates there are at least 40 million refugees and internally displaced people throughout the world, many living in overcrowded camps, refugee settlements, or simply hidden from view in towns and cities. The vast majority have been displaced from their homes because of conflict and violence, either the deliberate targets of armies and rebel groups, or more often simply caught between warring factions who are oblivious or indifferent to their suffering. Of all the displaced people with whom JRS works throughout the world, the Bhutanese refugees in Nepal are the only group that has been driven from their homes without the presence of open conflict. JRS works in over 50 countries.

Conflict continues to affect millions of civilians every year, destroying houses, whole villages and land for farming. Recent examples from places where JRS has a presence include: Colombia, where over 2 million people are displaced as a result of the long-running civil war there; Sudan, where up to 5 million people are displaced, having fled their own war-torn regions for the relative safety of Khartoum, and other areas; and the Balkans, even though the conflict has officially ended, up to one million people remain displaced, many living in terrible conditions. These are just three examples, which are characteristic of the many conflict zones around the globe.

JRS witnesses at first hand the devastating effects conflict can have on a society. It takes away education and other opportunities: it destroys health infrastructure and productive activities; and it undermines the fabric of communities, sowing the seeds of mistrust and lawlessness. Many JRS projects attempt to assist war-torn communities, working to provide an

education for the young who would otherwise be deprived of such opportunities, including peace education and conflict resolution on the curriculum.

2003 was a year of hope that war would come to an end in many conflict zones. In Africa, peace processes in Sudan, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo have been followed closely by the many millions of refugees from these countries, who long to return home and live in peace (see pp. 11, 18-21). And in Asia, the most obvious example is Sri Lanka where peace efforts are also providing hope to the hundreds of thousands of people who are still displaced by the long-running conflict, despite recent difficulties in the peace negotiations (see p. 52).

One just has to look at the developments during 2003 that took place in Angola to realise that protracted conflicts can come to an end, allowing millions of displaced people to return to their homes. 27 years of terrible war are over and during 2003 the voluntary repatriation programme (see pp. 26-27) began, taking many thousands of people who had been displaced for decades back to their homes. The challenge now facing Angola is one of rebuilding a nation that has been left desolate by so many years of war and destruction.

Once a conflict has come to an end, media attention and international funding often turn elsewhere, leaving the real victims of war with no support to rebuild their lives. A nation returning to peace needs the continued assistance of the international community to rebuild its infrastructure and promote political stability, reconciliation and respect for human rights, thus ensuring that the primary causes of conflict and displacement are removed from these societies.

Those who have worked with refugees are in the best position to know that when people have been stripped of all their material supports there only remain to sustain them the values of their cultural and spiritual inheritance.

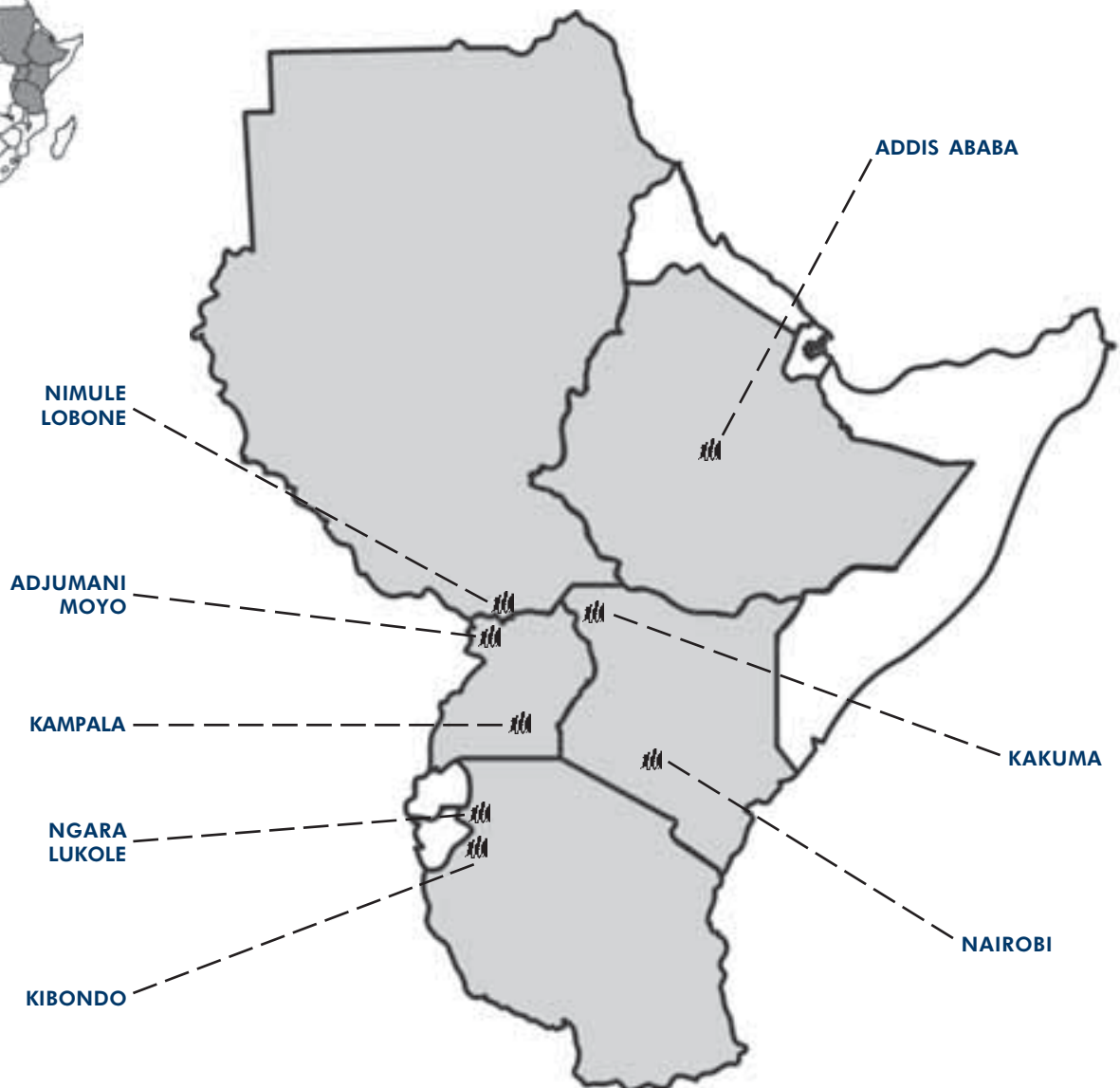
It occurred to me that the Burmese expression for refugee is *dukkha* – the ‘one who has to bear suffering’. In that sense, none of us can avoid knowing what it is to be a refugee. The refuge we all seek is protection from forces which wrench us away from the security and comfort, physical and mental, which give dignity and meaning to human existence.

Aung San Suu Kyi, *Towards a True Refuge* (1993)



JRS Eastern Africa

EASTERN AFRICA



Peace education participants, Nimule, south Sudan



JRS in Eastern Africa ended 2003 with great hopes of peace for the people of Burundi, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia. There were over five million people displaced in the Region in 2003. Over one million come from the Great Lakes region, many of whom have been living in camps for the past 10 years. They yearn to go home and live in peace.

The largest rebel group in Burundi, FDD, joined the transitional government in late 2003. Although, the FNL, a smaller rebel group has yet to join the peace process, there is a great deal of hope that this peace process is irreversible in Burundi.

Significant progress was achieved in the DR Congo in 2003; however, many refugees continue to adopt a wait and see approach until law and order has truly been established in the country.

The Somali peace talks – in Nairobi and Eldoret, Kenya – made substantial progress in bringing the different factions together. Nevertheless, it will be 2004 before we are able to say with any certainty whether or not the political negotiations will bring true peace and security on the ground.

People hoped for a signed peace agreement from the Sudan talks in December 2003. However, a number of hitches delayed this agreement. But real progress has been made. It is hoped that 2004 will deliver a permanent peace in a country that has suffered the tragedy of over 2 million deaths and the trauma of years of war.

JRS looks forward to the delivery of a permanent peace for all. The main casualties of these conflicts have been ordinary civilians. This fact is still shocking in northern Uganda, where, as for the past 15 years the abduction of children and their induction into war is again the pattern of 2003. We end 2003 with great hopes for peace in many countries in our Region and also with a deep desire that the tragedy of war in northern Uganda can be ended through dialogue and not through the barrel of a gun.

John Guiney SJ, JRS Eastern Africa Director

KENYA



JRS Kenya Director
Jane Munge

Kenya continued to host thousands of refugees from the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa. They are located in refugee camps Kakuma (88,632) and Dadaab (133,428) with a further 100,000 in Nairobi. So far the biggest achievement of the new government is the provision of a free primary education programme, which has benefited nationals and some refugees. Campaigns against HIV/AIDS and the provision of affordable healthcare to address the plight of the under-privileged continued. Positive references to improving the situation of refugees were made, with the government intending to assume greater responsibility for their protection. Significant progress was made with the draft Refugee Bill currently under discussion in parliament, which, if passed into law, will provide a legal framework for the assistance and protection of refugees. Inadequate provision of basic needs and the failure of the Kenyan refugee programme to meet minimum standards have become the norm. Tension and insecurity gave rise to conflict between the local population and the refugees in the camp.



NAIROBI The project aims to restore the refugees' sense of well being and dignity by providing support that reduces suffering, encourages hope and empowers them in their lives. This is done by providing material and financial assistance for basic needs of food, clothing and shelter; medical and maternity care; food supplements for children under 7 and adults with HIV/AIDS. Pastoral care and counselling are offered to respond to psychosocial and spiritual needs; issues of advocacy and peace building are addressed. The programme is implemented in several parishes in close collaboration with parish priests and social workers. Overall, nearly 2,500 individuals benefited from the project in 2003.

parish outreach

NAIROBI The JRS scholarship programme is currently assisting 8 university students and 20 higher vocational students, alongside 2 secondary school and 2 primary school students by paying their study fees and expenses, and through monitoring their progress and offering advice and workshops. 3 students in the higher vocational programme completed their studies in December.

education

KAKUMA camp JRS provides financial assistance to refugees to attend Kenyan schools. In 2003, 17 girls were enrolled in boarding schools, 28 new students were enrolled in secondary schools outside the camp, and continued financial support was provided for 85 students.

NAIROBI The income-generating project focuses mostly on urban refugees, in particular women with children, vulnerable people and those with skills or experience in handicrafts. The project offers the refugees some opportunities of growing in confidence, personal development, financial management and creativity. It has been a stronghold for upgrading the refugees' skills, offering opportunities for financial assistance (loans) to begin small businesses and assisting with their economic well-being and self-reliance. The products are then sold at the Mikono sales outlet.

income-generating

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 45 individuals given loans to begin income-generating activities
- 75 former beneficiaries were visited to monitor the progress of their projects
- 4 seminars on bookkeeping and project management held with 125 participants

KAKUMA JRS Social Services, through its counselling and capacity building projects, focuses on serving the most vulnerable, which include single teenage mothers, refugees with mental illnesses and learning disabilities, survivors of gender-based violence, and those with psychological problems.

social services

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 45 refugee counsellors provided counselling to an average of 831 clients a month
- 135 young clients provided with various rehabilitation activities in day care centres
- 38 women, who survived sexual and gender based violence, accompanied by 55 children, were provided with protection, shelter, and counselling at the Safe Haven
- 2 advocacy training courses given to 54 JRS Social Service staff



JRS Uganda Director
Aden Raj



UGANDA

The economic and social environment continues to show steady improvement in the south, though an increasing number of people are being displaced due to conflict or drought in the north. The rebel LRA continues to commit atrocities against civilians in the north, where an estimated one million persons have been displaced. Most of them are living in overcrowded camps or public buildings in appalling health and sanitary conditions. The provision of health and education services is minimal, as a high number of trained health workers and teachers have fled the conflict areas due to fear of insecurity. Out of the total refugee population of over 200,000 in Uganda (mainly Sudanese), about 150,000 live in northern districts where they are settled on land which they are allowed to farm. However, security in and around refugee settlements continues to be a source of concern. The Sudanese refugees' hopes for repatriation and resettlement are pinned on the on-going Naivasha peace talks.

education **ADJUMANI, MOYO** The JRS mission, established in Adjumani in 1993, was extended to Moyo in 1999. The major support given to the refugees are educational and pastoral services. As an Implementing Partner to UNHCR, JRS also collaborates with other NGOs to ensure that the best possible services are provided. Formal educational assistance is provided at nursery, primary, secondary and tertiary level, including Peace and HIV/AIDS education initiatives.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- assistance provided to 61 nursery, 46 primary and 4 secondary schools
- tertiary training programme caters for 158 full and part-time student teachers
- over 35,000 students assisted with the support of 748 teachers and 413 support staff

advocacy **ADJUMANI, MOYO** The promotion of gender equality was a priority for JRS Adjumani/Moyo during 2003. The Advocacy Plan for 2003, which identified and elaborated an Affirmative Action Project (AAP) for Girl-Child Education was initiated at the JRS Country meeting in October 2002 to address the issue of gender imbalance, improve the retention level, academic performance and health of the female secondary students.

urban project **KAMPALA** There are numerous reasons for people seeking to settle in an urban area. As with most refugees, those arriving in Kampala are often disoriented, unsure of how to proceed. Some are afraid to reveal their presence to authorities for fear of reprisal. Almost all are destitute. The assistance offered by the JRS office targets vulnerable asylum seekers without community support, with meagre personal resources, women who have been abused, unaccompanied women with children, large families, and the elderly, infirm and disabled.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- food assistance provided to 336 families of asylum seekers every month
- rent paid for 540 families with many dependants and those sleeping out
- medical care to 40 cases, mainly children and women
- medicine purchased for 125 people, basic legal aid and counselling to 435 cases
- regular home visits conducted for 267 families living in poor conditions

pastoral/peace **ADJUMANI, MOYO** The outreach by the Pastoral Team to the 37 settlements in Adjumani and the 14 in Moyo is an ambitious project. It helps support the activities of the local Mission Church by celebrating the sacraments, conducting prayer services, co-ordinating groups for youth and women, supporting income-generating activities, organizing meetings and assisting with the training of catechists and lay leaders. The Peace Education Programme is having a profound impact at both the community level and in the primary and secondary schools where it operates mostly as a co-curricular activity.

SUDAN



With a peace dividend in Sudan looking more likely – as progress is made in the peace talks on power sharing, wealth sharing, aspects of administration and the status of some disputed areas – the country, especially south Sudan, faces a gigantic task of social and economic reconstruction and rehabilitation. Over 2 million have died in South Sudan and another four million have been displaced in camps in and around Khartoum and South Sudan as a result of the long-running conflict. An estimated 350,000 refugees are in neighbouring countries.

The war in Sudan has not only caused agony, suffering and displacement of the civilian population but it has destroyed economic and social infrastructure including education facilities. The state of the country presents a major challenge to all the people of Sudan, as well as the humanitarian agencies, to help the administration to formulate well-thought out and focused policies that will, first and foremost, help the people recover their dignity, pride and self worth.



There are more than 25,000 Sudanese directly benefiting from our nursery, primary, secondary and adult literacy programmes in south Sudan. Through education, we need to nurture and empower the human potential that could provide impetus for growth and change.

education/pastoral

NIMULE Nimule, a camp for displaced Sudanese, is located at the southern extreme of Sudan on the border with northern Uganda. Although the population of the area is mainly comprised of IDPs, recently the indigenous population has started to return. A majority of the inhabitants here rely on food distribution from Catholic Relief Services. Due to the limited economic activity in the area, a good portion of the population must cross the border to Uganda to acquire some commercial necessities. The JRS Nimule Programme, established in 1997, aims to support education for the IDPs and the Torit Catholic Diocese pastoral programme. JRS support to the schools includes supplying textbooks and stationery, teacher training, incentives for the teachers, and support for maintenance and construction of school buildings. The support to the parish includes financial and technical support for the many pastoral activities.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- scholastic materials provided for 5,735 pupils in 14 primary schools
- 838 secondary school students assisted
- 688 people enrolled for adult literacy classes and 77 for skills training
- monthly incentives paid for 120 primary and 24 secondary school teachers
- workshops conducted for teachers, including head teachers
- scholastic materials provided for 688 learners in the 12 adult literacy centres

LOBONE In Lobone, economic activity is minimal and inadequate to enable people to manage their own lives, much less to manage their schools without external support. For the last three years, the community in Lobone has embraced, and where possible supported, the education initiatives provided with the assistance of JRS. As the adult population of Lobone is mainly illiterate, their contribution to their children's education is limited, particularly in terms of the motivation and encouragement the parents provide them to attend school. JRS also assists with the pastoral activities among the people living in Lobone through support for Lobone Catholic Parish.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- assistance to 2,800 primary students in the five primary schools with 80 teachers
- office supplies, textbooks and other classroom materials distributed to all the schools
- all schools rehabilitated under the CRS initiated 'Food for Work' programme
- the school-feeding programme continued throughout this year
- 2,500 pupils in 10 Nursery schools assisted with 44 teachers
- two permanent blocks of eight classrooms and two offices built for the secondary school
- teacher training activities for 131 teachers and 20 adult literacy tutors
- 8 centres for adult learners operational with 142 learner and 20 instructors
- community resource centre/library constructed and opened



JRS Tanzania Director
Romy Cagatin SVD

TANZANIA

Tanzania enjoys a democratic and peaceful political environment. It is host to about half a million people fleeing conflicts from the Great Lakes Region. Approximately 350,000 of these come from Burundi. In the early months of 2003, major change in the political situation in Burundi began. In line with the Arusha Peace Accords, a peaceful transfer of Presidential power took place in May and cease-fires and peace negotiations have continued throughout the year.

With renewed hope of peace, 43,409 Burundian refugees in the District of Kibondo have registered for voluntary repatriation, of which 19,107 have already left. Significant numbers of the returnees also came from the refugee camps in the districts of Kigoma, Kasulu and Ngara. Nonetheless, in spite of the positive development in Burundi, among many there is still a wait and see attitude as to whether the new government can implement the Arusha Peace Accords, put an end to the ongoing violence and eventually establish a lasting peace.

Radio Kwizera **NGARA, KIBONDO** Radio Kwizera started broadcasting in August 1995, as more than half a million Rwandan refugees were hosted in Western Tanzania, in the Karagwe and the Ngara Districts. From the beginning of 1997 onwards, Radio Kwizera addressed the Burundian refugee population in Kirundi and in French, as well as to the local Tanzanian population in Kiswahili and English. Currently, Radio Kwizera broadcasts 14 hours a day, seven days a week. It is a community station, offering accurate information to the refugees regarding the current situation in both Tanzania and Burundi. Programmes cover topics such as the cease-fire, peace & reconciliation, cultural and women's issues, children's programmes, entertainment etc.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- new programmes have been introduced including radio drama, discussion and features
- training in mixing & editing, as well as management and journalism carried out
- co-operation with other media organisations developed
- freeplaying radios were distributed for use in primary schools in the Kibondo district

pre-school education **LUKOLE camp, Ngara** There were 94,000 refugees, mostly Burundians, in the Lukole camps in the Ngara District, Western Tanzania at the end of 2003. During the January – September period, 16,340 refugees from the Lukole camps were repatriated to Burundi (i.e., 44,370 since the beginning of the voluntary repatriation). The JRS pre-school education project started in the Lukole Camps in 1998 when Parents expressed a need to educate the six-year-old children within the camp. JRS responded by setting up a project that could train teachers, as well as construct five pre-schools. In 2003, JRS fulfilled its initial mandate, as five schools were built, a core group of teachers were trained in pre-school methods and management, and a curriculum for six year old children was developed and implemented in a manner which is sensitive to the conditions in a refugee camp.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- two special education units introduced to cater for children with disabilities
- new classrooms constructed in four of the pre-schools
- new school and two new libraries built and opened in September-October 2003
- 30 teachers and 33 special educators selected and trained
- porridge distributed to the pupils once a week and biscuits twice a week

socio-pastoral **NGARA, KIBONDO** JRS offers pastoral care to the refugees in Kibondo district, working with the young in particular, raising awareness of the dangers of HIV through cultural activities and talks. Peace education and conflict resolution are also promoted, the Christian communities are supported spiritually, as well as training given in counselling and in leadership for the young.

ETHIOPIA



JRS Ethiopia Director
Stephen Power SJ

The overall response to the 2003 Drought Appeal was very good: nearly 100% of principal food requirements were met. Problems, particularly in certain regions if the rainfall remains poor, may occur in 2004-05. The struggle to prevent further chronic food insecurity will take a number of years yet.

During 2003, over 360,000 people displaced by the military confrontation due to a border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea in May 1998, were unable to return to their countries and regions of origin. Precarious conditions in return areas – such as limited access to land, the presence of land mines, army personnel and insecurity – prevented many from resuming their farming activities. Amidst mines, drought and pending border demarcation, over 300,000 war-affected displaced in the North were assisted to re-build their livelihoods in 2003.

In other regions of Ethiopia, violent conflicts over scarce resources and power-struggles have also displaced tens of thousands of people.



ADDIS ABABA JRS is completing work to help rehabilitate 273 families from Kaliti Camp, providing them with practical skills and assistance. There remain about 3,500 families (displaced from 1991) who need the rehabilitation assistance. This is under the control of the government, which lacks the funding to complete this work. JRS expects to assist a further 300 families in 2004.

rehabilitation

ADDIS ABABA The JRS Refugee Community Centre provides education, recreation, counselling, income generation, childcare and related services to make refugees' lives more promising and stable. The centre has 15 staff members. The compound contains staff offices, classrooms, a library, a children's playground, a cafeteria, basketball and the volleyball pitches, a shower room and space for playing tennis and dominoes.

community centre

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 247 beneficiaries have received counselling and information services
- 63 people were visited to monitor their living conditions, and to assess the needs of those who were sick, had sick children, or who had recently given birth
- workshops on family planning and HIV/AIDS counselling were conducted
- medical referral slips were provided for 28 individuals
- emergency assistance was provided to 62 people
- day-care was provided for 75 children during the summer vacation and is provided for 64 children on a regular basis
- language and computer classes provided to over 200 people
- 13 women and 12 men attended the Basic Business Skills Training

ADDIS ABABA This project was launched with the aim of providing emergency assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees, who fled their countries because of politics, civil war, persecution and violence. Our objective is to assist asylum-seekers and urban refugees through counselling and, where required, extending financial, medical and educational assistance; to provide timely assistance and to take appropriate action, such as medical referrals, the provision of school fees and pastoral care. We provide assistance for those asylum-seekers/refugees who are entangled in desperate situations without having any subsistence for survival.

parish outreach

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 608 refugees received assistance to travel to a refugee camp
- 456 refugees received financial assistance for subsistence
- 152 refugees received material assistance such as food items and non-food items
- 35 internally displaced people received subsistence assistance
- 22 refugees enrolled in the formal education sector and 6 attended English classes
- 1,656 refugees were referred to a local clinic



The Mikono
craft shop,
Nairobi, Kenya

Income-generating
activity, Ethiopia



TALKING TO ANYONE WHO WILL LISTEN (Tanzania)

Michelle fled from Burundi after spending over two years in the forest, seeking shelter from the fierce fighting around her and hoping that one day it would stop. Michelle said she left her home with the rest of her family when she heard gunfire close by; they escaped as soldiers pursued them.

In the forest, they lived in hiding, unable to cook, lest the smoke betrayed their location, and unable to move except at night, when they would search for edible leaves. Michelle lost two of her five children during those years in the forest. Her eldest daughter was shot dead, as she bathed her own child in the river. She was 20 years old.

The child survived and is cared for by Michelle as her own. Michelle lost her own baby: she was shot while sleeping on Michelle's back by a bullet which grazed her mother's cheek. Many of the people living alongside Michelle in the forest also died: some of starvation, others when they stepped on landmines buried around the area to keep the people hostage.

As it became more and more clear that peace was not forthcoming in Burundi, Michelle decided to go to neighbouring Tanzania. Today, she has found refuge in a camp in western Tanzania, and apparent peace. But she is not without sorrow and remorse. At times, she is stricken with guilt that she survived when those around her did not.

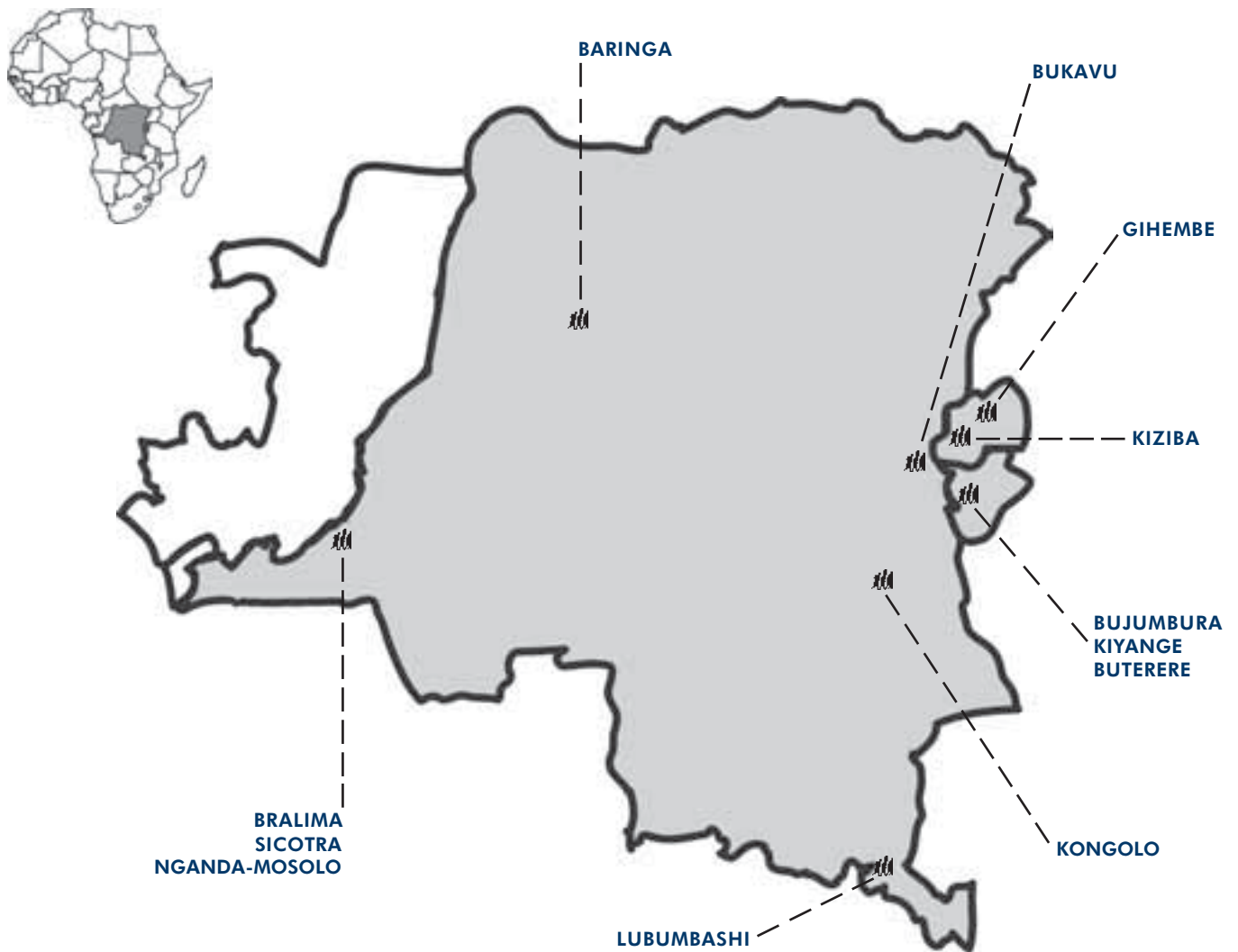
When I met Michelle, I soon realised she loves to talk, but it seemed to me as though she did not have anyone to talk to, to express her innermost feelings and fears. All those with her are equally tired; they do not have the energy to listen to her. Yet she needs to share her thoughts so much. When talking to me, telling me her story, it was as though she could not stop.

Sarah Njeri, formerly of JRS Eastern Africa

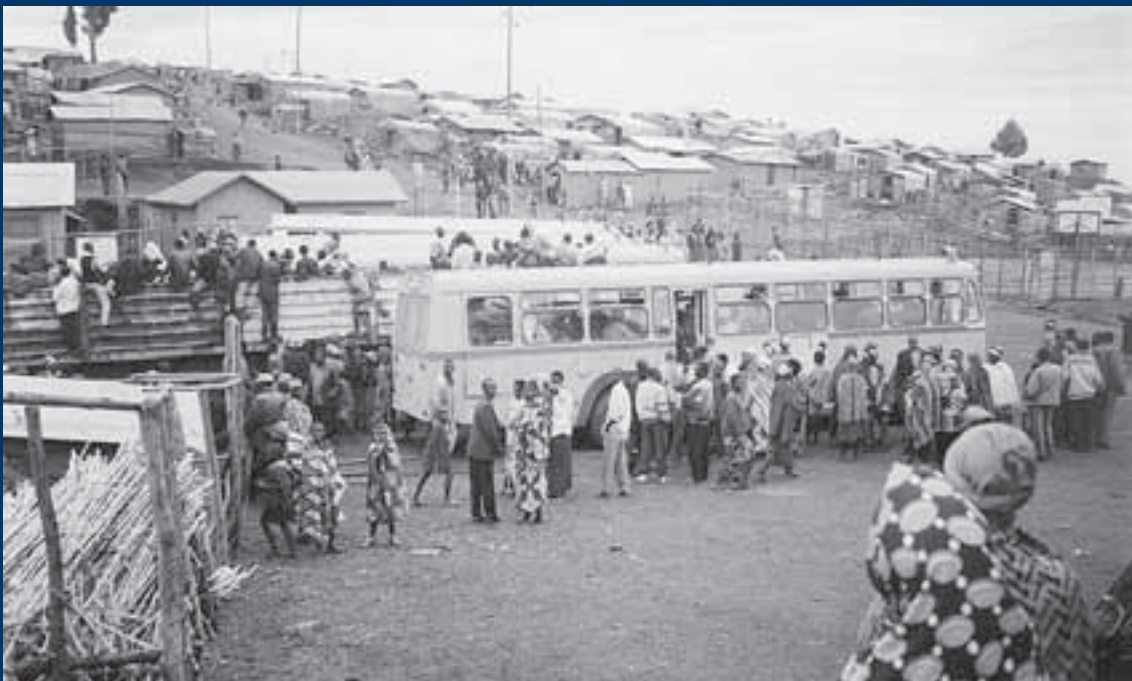
JRS Compound,
Kajokeji,
south Sudan



GRANDS LACS



Gihembe Camp, Rwanda



With one obstacle after another, the road towards peace is a difficult one. Despite the remarkable steps taken in the region during 2003, the tragic killing of Monsignor Michael Courtney, Papal Nuncio in Burundi, is a reminder of the difficulty of the task.

Is the Great Lakes region condemned to continued war and misery? Our experience gives us reason for hope, as a lot has been achieved this year. In Burundi and the DRC, the noise of arms has quietened down. Even though the level of violence is far from acceptable, a ray of hope has emerged during the year.

October 2003 may remain as an important date in the history of Burundi, the month in which the Hutu armed group CNDD-FDD and the Government signed a power-sharing agreement. Clashes have come to an end in most of the country and the idea of power-sharing is becoming a reality, with Pierre Nkurunziza, leader of CNDD-FDD, becoming Minister for Good Governance. However, the second largest Hutu armed group, FNL, remains active. Looting and violence against civilians continued in 2003, though after ten years of war and more than 350,000 killings, Burundi is on the path to peace.

The peace process in the DRC is as immense and complex as the country itself. The process is often uncertain, going backwards and forwards, and the curves in the road have been numerous. Implementing what was agreed at Sun City and Pretoria has not been an easy task in a country where armed groups are counted by the dozen. If acts of cannibalism have disappeared, massacres, the use of child soldiers, large-scale human rights violations, and looting have continued in Ituri, Katanga, Equateur and the Kivu provinces.

The situation, though, improves little by little: demobilisation is taking place in a slow but effective manner, such as in South Kivu, where contacts between Mai-Mai soldiers and RDC Goma troops have taken place. Progressive and persistent support from the international community will be needed if genuine peace is to take hold.

In Rwanda, economic growth and social stability have both been present in 2003, though calm is not always proof of harmony. Parliamentary and presidential elections, held in August and September, were not exactly a model for any aspiring democracy. 95 per cent of the vote went to President Kagame, raising a few eyebrows, though the reaction of the international community was one of passive acceptance.

Advocacy was at the centre of JRS activities in the region during 2003. Several training sessions and seminars on advocacy were conducted to ensure that all projects were familiar with the main objectives and modes of working in this area, with over 100 personnel taking part. Drawing attention to and criticising human rights abuses, participation in campaigns, in particular the campaign to stop the use of child soldiers, as well as supporting local human rights organisations, have all been important activities for JRS in 2003.

Joaquín Ciervide SJ, JRS Grands Lacs Director

RWANDA

The situation in Gihembe and Kiziba refugee camps remained stable in 2003, in contrast to the previous year, during which a massive forced repatriation of Congolese refugees was unilaterally initiated by the Rwandan government. Despite the peace dividends brought about by the peace process in the DRC, the situation in the Kivu provinces remained highly unstable throughout 2003, impeding the return in safety and dignity of the Congolese refugees.

An estimated 4.1 million Rwandans voted to elect their President in the first multi-party elections held in the country since 1962. However, Paul Kagame's victory in the presidential poll, with over 95 percent of the ballot, raised many questions as to how fair and free the electoral process had been. The leader of the opposition party, Faustin Twagiramungu, filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking to nullify the poll, claiming that the official result did not reflect the true will of the people. The petition was dismissed.



JRS Rwanda Director
Abbé Désiré Seruhungu



JRS is the UNHCR implementing partner for education in both Kiziba and Gihembe camps.

education

KIZIBA camp

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 3,890 primary students and 754 secondary students enrolled
- 649 pre-school students enrolled, 283 enrolled in adult literacy classes
- 21 classrooms renovated and 2 new classrooms built
- uniforms and school materials distributed and teacher training conducted

GIHEMBE camp The school population grew during the year, as did the number of beneficiaries of other JRS projects in the camp.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 3,163 primary, 755 secondary and 702 pre-school students enrolled
- 405 people enrolled in adult literacy classes
- school material distribution, teacher training and classroom repairs were undertaken
- 161 secondary students sponsored to attend school outside the camp

GIHEMBE A small co-operative of 40 refugees involved in sewing, carpentry and embroidery. 317 beneficiaries were trained throughout the year in carpentry, bakery, sewing, building and design.

income-generating/ skills training

KIZIBA The objective of skills training is to promote self-sufficiency for the refugees.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 170 people undertook courses in shoemaking, carpentry, sewing/needlework, and cooking

KIZIBA, GIHEMBE The programme provides medical, food and other assistance to vulnerable people including the elderly, sick, disabled and orphans.

assistance to the vulnerable

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 2,397 people were assisted in Kiziba and 1,434 in Gihembe

KIZIBA, GIHEMBE JRS continued to provide pastoral care to Christian communities in both camps.

pastoral

KIZIBA, GIHEMBE JRS developed theatre, music, sporting and cinema activities for the youth in the camps.

cultural animation



BURUNDI

The Killing of the Papal Nuncio, Monsignor Michael Courtney, in December 2003 was a major setback for all those who work for peace in Burundi. However, the signature of a power sharing protocol between the largest Hutu armed group, CNDD-FDD, and the government was undoubtedly a most important step towards ending the conflict in Burundi. The protocol signed in October in Pretoria included a deal on the future composition of the new army and police force and also recognised the CNDD-FDD as a political party, allowing for its inclusion in the new transitional government. Following the agreement, the Hutu FNL remains the only armed group which has still not signed up to the Arusha peace process. Despite the agreement, 2003 was a year when large scale looting, violence against civilians, ambushes, theft of cattle, assassinations, banditry, and clashes between armed groups took place on a daily basis in several regions. As of June 2003, 281,000 Burundians were registered as displaced in 226 sites and the number of Burundian refugees in Tanzania is estimated at more than 300,000.

JRS Burundi Director
Vincent de Marcillac SJ



income-generating

KIYANGE The projects in Kiyange were established to assist those who have been displaced and threatened by the war. The focus, rather than simply helping the local people, is more on creating the conditions and culture that allows the displaced to earn their own living, though this is a process that is on-going. The strategy involves the use of income-generating activities (IGA), co-operatives and skills training.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- six new apprentices taken into training in the leather-workshop and new machines purchased
- new equipment was supplied to the bakery
- 270 chickens purchased for farm and a new outdoor coup was built for the animals
- training for young people in carpentry aided by purchase of new equipment

BUTERERE The living conditions are poor in Buterere, accentuated in 2003 by armed conflict in the area. JRS provides support through income-generating activities in the form of a restaurant, land cultivation, trade, basket weaving, soap making, sewing and skills training.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 125 families were provided with small amounts of land for cultivation
- 22 women involved in selling rice that they have cultivated
- 11 young women employed by a soap factory and 35 women by a leather-workshop
- 8 women employed in the restaurant and 12 young women trained in sewing
- many of the items produced are then sold at an outlet in the centre of the town

JRS Grands Lacs

JRS Workshop in Bujumbura, Burundi





Income-generating activity, Buterere, Burundi

BUTERERE In transporting the sick to hospital, distributing food to the malnourished and providing medicines, this project saves lives and accompanies the most vulnerable.

assistance to the most vulnerable

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- twice monthly food distribution to over 300 people, mainly the old, sick, orphans and malnourished
- rent assistance provided to 23 vulnerable people
- 10 houses were rebuilt, and 75 pupils were trained in the process
- school fees paid for 17 primary, 34 secondary and 2 university level students

BUTERERE 116 primary students were enrolled in a school programme, which also involved extra-curricular activities in the afternoon, such as vegetable cultivation and provision of skills. Other cultural activities with an education component continued throughout 2003, including theatre, dance and debating. Thanks to a partnership with UNICEF JRS assisted the education of 200 girls in the public schools in the north of Buterere. The partnership also involves the creation of “protection committees” composed of young elected members, with the role of addressing issues of violence, exploitation, discrimination, abuse and neglect of the children in the site.

education/advocacy

KIYANGE The support given to orphans, the activities of the primary school, catechism and the library facilities continued throughout 2003 without any great changes. A partnership agreement with UNICEF allowed JRS to assist the education of 247 students in the public schools around Kiyange. Cultural activities with an education component also continued and were strengthened during 2003 through an agreement with UNICEF which created a committee to protect the young, and raise awareness of the risks they face in both Kiyange and Buterere.

BUJUMBURA JRS works with prisoners held in Mpimba prison in Bujumbura and Rumonge, about 90km from the capital, accompanying them and offering them assistance.

prisoners

KIYANGE In 2003, there was an increase in the numbers visiting the health centre during the period when the attacks were taking place in neighbouring areas.

health



JRS DR Congo Director
Victor Wilondja



DR CONGO

Looking back over the year just passed, 2003 was a year of hope for the future of the Democratic Republic of Congo. In April, the government and rebel groups came to an agreement that established a transitional Constitution, which is set to be the basis of governance in this vast country over the next two years. Despite these remarkable and hopeful achievements, conflict, large-scale massacres and violence against civilians have all continued in a country almost five times the size of France. Ituri and Kivu provinces were the worst affected areas. As a result of five years of war, the DRC has been devastated and its people reduced to extreme poverty. The conflict has resulted in the death of over two million people and has led to a massive displacement of the population with millions of people forced to flee their homes to seek refuge either inside the DRC or in neighbouring countries. JRS has been working in the DRC since 1998 with a presence in five locations, mainly assisting the local population through health and education projects.

health **BARINGA** In November 2002, JRS initiated a health project in Baringa in the north of the country. It involves refurbishing the local hospital, recruiting local staff, providing medical training, conducting a vaccination programme, and re-establishing a number of health clinics. During 2003, it was expanded to deal with health and nutritional education, and the arrival of a JRS surgeon allowed for more varied and sophisticated operations and treatment to take place.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- over 50,000 medical consultations and examinations conducted
- a number of new buildings, including emergency unit, laboratory, waiting room and toilets constructed
- a new health project in Bokoli rebuilt a number of buildings and provided medicines and two nurses who, since September 2003, have seen over 2,200 patients
- 980 children examined and 174 treated for severe malnutrition
- 78 people were given health training

LUBUMBASHI The project focuses on the most vulnerable: the sick, malnourished children, elderly, pregnant women and orphans. The health clinic has been operational for over a year, and the presence of a full time nurse, as well as agreements with a mid-wife and a test analysis centre, have all allowed for a greater number of people to be assisted. Those who have more serious conditions are transferred to hospital.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- over 10,000 people assisted with consultations, tests, and medical care
- 339 young children regularly received a nutritious drink

BRALIMA, Kinshasa This site houses 961 individuals. JRS provided health and hygiene education, nutrition support and medical care. A total of 3,881 consultations were provided during the year.

SICOTRA, NGANDA-MOSOLO The departure of other humanitarian organisations from Sicotra, which houses 1,871 people in very poor living conditions, has created a health need, which JRS has attempted to meet. The most vulnerable are the young under the age of 5. JRS administered a vaccination programme for the children and organises medical care for the site three times a week. In Nganda-Mosolo, a similar programme is also underway since October 2003.

education **LUBUMBASHI** The project provides education from pre-school to secondary level, with students grouped together in five primary and five secondary schools. The new school year began with 197 pre-school, 491 primary, and 147 secondary level students.



Teacher training in Bukavu, DRC

KONGOLO This is a new JRS project, initiated in September 2003, in an area north of Katanga, which was extremely isolated and badly affected by the war. The project assists primary education, which has suffered a lot, repairing doors and windows, constructing school benches, buying books and other materials, providing incentives to teachers, evaluating the childrens' academic and other needs, conducting teacher training sessions and regularly visiting the primary schools.

SICOTRA Classes offered in languages, secretarial skills, information technology, sewing and knitting. There is also a library open on a daily basis and JRS has enrolled 37 children at school.

BUKAVU It was a difficult year in South Kivu, and Bukavu itself was attacked in April, though the second half of 2003 was more peaceful. Despite the troubles, the displaced families here continue to express their wish to return home. The JRS project assisted 1,800 displaced children to attend school, mainly through the payment of fees and other expenses. During the year, 9 new classrooms and 1 library were built, ten reading rooms were equipped with furniture and 100 new desks were provided for the schools. In addition, several teaching seminars and training workshops were conducted.

NGANDA-MOSOLO The camp houses 1,404 individuals. JRS assists in pre-school and primary education for 223 children, including a school feeding programme twice a week and regular teacher training sessions.

BRALIMA Schooling provided to 22 pre-school students five days a week with two teachers.

LUBUMBASHI The economic situation has deteriorated over the last year in Lubumbashi where JRS assists 310 families through income-generating activities, such as micro credit schemes, land cultivation, market gardening, bread baking and clothes making.

self sufficiency

SICOTRA, BRALIMA, NGANDA-MOSOLO In Sicotra JRS organised agricultural activities, where people grew their own food. Other activities included a bakery, soap making, handbag production and small initiatives in the area of sales. In Bramila skills, such as sewing and knitting, were provided with income-generating activities, such as farming, a restaurant and sales. The main activity undertaken at Nganda-Mosolo is animal breeding.



DESTITUTE BUT IN PEACE (Burundi)

It was 15 August 1998 when I saw a group of soldiers coming towards our home. I knew this would not be the only visit. I left immediately, carrying my two-year-old baby on my back. I took nothing else with me, no clothes, no shoes, nothing. After walking for some time, I arrived at the outskirts of a town called Gasamanzuki where I met so many people in distress.

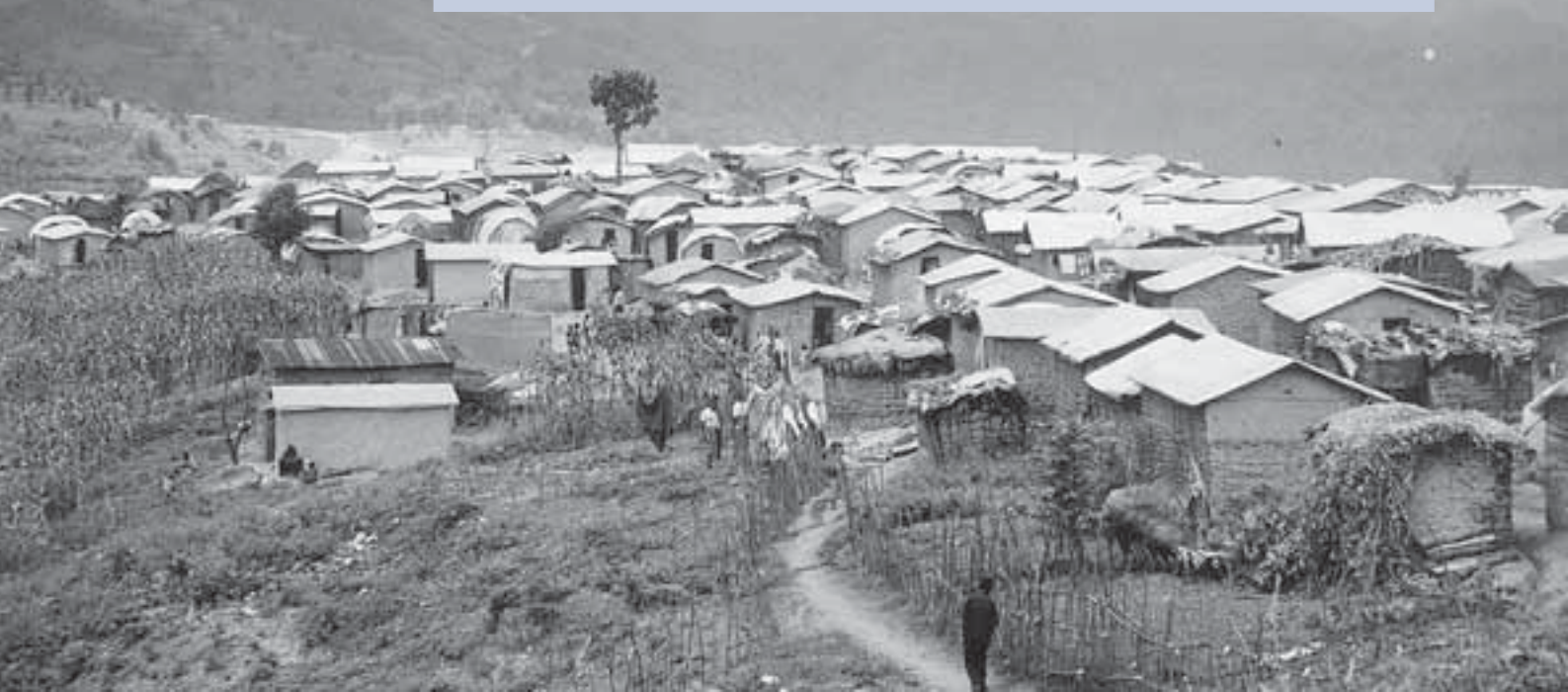
We stayed there without aid of any sort. We could not sleep, our children were crying because of hunger, cold and rain. People died, especially children and pregnant women during delivery as there was no one to assist them. Getting food was too difficult for us women, the only option being to climb a mango tree to get fruit. Only the men were able to do that: if they felt sorry, they would share some pieces of fruit with us women. After some days, the area was attacked by soldiers, and many people were killed. Some parents escaped without their children, some women who had twins took one and left the other behind. It was very painful. The survivors of the attack were marched by the armed forces into camps where they could be more effectively controlled, and subject to extensive rape and beating. People who resisted entering the camps were killed. In some cases, soldiers forced residents of these camps to work for them and to provide them with crops from their fields.

I decided to flee the country. On my way out, I saw bodies lying on the roadside, many of women and children. Today, I am a refugee in Harare, Zimbabwe. I have bad memories, it may be too hard for me to go back home. I do not even know if my husband is alive or dead. I prefer to have nothing, to be destitute, but to live in peace.

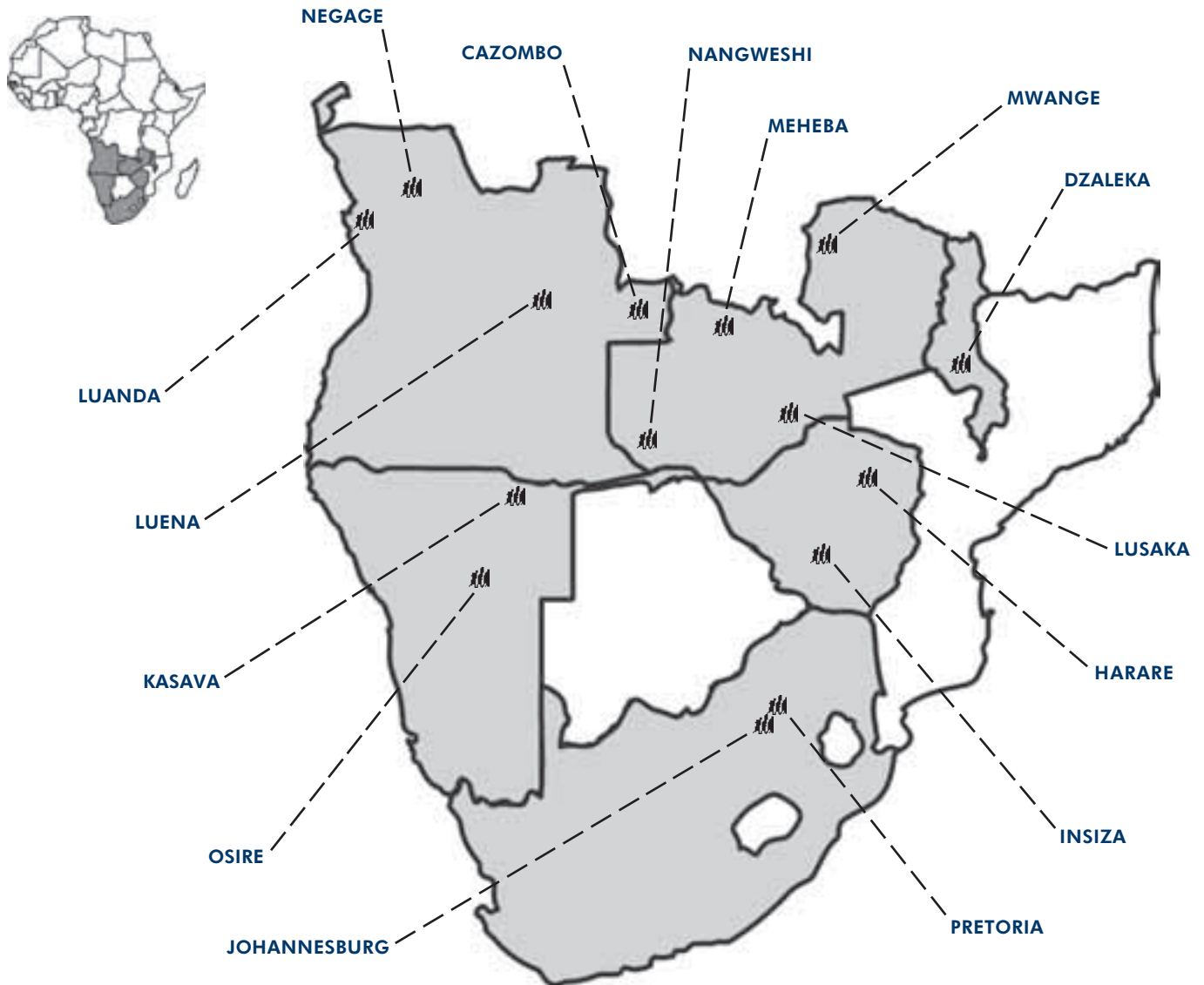
Denisa Baransata

Kiziba Camp,
Rwanda

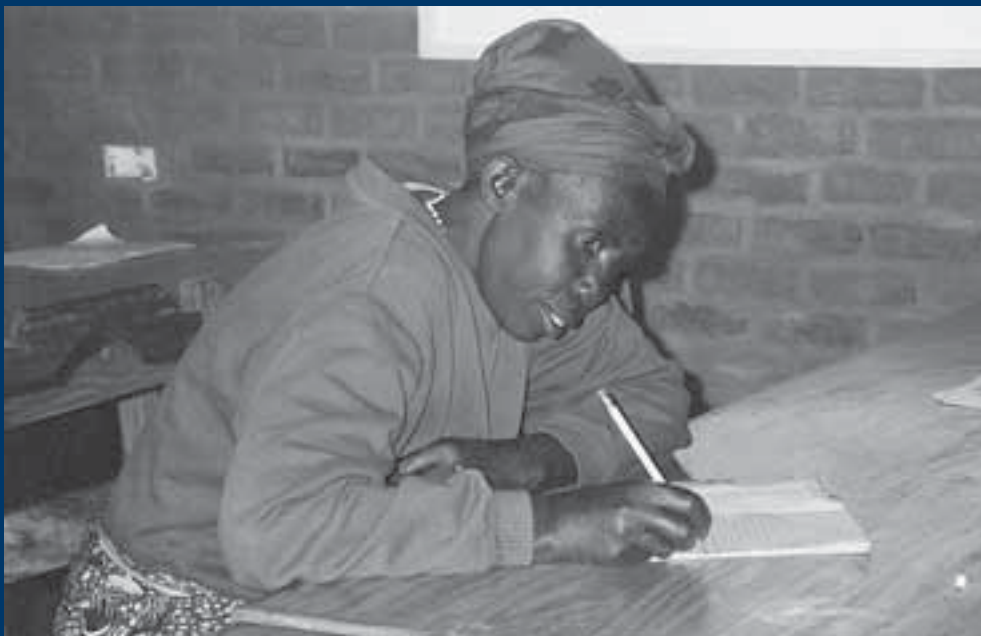
JRS Grands Lacs



SOUTHERN AFRICA



Malawi



JRS Malawi

In the region the most significant events of the period have been the moves towards permanent and sustainable peace in the DRC and Angola. UNHCR announced the start of the sponsored repatriation process of Angolan refugees in Namibia, DRC, and Zambia. However, due to logistical difficulties, the discovery of mines in what had been thought to be mine-free routes, and the lack of donor interest in the programme, the starting dates were postponed, and initial numbers were very small.

The impending second year of drought in the region has also begun to affect the socio-economic environment of countries like Malawi and Zimbabwe. JRS has been involved in drought mitigation and relief programmes in Angola, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The numbers of refugees in Namibia and Malawi have increased significantly, and so much so in the camp in Lilongwe that the Malawi government has opened an 'overflow' camp in Luwani, near Mwanza. JRS is the implementing partner for UNHCR in both these countries, and is responsible for the educational sector.

In Angola decades of war are over, but in one sense very little has changed for ordinary Angolans. The immense riches of the country do not reach the vast majority, and Angolan health, education and social services are pitifully inadequate. The government claims that 3.8 million IDPs have returned home, but most observers remain sceptical of this figure. Simple observation also shows that the areas of return for both refugees and IDPs are completely devoid of infrastructure, and roads and fields are being de-mined only slowly. Provincial and municipal structures are completely inadequate. So far over 100,000 refugees have returned to Angola from DRC, Zambia and Namibia, with about 30,000 spontaneous returns.

The Zambian government's aim to integrate the more than 200,000 refugees within its borders is changing to one of repatriation as the Angolans begin to leave. The repatriation of Congolese and Burundians now seems more likely. In Namibia, about 5,000 refugees returned to Angola but the local JRS team reported that considerable numbers of Angolan refugees were also going back to Namibia, as the educational facilities in Angola are almost non-existent.

In Zimbabwe, in common with other governments of the region, the discouragement of urban settlement of refugees includes harassment and detention by police, immigration and security officials. However, of the estimated 10,000 refugees, only 1,000 are in Tongogara refugee camp. In Malawi, the planned repatriation of 4,500 Rwandan refugees is threatened by the arrival of over another 7,000. A second refugee camp has been opened in the south of the country.

In South Africa, the levels of violence and xenophobia experienced by refugees and asylum seekers means that urban life is very precarious. Though the country's Constitution recognises refugee rights in the areas of social services, education, health, and employment, in practice a lot of advocacy is necessary to persuade authorities to accord refugees their rights.

Joe Hampson, JRS Southern Africa Director

ZAMBIA



JRS Zambia Director
Michael Gallagher SJ

There has been little effort by the Zambian government to address pressing issues in the country: education, infrastructure, HIV, health services, and economic development. Refugees are convenient scapegoats in such a situation and some politicians have singled them out as the cause of the current situation. Nonetheless, reports of attacks on refugees are quite uncommon. In July 2003, Angolan refugees began to return voluntarily: 18,141 during 2003. It is anticipated that an additional 40,000 Angolans will be repatriated in 2004, with the remainder repatriated by 2005. In addition, a much less successful effort has commenced to repatriate Rwandan Refugees. Of the 6,000 Rwandan Refugees in Zambia, only 60 have voluntarily repatriated so far. In the North of Zambia, there are more than 50,000 Congolese refugees. At present, few expect a stable situation to develop in the near future that would allow the refugees from Northeast Congo to return home. Nonetheless, UNHCR has announced tentative plans to repatriate 4,000 Congolese to the Katanga Province during 2004.



Advocating on behalf of individuals and groups of refugees is an important part of JRS' work, which involves providing information to refugees on situations in their own countries, monitoring the treatment they receive, as well as ensuring that they can access the services to which they are entitled.

advocacy

NANGWESHI camp The refugees in Nangweshi are exclusively Angolan. JRS works mainly with the disabled and vulnerable refugees. The JRS prosthesis workshop continues to make and repair prostheses. Our permanent centres for physiotherapy attended to 50 patients a month, providing personal care to all. A sewing class offered 21 disabled women the opportunity to learn a skill, designed to make them self-sufficient. Braille and language classes aimed to provide skills to 300 refugees. Five hearing-impaired children benefited from our primary school. JRS provided food, clothing and shelter to 129 vulnerable families and employed 5 caregivers.

social services/ vulnerable

NANGWESHI & MEHEBA camps A Peace Education Workshop attended by schoolteachers, community leaders and NGO representatives was conducted in order to create a climate of peace. This year, JRS began its horticultural programme which aims to provide an integrated rehabilitation service to our physiotherapy patients. In Meheba, 21 kitchen gardens were developed by 84 families and 23 fishponds were monitored with 23 families involved.

peace/community development

MEHEBA In 2003, eighteen thousand one hundred and forty-one Angolans returned home through the Voluntary Repatriation Programme, the majority of whom were from Meheba Settlement. We anticipate that by late 2004, very few Angolans will remain in Meheba – mostly those who have little or no contact with the country. JRS also works in the field of education, including peace education.

education/peace

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 1,513 pupils were enrolled in Community Schools with 20 teachers trained
- 638 adults attended the Language Training Course
- books and pens were distributed to the 1,513 pupils and 638 adults

LUSAKA Peace Centre Although only about 4,600 refugees are registered as living in the Lusaka urban area, estimates of non-registered refugees exceed 10,000. The Centre collaborates with the JRS policy programme to provide information and other direct services to refugees and asylum seekers. Specific activities include language and computer classes, scholarships, assistance to get study permits, media work, cultural activities, skills training, youth seminars and pastoral care and counselling.

MWANGE camp Mwange camp is almost exclusively Congolese and the peace process in that country is being followed very closely. The JRS project here is limited to pastoral and social care, organising many home visits for Catholics and other refugees, youth activities, catechism for sacraments, bible studies and celebration of mass, attended by 2,500 people every Sunday.

pastoral/ social services

ANGOLA



JRS Angola Director
Luciana Pitol MSCS

On 4 April 2003, Angolans celebrated the first anniversary of the signing of the peace agreement between the government and the UNITA rebel group, which ended 27 years of civil war, giving hope for a better future for the country. Mixed with new hope is the harsh reality facing the country: much of the infrastructure is in ruins, landmines litter the countryside, and the education and health systems are far from functioning. During 2003, many thousands of internally displaced Angolans, as well as Angolan refugees, have returned to their regions of origin, either through organised repatriation programmes or on their own initiative. The UNHCR organised repatriation programme is expected to recommence in April 2004, having been suspended in November due to the onset of the rainy season. The main task facing the country is one of rebuilding, and assisting those who, often traumatised by the conflict, have been left with nothing. JRS is particularly concerned with the most vulnerable people who are now being resettled.

repatriation/ resettlement

LUANDA As of the 17 November, the Government indicated that 3,419,626 IDPs had returned to their areas of origin or preference and 832,296 people continue to be internally displaced. It is also estimated that 100,000 Angolan refugees returned home during 2003. Returning Angolan refugees face many reintegration challenges. In some cases, a lack of Portuguese language prevents access to the formal education system or hinders treatment at a clinic. There have been long delays and irregularities in regard to the issuing of formal documentation, such as identity cards and birth certificates. The areas to which refugees are returning are for the most part isolated and under-developed, often lacking the most basic infrastructure – such as roads, water points or health posts. In many cases, the land has also been heavily mined. It is estimated that approximately 250,000 Angolan refugees remain in bordering countries and 170,000 will return to Angola in 2004. The new JRS repatriation project coordinates activities related to repatriation of Angolan refugees throughout the region, including the dissemination of information for returnees and others regarding the situation in Angola. The project also provides administrative and logistical support to the repatriation projects in Angola.

CAZOMBO Cazombo was an area that suffered much during the war. In November 2002, as refugees began to return from neighbouring countries, the JRS project was set up to ensure the emergency distribution of food and non-food items. The work has since developed into the areas of education and community development. JRS accompanies those who are returning home, advocating for them and providing them with services while at the transit centre and after resettlement.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 20 community workers, 1 peace educator and one advocacy officer hired
- language courses offered with 600 learners and 15 teachers
- 10 temporary classes constructed and school material provided
- 48 houses constructed for vulnerable returnees
- 1,028 families enrolled in agricultural training

education

LUENA JRS supports the very weak education system in the region, which has been badly affected by the long war: very few people are educated, the rate of illiteracy is one of the highest in the country, and there is a general lack of trained teachers. Almost 50% of school age children have been deprived of educational opportunities for all their young lives, due to displacement, lack of schools, teachers etc. The most vulnerable are those who have been displaced and they are the focus of the JRS project. The education system so far is still going through the emergency phase and JRS has been asked by the government to start a new education programme for new schools, four of which have already been built and opened.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 6 schools with 1,105 students assisted (now handed over to the government)
- language training for 130 returning refugees and training courses for teachers

LUANDA JRS is involved in the primary education of displaced children in the area. Securing access to education for the very young is one of the priorities of the project. In order to raise the standards of schooling, several workshops and meetings were organised with teachers, school managers and teacher trainers. JRS also provided school materials.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 673 displaced children and 7 new teachers benefited from the project
- 21 teachers received on-going training to improve their skills
- students who passed 4th level exams received state certificates

NEGAGE In Negage, many positive steps were taken to assist young displaced people to access education. JRS also assisted in the construction of school buildings and continued to provide school materials for young learners. Peace education was also part of the curriculum and included plays and other cultural activities.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 2,510 children received school materials and 58 teachers were trained
- 28 people received training in peace education and human rights
- 3 schools were renovated

LUENA JRS assists landmine victims to rebuild their lives and learn a skill that can help them support themselves and their families. Beneficiaries of the professional training project are identified from IDP camps around Luena. In October 2003, JRS started a massive registration process of all the landmine victims present in the Province. So far, more than 900 people have been registered. Activities include a carpentry school, shoe making workshop, micro credit schemes, bread baking, and animal breeding, as well as awareness raising of the dangers of landmines.

landmine support

LUENA JRS visits the camps around Luena and distributes items such as blankets, clothing, cooking utensils, soap and food, mainly to the most vulnerable such as orphans, children, the disabled and returnee families. During 2003, over 7,000 people benefited from this project.

material assistance

LUENA Less than two years after the end of conflict, a war mentality is still present among many people. The aim of the JRS Peace Education Programme is to promote a culture of peace and reconciliation. The main beneficiaries of the project are the communities at large (mainly in IDP camps and IDP areas) and children. It is a process that aims to help the community itself to develop its own peace strategies. JRS runs workshops, organises and facilitates meetings and seminars, on conflict resolution and human rights. Sporting and cultural activities, mainly with school children is also an important part of the project.

**advocacy/
peace education**

LUANDA The project works with refugees to promote human rights and peaceful approaches to problem solving. It is a community-based project that seeks to empower the beneficiaries to overcome the legacy of conflict and human rights abuse. Activities include training local leaders on human rights issues, conducting seminars on peace and reconciliation, and evaluation meetings with the community and other partners.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 28 activity organisers received training on peace education
- seminars on conflict resolution held

NEGAGE 150 adults, mainly community leaders and teachers, as well as 927 children took part in activities that promoted the rights and responsibilities of displaced people and returnees. Community leaders also led several cultural activities aimed at raising awareness of key issues, such as peace and human rights. Other parts of the project involved working to ensure that the communities could access their health and education systems, that they were aware of the dangers of HIV, mines and basic hygiene issues.

LUANDA Micro credit schemes and other small income-generating projects were initiated in order to promote self-sufficiency for the displaced community. In 2003, 72 women family heads were identified and selected for micro-credit schemes. Training is on-going.

income-generating

NEGAGE 1,000 returnee families benefited from skills training and through the provision of agricultural tools and seeds. Seminars were also held on traditional approaches to agriculture, attended by about 400 people.



JRS Namibia Director
Joanne Whitaker RSM



NAMIBIA

The refugees in Namibia are mainly located in the Osire Refugee Camp, about 250 km northeast of Windhoek, the capital. At the beginning of 2003, the population at Osire was approximately 20,000 – ninety percent Angolan. About 400 Angolan refugees are also accommodated in the Kasava Camp, approximately 70km south of Rundu on the Angolan border.

The most significant issue affecting the refugees in Namibia during 2003 was the initiation of the UNHCR-sponsored repatriation of the Angolans. The first convoy departed from Osire Camp on 2 July for the Kasava Transit Camp. Nineteen separate convoys have taken Angolan refugees from Osire, the last on 19 November. As of 19 November, a total of 4,185 Angolans had returned via the UNHCR-sponsored convoys. An unknown number of Angolans also spontaneously returned during the year. The majority of Angolans say they are ready to return home. In spite of this desire, there is fear and concern about what the future holds in Angola.

education **OSIRE & KASAVA camps** in 2002, JRS began collaborating with UNHCR as the implementing partner for primary and secondary education in Namibia. The work of the project in 2003 included the expansion of the junior secondary school (grades 8 and 9 in 2003; the addition of grade 10 in 2004) in the Osire Refugee Camp.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 5,727 primary and 857 secondary students enrolled
- 114 refugee primary teachers and 29 secondary teachers recruited
- text books and other learning material supplied
- several teacher training workshops held
- school fees provided for 50 primary and 434 secondary students to attend state schools
- 31 physically challenged learners enrolled in primary school and special teaching and learning materials provided, including a braille machine
- library services provided for refugees and schools in Osire

advocacy JRS continues to advocate for the rights of refugees in Namibia. In 2003, JRS secured permission from the Ministry for Home Affairs for students to attend classes while awaiting study permits. We also monitored the repatriation process to ensure that the rights of the refugees were respected and that they were treated with dignity throughout. This is on-going work and also involves accompanying the convoys from Osire to the reception centres in Angola. Other activities included providing workshops for teachers on topics related to peace education, repatriation and reconciliation, as well as attending a regional conference in Zambia on "Regional Action for the Rights of Children – Training for the Angolan Repatriation" sponsored by Save the Children, UNICEF and UNHCR.

extra curricular activities The initiation of youth groups meets a major need among the young refugees. They provide activities and resources to engage the youth during school holidays, and provide structured classes on topics, such as HIV/AIDS, and peace education. One of the goals of the group is to offer counselling for young girls and boys as a way of assisting them to make healthy lifestyle choices. Another goal of the project is to help youth, especially girls, stay in school and attract those who are not enrolled into school.

MALAWI



JRS Malawi Director
Anne Elizabeth de Vuyst SSMN

Dzaleka refugee camp is located in a poor area of Dowa district consisting of 6 villages dependent on subsistence farming. Poverty among the local population is aggravated by the high and increasing prevalence of HIV/AIDS. While food shortages have not hit famine proportions – as they did in 2002 – unemployment, poverty, and poor health continue to seriously affect Malawians. The population of the camp is mainly composed of refugees from the Great Lakes region and continues to increase. To alleviate this situation, a camp formerly housing Mozambican refugees has been reopened in the south of the country. Volunteers from Dzaleka and new arrivals have been housed in Luwani since October 2003. The World Food Programme distributes food. The Red Cross continues to meet some of the local population's basic health needs, though the supplies and shelter provided are often inadequate. Anxiety is rising around UNHCR's announcement of the tripartite repatriation agreement with Rwanda and Malawi. While no one is to be coerced, many worry about the situation.



In January 2002, JRS became an implementing partner of UNHCR with responsibility for Education. The ever-expanding primary school has upgraded its curriculum, to include improved literacy and peace studies, and increased its training capacity. Private secondary schools alone served our secondary students this year, while a volunteer-run series of secondary school study classes were provided in the camp for older students and emergency cases. Regular weekly teacher training sessions are held. Larger in-service and educational visits are hosted for peace studies, assessment, and cultural studies. A week-long training session was held in November 2003 with the aim of increasing student communication skills (writing/reading/speaking).

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 20 primary school teachers, 3 support staff and 4 pre-school teachers hired
- over 1,300 primary school students were enrolled
- 30 of the 31 standard 8th grade students passed the national primary leaving exams
- 120 students attended the pre-school
- 2 new school structures were built and learning materials were supplied

education

Vocational education for a carpentry programme was held in the camp. Two refugees completed the first year of a 2-year vocational studies programme (accounting/computer and brick-laying). Knitting training was provided for 30 women twice a week. 34 women attended native language literacy classes and 44 women attended nutrition and health discussions.

vocational training

JRS has become more aware of the dangers faced by women in the camp: sexual assaults, domestic abuse, and other forms of gender based violence. Special attention is given to women and girls throughout the project. The ability of JRS staff to communicate in the refugees' local language has made this easier.

special care/ counselling

The JRS urban counsellor visited the camp and held regular counselling sessions with teachers and families in crisis. Visits take place when serious illness or an emergency (lack of food) is reported. Counselling also takes place in adult education writing classes where peace skills are provided.



ZIMBABWE

JRS Zimbabwe Director
Joan Mtukwa

Whilst more refugees are continuing to come to Zimbabwe, the country is currently faced with serious socio-economic and political challenges. The local population and refugees, who do not have any other source of income, are bearing the brunt of this crisis. Refugees living in urban areas and asylum seekers in the Transit Centre are not catered for by the World Vision food basket, which is given to refugees at Tongogara Camp on a monthly basis. As such, the refugees living in the Harare urban area and the asylum seekers in the Transit Centre suffer from the prevailing harsh economic conditions in the country, whereby food is beyond the reach of many. Statistics show that up to 90% of the refugees in Zimbabwe live in urban areas, mainly Harare, Mutare and Bulawayo, a phenomenon that the Government is trying hard to discourage. The authorities would much prefer that, for administrative and security reasons, the refugees were housed in one area. Faced by economic hardship, more refugees are beginning to opt to go and live in Tongogara Camp.

material/food assistance

HARARE Transit Centre Following requests by the Transit Centre administrator, JRS is providing mealie meal on a monthly basis. Clothes were distributed in the centre once during the year. Home visits are also carried out to evaluate the needs of the refugees.

health

HARARE Transit Centre Refugees and asylum seekers have had their health needs taken care of in terms of purchasing medication and providing mattresses for special cases, such as those who have just been operated on. Women and girls were also provided with sanitary towels every month. In Tongogara, JRS provided 18 mothers with baby clothes and 5 lactating mothers with food supplements every month.

education/skills training

TONGOGARA camp JRS runs a library at the camp, with the assistance of a Librarian: videos and books are hired on a weekly basis by both the adults and the children. There is also a computer class, which offers three-month courses, as well as a sewing class.

HARARE JRS assists 30 students to attend vocational training at various institutions and evaluates their progress. 7 students have so far successfully completed their courses. JRS has also lobbied the Department of Social Services, on behalf of primary school children, to secure places in school for 2004.

income-generating

TONGOGARA Four people have been given loans to start up income-generating projects. There are two bakeries and one basket-making project. As part of community services, there is a food for work programme in Tongogara Camp through which JRS employs some refugees to clean the camp environs.

feeding programme

Due to the devastating drought affecting Zimbabwe in 2002, JRS decided, in cooperation with the Zimbabwe Project Trust, to introduce a feeding programme in Insiza, Matebeleland South. While the programme was meant to last until April 2003, in light of the drought induced food shortages, a decision was made to extend it. Every month throughout the year, the programme managed to feed 1,814 vulnerable people in one ward. It also fed 6,951 primary and 260 secondary school going children whose schools are located in the same area as the primary school. Altogether, 28 schools are covered by the programme, which also feeds 2,957 under five year olds.

SOUTH AFRICA



JRS South Africa Director
Joan Pearson RSM

The socio-economic climate in South Africa remains hostile to refugees. JRS is, however, cooperating with various local bodies on behalf of refugees, and more urgently asylum seekers, to ensure that they are granted access to the country's social welfare system. The Department of Home Affairs was taken to court in relation to Section 22, which denies access to the education system and the labour market while asylum applications are being processed. The challenge was successful and the Court ruled that the prohibition was in contravention of the Constitution and must be lifted. The Home Affairs Ministry has, however, given notice that it will appeal the decision and, therefore, the prohibition remains in force. The government continues to enact laws that make it increasingly difficult for refugees to integrate into mainstream society and become self-sufficient. Zimbabweans continue to flee to South Africa in large numbers and the government continues to make it as difficult as possible for them to apply for refugee status.



Advocacy is a large part of the work done by JRS South Africa, in both Pretoria and Johannesburg, in an attempt to ensure that refugees are granted documentation and access to social services, such as health care, education and emergency services. JRS has also set up a working committee dealing with the problem of unaccompanied minors and has held several meetings with National and Regional Education Departments to discuss exemptions from school fees for asylum-seeking/refugee children. Media work is also very important, as a means to raising awareness of refugee rights.

advocacy

PRETORIA, JOHANNESBURG Refugees and asylum seekers are assisted through referrals to local hospitals, and to access food and financial assistance. Counselling is also provided to traumatised refugees.

health

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 1,851 refugees assisted with medical care
- 80 individuals were provided with eye glasses

PRETORIA, JOHANNESBURG Students are assisted – through grants, advocacy work and representation – to access appropriate education services, such as pre-school, primary and secondary level and adult education.

education

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 620 children and adults assisted with English classes
- 81 pre-school, 258 Primary and 106 Secondary level students assisted

PRETORIA, JOHANNESBURG The project provides care and support for unaccompanied minors and vulnerable youth. 68 unaccompanied minors and 22 foster parents are enrolled in the programme in Pretoria and 68 minors in Johannesburg. The unaccompanied minors were assisted with their schooling requirements, accommodation and food allowance.

social services

PRETORIA, JOHANNESBURG In Pretoria, 414 new arrivals and refugees were assisted. 256 single women with children, 43 vulnerable male youths, 22 vulnerable female youths, 66 families with children and 25 disabled and chronically ill were also assisted. In Johannesburg, 600 new arrivals were assisted with temporary accommodation.

emergency assistance

PRETORIA, JOHANNESBURG 84 refugees were assisted with small business loans to begin income-generating activities. 129 refugees were assisted with vocational skills training of whom the majority have either found employment or have been promised employment as soon as they finish their training.

income-generating/ skills

Nangweshi,
Zambia

A KNACK FOR BUSINESS (South Africa)

Pauline Mushimiye, a refugee from Rwanda, sought refuge in South Africa with her husband and three children in the wake of the 1994 genocide in her country. Having abandoned a successful legal practice and all her belongings in Kigali, she was aware that the road to economic security and independence would be a long and difficult one.

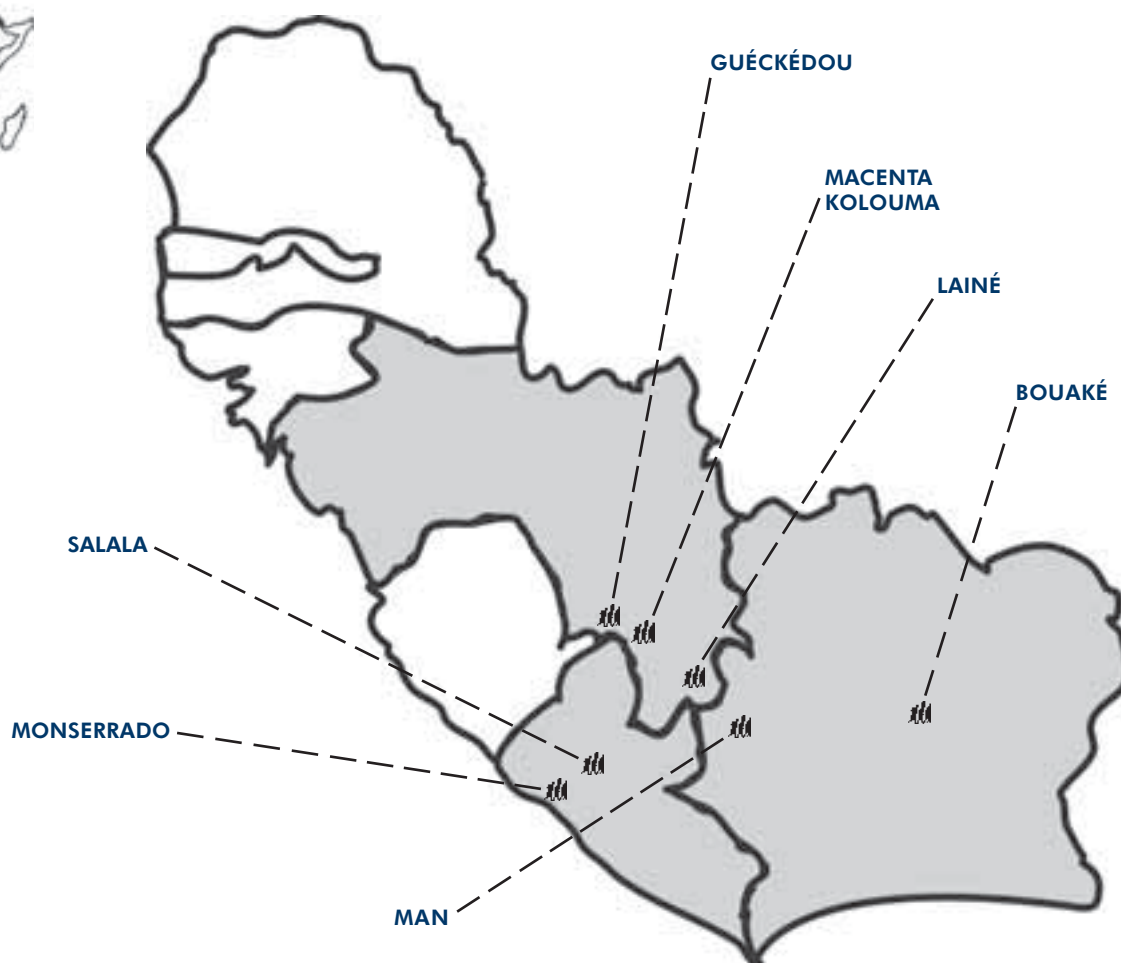
Most of the meagre sum of money the family managed to take with them out of Rwanda, was spent on food while they were detained at a South Africa border post. Upon their release, the family moved to Pretoria where Pauline had to start from scratch, selling doughnuts and other food items. Business was good. Unable to meet steadily increasing demand for want of capital, she applied to JRS for a loan to buy a refrigerator, a crucial piece of equipment if she was to expand her business. Pauline also completed payment for and took over the ownership of the food caravan she had been renting. With the tools of her trade securely in place, she made her husband cashier for her business and hired two local women as assistants.

Today, with a *bakkie* (van), an ever expanding business to show for her effort, and with her loan almost entirely repaid, she is set to make good. Nothing proves this better than the ready smile always lighting up her face, and her latest ambition: buying her own house. Pauline is not the only woman refugee who is making strides in business. JRS runs income-generating projects in South Africa, offering refugees the chance to set up their own businesses by offering them loans. Increasingly, refugees are taking the plunge, with women leading the way, showing remarkable tenacity and flexibility.

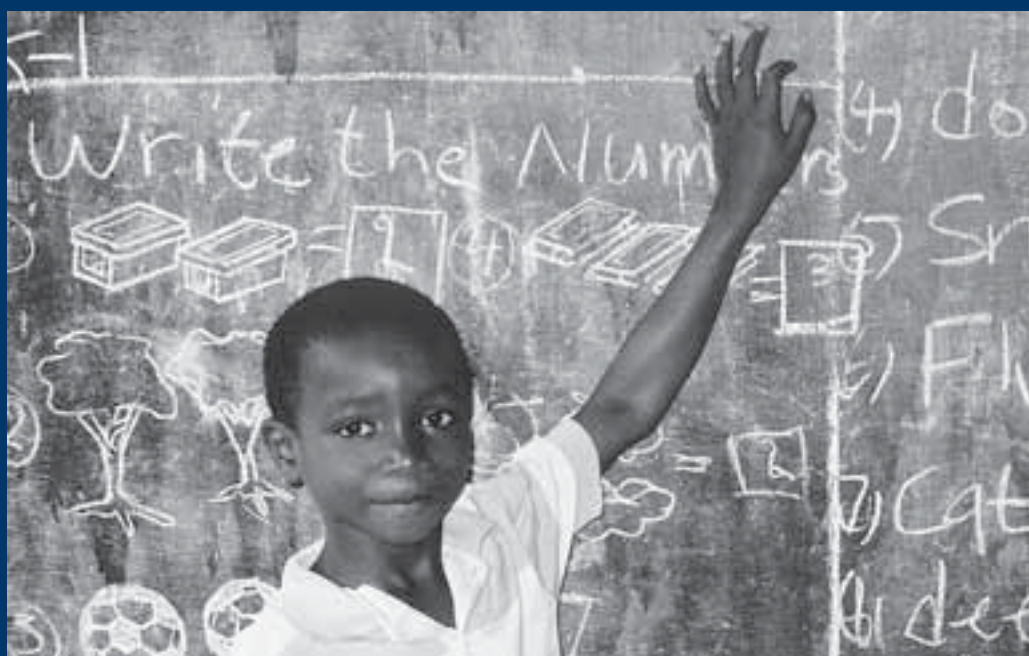


South Africa

WEST AFRICA



Liberian Refugee in Lainé Camp, Guinea



Lluís Magriñá SJ/JRS

JRS in West Africa experienced a number of developments in 2003. The conflict in Côte d'Ivoire led JRS to establish a presence in this country, which had hitherto been regarded as an oasis of peace in the region. The schism between north and south has led to the north suffering from the effects of war and the south from an influx of displaced people from the north. JRS now has four projects in the country. The slow speed at which the disarmament process is advancing means that the country is still under a cloud of uncertainty.

Several evaluation visits to Liberia during 2002 and 2003 led to the establishment of an education project in March 2003 in the Monserrado camps near Monrovia, which began with the construction of schools. However, the violence that overtook the country in June meant that the project was put on hold until the restoration of calm in September. Since then six new projects have been launched, all involving education in one form or another.

Liberia is currently being led by a transitional government with a strong UN peace-keeping force in place. The future of this country is also less than certain with a massive re-building operation needed to underscore the peace as the nation prepares for elections that will take place in two years.

Guinea didn't experience conflict during 2003, allowing JRS to continue the re-housing projects for displaced people in Macenta and Guéckédou. Much energy was also spent in accompanying the 30,000 Liberian refugees in Lainé camp, with JRS assuming responsibility for social and community services in the camp, in partnership with UNHCR. The country held elections in December and is now at peace. However, the poor health of the President has led a number of observers to worry about the durability of the country's new found political stability.

Mateo Aguirre SJ, JRS West Africa Director

LIBERIA



JRS Liberia Director
C Amalraj SJ

JRS re-established a presence in Liberia in 2002 with a number of evaluation visits, which eventually led to the launching of an education project in the Monserrado camps near Monrovia. The violent events of June 2003 forced the suspension of activities, though, in September, a strengthened JRS team continued in a more peaceful climate. There are currently six education projects which benefit around 13,000 students from the Salala camps. Liberia is currently led by a transitional government, which has been charged with organising elections.

A UN force is engaged in the disarmament process of the armed groups in the country, an exercise that is taking quite a bit of time and which has led to occasional confrontations and disputes involving different armed factions. The refugees and displaced people have displayed few signs of wishing to return to their places of origin, an indication of the lack of security and stability of the present conditions. It is more a time for patience, prudence and hope.



MONSERRADO camps In a very short period of time the project has constructed two temporary school structures to cater for primary level students. The short-term plan is to build several more structures that will allow for the education of up to 7,000 students, including secondary level students, in the camps. Adult literacy classes are also conducted with the help of 21 teachers, who themselves are beneficiaries of on-going teacher training. There is a huge shortage of books and other teaching material, which are also provided by the project.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 800 primary level students enrolled
- 630 learners enrolled in adult literacy classes

SALALA camps JRS has built a number of temporary schools, which are used for primary, secondary and adult literacy classes. The demand for education means that the school buildings are used from 7.30 in the morning until 7 in the evening, with the support of 250 teachers and 21 support staff. The short-term plan is to expand the project to cater for all the children without education in the camps. The adult literacy courses also provide classes in human rights, gender studies, and other practical issues for the learners, the majority of whom are women.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 12,874 primary and secondary level students enrolled
- 932 learners enrolled in adult literacy classes

MONSERRADO camps Training in tailoring, carpentry, tie and dye and agricultural activities are provided to 300 individuals with the help of 7 trainers, in an effort to provide the beneficiaries with the necessary skills to become autonomous and self sufficient.

SALALA camps 360 individuals benefit from vocational training in carpentry, tailoring, baking and tie and dye, with the support of 16 trainers.

education

vocational training



JRS Guinea Director
Gonzalo Sánchez-Terán



GUINEA

The peaceful climate in Guinea has allowed JRS to continue with the project of re-housing displaced people in Macenta and Guéckédou. In September, the team began the final phase of this project, which involves the setting-up of mini-development projects designed to consolidate what has already been achieved and to help the beneficiaries to establish their economic independence. Lainé refugee camp was originally built to house six thousand people, though it had to cope with an influx of refugees escaping the conflict in neighbouring Liberia during 2003. By the end of the year, the population of the camp was estimated at more than 30,000. The increase in numbers meant that new permanent structures had to be built and JRS has increased its capacity to welcome the refugees through an expansion of its training courses, particularly computer classes. The developments in Liberia have led to the hope that the refugees may be able to return home in the near future and the JRS team is preparing for such an eventuality.

reconstruction **MACENTA, GUÉCKÉDOU** JRS's reconstruction programme was launched in May 2002, providing support to the local communities to rebuild their houses and villages, which had been destroyed by conflict. The project encourages and organises the local people to work together, providing them with skills, finances and building material – such as iron roofing and logistical support. Peace building is also an important element of this project, which brings people together to work for and with one another.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 490 houses have been reconstructed in Guéckédou and 80 in the villages around Macenta

social service/health **MACENTA** The project involves providing aid to the most vulnerable people in the various villages where JRS is present. This includes distribution of food to old people and malnourished children, as well as organising hospital visits for the very sick. It also includes the provision of financial assistance to pay for medicines and the provision of a small scholarship fund for the children from the poorest families, assisting them to attend schools.

income-generating **KOLOUMA** A new project will see young single mothers assisted through skills training and income-generating activities. Training will be given to 30 young women who will then be encouraged and motivated to support themselves and become self sufficient.

LAINÉ refugee camp At the invitation of UNHCR, JRS became involved with the newly arrived Liberian refugees in Lainé refugee camp, in the south of Guinea, at the end of 2002. This work involves vocational training programmes, income-generating projects, cultural activities, as well as programmes aimed specifically at the very young in the camp. Because of the large number of refugees in the camp (over 30,000) in 2003, JRS built a new multi purpose centre with a capacity for 600 more pupils and new activities. In August 2003, the Vocational Training Centre celebrated the graduation of its first promotion of 426 students.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- as many as 3,000 learners benefited from vocational and skills training
- 470 students enrolled in the pre-school
- thousands of refugees took part in sporting and cultural activities
- 10 classrooms and toilets built for vocational school and 6 classrooms built for the pre-school

CÔTE D'IVOIRE



JRS Côte d'Ivoire Director
Sr Josée N'tia

JRS became involved in Côte d'Ivoire following the outbreak of violence in September 2002. In January 2003, the first of several evaluation visits were undertaken, leading eventually to the creation of four new projects throughout the country. The projects are all led by Ivorian nationals or people who have had a long association with the country. Around 20 members, mostly religious, have established health and education-assistance projects in Abidjan, Bouaké and Man.

The situation in the country is less than certain, with many believing it will remain so until elections take place in 2005. The country is currently divided in two, with the south controlled by the government and the north almost totally under the control of French peacekeeping troops. Difficulties encountered in the disarmament process have led to fears that violence will once again erupt, despite the presence of the French troops. The continued presence of armed rebels throughout the country is a serious cause for concern.



BOUAKÉ, MAN There are two very similar health projects, one for the villages around Bouaké, in the north-central part of the country and another in Man and surrounding villages in the north-west of the country. For each project a mobile clinic visits the very isolated villages, which have no other access to medical attention. Each mobile clinic is staffed by two nurses and two assistant nurses, who provide medical examinations, medicine and other forms of treatment. When very serious cases are detected they are referred to the hospital in Bouaké.

health

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 2,000 people are provided with medical care and attention every week

BOUAKÉ, MAN HIV/AIDS has been identified as a major and widespread problem in the areas where JRS has established a presence. This project attempts to raise awareness of the dangers and realities of HIV through the organisation of various cultural activities, such as theatre and talks. The people JRS works with are encouraged to examine the issue seriously, and those with HIV are accompanied and supported.

education/HIV

Waiting for medical care, Côte d'Ivoire



Lluís Magriñà SJ/JRS



Luis Magriñá SJ/JRS

LETTER FROM LIBERIA: WE ARE OVERWHELMED BY WHAT WE SEE

The JRS team arrived back in Monrovia, Liberia, on 6 October 2003. Soon after, JRS Liberia Country Director, C Amalraj SJ, sent back his first impressions of what he saw and what the people of Liberia and the new JRS project there were facing:

"We are just overwhelmed by what we see here. My eyes have had experience of war ravaged zones of Sri Lanka, though nothing comparable to what I see in Liberia. It is a valley of bones. Settlements after settlements have been scorched, the fury of hatred painting a gory tale of death and mayhem.

"Organised thugs and gangs, militias and other assorted varieties of mad men (and women) have looted this country for long. Years of war have left many dead. Hills are filled with ugly scars of refugee tents. How many displaced? All of Liberia holds camps. Successive 'governments' have looted people and natural resources. Multinational logging companies have looted the forests. Militias, rebels, freedom fighters – one can see everywhere such organised looting and maiming of ordinary people. We went around the town. The presence of militias and militant groups could be seen. Most of them have recruited innocent children, boys and girls. The business of killing has turned many into maniacs and drug addicts.

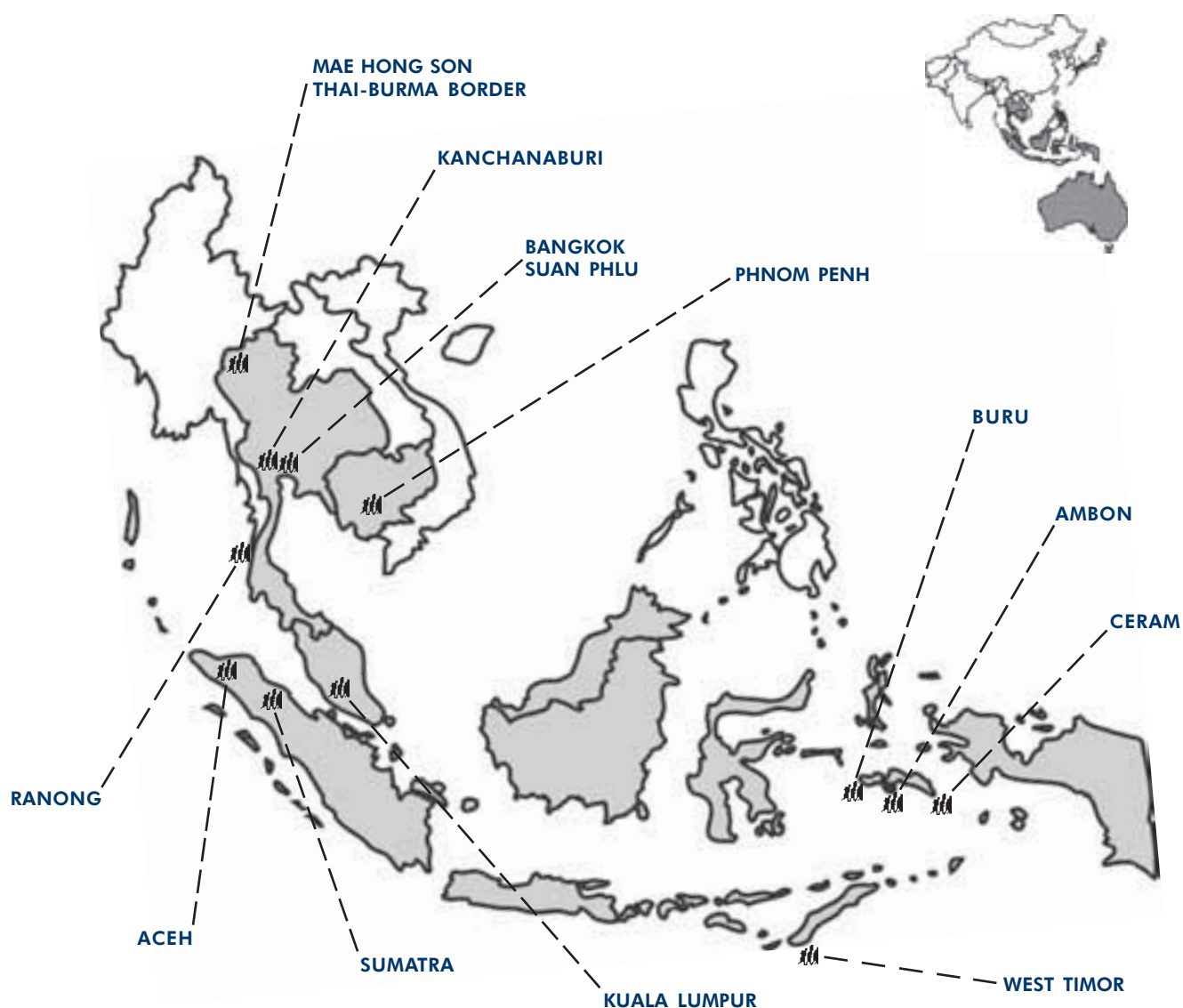
"An estimated 30,000 are armed now. These boys and girls are not paid by any one. They are allowed to loot and occasionally to indulge in rape. The whole country looks like the day after a midnight robbery. Many people told us that most of the fighters fought with women's gowns and wigs. Everyone is awaiting October 15 when the new interim government of national reconciliation, backed by the UN, will take over. The Liberian people deserve peace. We ourselves are looking for a house and for this week we are hosted gracefully by the Brothers of St John who run a good hospital, which survived war and does a commendable service.

"There is no electricity, no water supply, no post office, no public transport system. 85 percent of the people are unemployed. Schools have been closed for the last year. We went to the camps this evening. It is sad to see such good people suffering for so long. The people are so good – years of ruthless violence on their lives have not snuffed their smile. Most of the camps need education for children".



Luis Magriñá SJ/JRS

ASIA PACIFIC



IDPs in North Sumatra



Paolo Cereda/JRS

The JRS Asia Pacific region takes in the countries of Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Australia and more recently Malaysia. In Indonesia itself, JRS operates in three regions, Aceh/North Sumatra, the Moluccan Islands, and West Timor, all with very different situations and scenarios.

Burma is also of concern to JRS as attacks on villagers in Karen and Karenni States continue to provoke many people from Burma to cross over the border into Thailand to seek refuge. As well as the Burmese refugees, thousands of people from other countries also come to Thailand to seek asylum, many of whom are placed in Immigration Detention Centres (IDC).

In Australia, just over 1,000 asylum seekers remain in detention centres and refugee advocacy groups have concentrated on working for the release of these detainees, particularly families and those who cannot be returned to their home countries. Children remain detained in all the detention centres.

There are about 60,000 refugees and asylum seekers living in Malaysia. These refugees are mostly Filipino, Burmese, and Acehnese. The refugees in Malaysia do not receive assistance from the state and so many are forced to work illegally.

In Cambodia, urban refugees come from various countries in the Middle East, South Asia, China, Vietnam and Africa. In this country landmines litter the countryside, a cruel legacy of conflict that continues to inflict pain on Cambodians.

As of 1 January 2003, the East Timorese who fled their homes in 1999 to take refuge in West Timor ceased to be recognised as refugees. Those who chose to remain in West Timor are being re-settled and many are being assisted by JRS in the process.

The security situation in the Moluccan Islands continued to improve throughout 2003, following over three years of conflict. An estimated 250,000 people remain displaced throughout the region, and the work of helping them to return home or resettle is a challenge facing the authorities.

In Aceh, the conflict escalated again during 2003 causing widespread destruction and displacement, mainly towards North Sumatra. The Indonesian army declared Martial Law and has curtailed the activities of international aid agencies in the region, a serious cause for concern given the great need for humanitarian assistance during times of conflict.

Andre Sugijopranoto SJ, JRS Asia Pacific Director

THAILAND

The harsh Burmese military regime continues to attack villagers in Karen and Karenni States provoking many people from Burma to cross over the border into Thailand to seek refuge. The Karen and Karenni ethnic groups are recognised by the Thai Government as “displaced persons” while other groups (such as Shan, Lahu, Mon, Burman) are considered as illegal persons. Many non-Burmese nationals also come to Thailand to seek asylum from UNHCR, such as people from Iraq, Iran, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, China, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Many of these people are placed in Immigration Detention Centres (IDC) for illegal entry and residence: entrance to Thailand with false papers or fake passports, overstaying a visa, illegal employment, etc. In 2003, there were over 55,000 men, women, and children arrested and detained. Many of them stay for a long time in the IDC because they have no access to their embassies and/or have no money to buy their tickets to return to their countries of origin.



JRS Thailand Director
Siriphen Limsirikul



SUAN PHLU, KANCHANABURI detention centres JRS provides medical care and supplementary food to the detainees. Those in detention, by Thai law, must pay for their own return fare home if they are to be released. This means that many detainees can remain in detention for years. The conditions in Suan Phlu are poor, over-crowded and inadequate, so there are many sick people. The overall goal is to secure their release from detention and assist them to return home. Whilst in detention, the project's objective is to care for the health of the detainees. JRS also provides legal assistance to Burmese asylum seekers in Bangkok.

Beneficiaries: 40,000 benefited from medical care and social services

detention/medical

BANGKOK Asylum seekers and refugees congregate in Bangkok because Thailand is a comparatively easy nation to which they (or their agents/smugglers) can obtain a visa. It is also seen as a stopping-off point en route to developed “third” countries. JRS Bangkok Refugee Programme works with the non-Burmese asylum seekers and refugees in Bangkok to assist them obtain recognition from UNHCR as “refugees” and to provide emergency financial assistance and welfare support during this process.

urban project

MAE HONG SON JRS works in Karenni camps in Mae Hong Son province providing education, pastoral and accompaniment programmes. The Karenni Education Programme strengthens the skills of the teachers, encourages and supports the local education authorities and expands the educational opportunities of the children. Since there are 6,250 Catholic refugees living in the camps in Mae Hong Son, it is necessary that a priest be assigned to provide sacramental ministries for them. The refugees cannot go to Mae Hong Son town to attend Sunday mass or receive other sacraments.

Beneficiaries: 7,000 students, 370 teachers and 4,400 families

education/pastoral

THAI-BURMA BORDER The Shan refugees who do not live in camps, do not receive monthly supplies or assistance. JRS attempts to meet some of the education and health needs of those from Chiang Mai province. From remote areas, they are not assisted by any other NGOs.

Beneficiaries: 1,000 students and 2,000 families

RANONG JRS works with Burmese migrant workers in Ranong province by supporting education for the children and health assistance for the sick. Many Burmese people move to Thailand for both political and economic reasons. Migrant workers in Ranong live in very difficult situations. They are vulnerable to arbitrary arrest by the Thai police, and exploitation by their employers.

Beneficiaries: 4,000 families

JRS contributed to the Landmine Monitor Report 2003 by conducting research in Thailand and organised with other concerned organisations, the campaign activities leading up to the 5th Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention in Bangkok. Assistance was also provided to landmine victims.

landmines

INDONESIA / ACEH & SUMATRA



JRS Indonesia Director
Edi Mulyono SJ

The Indonesian army stepped up its military operations against the separatist rebels of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) in May, declaring martial law and embarking on a large-scale military operation, following the breakdown of peace negotiations between the two sides. According to Official Indonesian statistics, over 122,265 displaced people (IDPs) from Aceh are living in North Sumatra. Because of the security conditions in Aceh most of the displaced are unable to return home. The Indonesian government has also decided to end the official displacement status for those living in North Sumatra by giving “termination” funds to each family amounting to about USD1,000 each. By accepting this termination fund, the families will no longer be categorised as displaced. However, not all IDPs have been able to collect their entitlements under the termination scheme. There are 500 IDP families who still live illegally in 2 camps located in Mount Leuser National Park. They have minimal access to public services and they lack the basic necessities to maintain themselves.

monitoring **ACEH** Reports emerging from Aceh since May point to a bleak situation, with civilians being killed, schools being burnt, thousands fleeing their homes to escape from the violence, as well as food shortages. Martial Law in Aceh has meant that access for humanitarian organisations has been limited, with the Indonesian authorities taking on responsibility for the provision of assistance. In such a climate, monitoring of the humanitarian situation is vital to ensure that those in need receive assistance and that human rights are not trampled upon.

community development **ACEH** Because of the conflict, feelings of fear, vengeance and an overall lack of trust can easily develop, with detrimental effects for the communities. The breakdown of social structures, the threat to village heads and the inability of communities to continue with their cultural and traditional activities is a worrying development. The JRS project attempts to strengthen communities so that they can overcome the impact of conflict and contribute to building an atmosphere of peace.

general assistance **ACEH** Access to basic necessities such as food, education and healthcare during times of conflict can be very difficult. This situation is made even more problematic by the Indonesian authorities’ desire to limit the access of humanitarian organisations, in particular international humanitarian organisations, to help those most in need. JRS assists the most vulnerable displaced people, providing food for children and pregnant women, as well as support for agricultural activities and education needs.

Beneficiaries:

- 3,600 individuals received emergency assistance, including medicines and shelter
- 3,000 returnees assisted with transportation and through negotiations with local authorities
- 340 children received education support, including books and other school material

SUMATRA JRS works to ensure that the most vulnerable IDPs acquire proper relocation assistance and that they are afforded access to education and health services as well as employment opportunities.

Beneficiaries:

- 150 pre-school students, 500 primary and secondary students and 25 teachers supported
- 4,200 individuals assisted with health care and 1,200 children with food supplements
- 500 vulnerable people provided with food and shelter
- 170 people provided with loans and management training

research In September, JRS launched a book documenting the situation of displaced people in Aceh. The publication, *Anywhere But War*, is a culmination of research conducted jointly by JRS researchers and field personnel, with the involvement of the displaced people themselves. The research, although conducted before the latest crisis and outbreak of violence, is a valuable tool for understanding the complexities of the conflict and the patterns of displacement. It also offers powerful arguments in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict and includes recommendations for humanitarian action.

INDONESIA / MOLUCCAS

The conflict that beset the Moluccan Islands between 1999 and 2002 led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people and prompted JRS to establish projects accompanying those who had been driven from their homes. During 2002, peace efforts led to a huge improvement in the security situation in the region, as violence died down and the two communities, Christian and Moslem, were able to live together again in more peaceful conditions. The election of a Regional Governor and Vice-Governor (one Christian and one Moslem) on 16th August 2003 was an important step and an indication that life was returning to normal for the people of the Moluccas. The Governor has made the situation of the displaced people a priority and has restructured the management of displacement issues to meet the many challenges involved. The improved situation has enabled many people to return home; however, an estimated 250,000 individuals (50,000 families) remain displaced throughout North and South Moluccas.



JRS Indonesia Director
Edi Mulyono SJ



AMBON, BURU, CERAM JRS supported over 100 displaced families in agricultural income-generating activities by providing them with seed, tools, livestock, and loans, with which to buy other equipment. The activities of the participants were closely monitored and advice on planning was also provided.

income-generating

Beneficiaries: 425 individuals from 100 families were involved in the project

AMBON, BURU, CERAM Because of the large-scale displacement, the education of the young suffered greatly, with many children forced to move away from where their schools were located. JRS attempts to encourage the students to attend school and assists them with the provision of teaching materials, books, and the scholarship grants to those most in need.

education

Beneficiaries:

- 3,000 students in 40 schools provided with teaching materials
- 25 pupils granted scholarships to attend schools

AMBON, BURU, CERAM The violence had a severe effect on the mental well being of many of the people who were forced to leave their homes. JRS accompanies those suffering from trauma and other stress-related ailments, providing them with trauma therapy, medicine, food supplements and other care.

health/pastoral

Beneficiaries: 6,200 children and 5,500 adults provided with care

AMBON, BURU, CERAM Emergency assistance is provided to the most vulnerable of the displaced community, including children, the elderly and those with special needs. This normally takes the form of emergency shelter, food, and also transportation costs.

emergency

Beneficiaries: 1,500 individuals were provided with emergency assistance

AMBON, BURU, CERAM One of the basic rights of the displaced people is to return home and to live in peace. JRS is active in educating the displaced people about their rights, and accompanying and assisting them to obtain their entitlements. This also involves advocacy work with the relevant authorities to ensure that policies regarding return are put in place and that the rights of the displaced are upheld.

advocacy/return

Beneficiaries: 7,000 people (1,500 families)



JRS Indonesia Director
Edi Mulyono SJ



INDONESIA / WEST TIMOR

As of 1 January 2003, the East Timorese who fled their homes in 1999 to take refuge in West Timor and other parts of Indonesia, ceased to be recognised as refugees by both UNHCR and the Indonesian government. The logic behind this move was that in the newly independent and peaceful East Timor, all those who wished to return home had been given ample opportunity to do so and that those remaining outside the country were doing so out of choice and not necessity.

The reality however, was not so black and white, with many people unable or unwilling to return home for a variety of reasons. At the end of 2003, up to 30,000 East Timorese remained in West Timor. The problems that affected some of their lives included access to land and property rights, as well as delays in relocation.

Furthermore, there are still at least 300 children who have been separated from their families and whose situations have not yet been resolved.

information

One of JRS' main objectives in West Timor was to ensure that the "ex-refugees" could make informed decisions about whether to return home to East Timor, or re-settle in other parts of Indonesia. To make such a decision, the East Timorese needed access to reliable information regarding the security climate in East Timor, government policy and entitlements, the reception they were likely to receive by the host community and various other vital pieces of information. JRS organised several meetings with the East Timorese, during which videos were screened, discussions took place and information packs were distributed. JRS staff also passed on messages from people living in East Timor.

Beneficiaries: thousands of people took part in the meetings and exchanges and 250 information packs were produced and distributed

repatriation

Many East Timorese continued to cross the border and return home, some influenced to do so by the messages they had been receiving from JRS regarding what they could expect to find upon return. JRS also assisted people on their way home, by providing logistical support such as transport, as well as food for the journey. Accompanying the refugees on their journey was also part of the task.

Beneficiaries: 250 people provided with food packs and other forms of assistance

family reunification

According to UNHCR estimates, there are about 750 minors who were separated from their families during the conflict. Now, four years later, many have been placed in the middle of painful negotiations between guardians, and biological parents – who now want their children back. The decision to leave their children was obviously not reached lightly, taken by fleeing parents in desperate circumstances. JRS works with a programme that aims to bring about durable solutions for all those involved. This involves organising meetings across the border, and mediating so that what is in the best interest of the young person can be identified.

Beneficiaries: 40 children were involved in the programme during 2003

resettlement

JRS is working with communities of former East Timor refugees who wish to be re-settled inside Indonesia. As of September 2003, 94 families had signed up to a programme to be resettled in West Sumba and some of these have already made the move, facilitated on their journeys by JRS through the provision of food supplies and follow up monitoring and support.

In December 2003, JRS and the Center for IDP Services (CIS) organised a 'come-and-talk visit' in Atambua for representatives of the community of Soru village. The meeting dealt with the issue of the reception of 40 former East Timorese refugee families, who had been living in camps in West Timor since 1999. Following the meeting, the Soru villagers reconfirmed their commitment to host the former refugees and assured them that their children would have access to schools at both primary and secondary level. UNHCR and the Indonesian government are leading the resettlement programme to Soru, with JRS and CIS acting as implementing partners.

AUSTRALIA

The Australian Government's policies on border control have resulted in only two boats arriving in Australian waters during the past twelve months. The 53 Vietnamese asylum seekers in the first vessel, were taken to Christmas Island to have their asylum claims processed, in spite of having entered the Australian Migration Zone, while the second, carrying 14 Turkish Kurds, was removed from Australian waters and escorted back to Indonesia. At the same time, approximately 4,000 additional islands were excised from the Australian migration zone.

Just over 1,000 asylum seekers remain in Australia's detention centres and refugee advocacy groups have concentrated on working for the release of these detainees, particularly families and those who cannot be returned to their home countries. Children remain detained in all the detention centres. While mandatory detention continued to be an issue, the numbers in detention dropped considerably as a result of release, and voluntary and involuntary repatriation.



JRS Australia Director
Nguyen Van Cao SJ



As the result of some successful actions in the courts and dedicated petitioning by groups and individuals including JRS, there have been some notable successes during the past year. It was encouraging that, in the case of the East Timorese, the acceptance rate for Permanent Protection visas has been high.

**campaigns/
advocacy**

The situation of the many thousands in the community on temporary visas came under greater scrutiny by refugee support groups. Temporary Protection Visas issued in 1999 began to come up for renewal from the end of 2002 and the backlog of those requiring processing increased throughout the year, bringing considerable pressure to bear on limited legal resources and creating great uncertainty and stress among TPV holders. Public awareness campaigns were conducted to draw attention to these and other cases.

public awareness

Those on Bridging Visas – who are denied access to the labour market – continue to suffer great hardship, which can include homelessness and exposure to criminal activities. The burden of care for many refugees in the community, particularly those released under habeas corpus provisions, has fallen heavily on church agencies.

assistance

JRS in Australia continued to recruit, place, support and de-brief Australian volunteers for JRS projects in the field in other parts of Asia Pacific and other JRS regions.

**recruitment
of volunteers**

MALAYSIA

There are about 60,000 refugees and asylum seekers living in Malaysia. These refugees are mostly Filipino, Burmese, and Acehnese. The refugees in Malaysia do not receive assistance from the State and, thus, many are forced to work illegally. JRS Malaysia began operations in the middle of 2003, pursuing activities, such as providing medical assistance to the Chin and Acehnese communities around Kuala Lumpur and visiting the detainees in some detention centres.





JRS Cambodia Director
Denise Coghlan RSM



CAMBODIA

On the whole, the urban refugees in Cambodia have been allowed to peacefully rebuild their lives in the capital city Phnom Penh, a situation that is in stark contrast with some other Southeast Asian countries, known for their harsh treatment of illegal immigrants and asylum seekers. In Cambodia, urban refugees come from various countries in the Middle East, South Asia, China, Vietnam and Africa. Resettlement to third countries continues to be extremely difficult for the vast majority of refugees, and the only viable solution for them seems to be integration into Cambodian society, or repatriation.

The presence of a very large number of landmines and unexploded ordinances in Cambodia is a serious cause for concern and a huge obstacle to the development of the country. In particular, the mines have curtailed and badly affected agricultural activity, contributing to the poverty of a large percentage of the population, as well as preventing the economic reintegration of returning and landless people.

legal assistance

PHNOM PENH The objective of the project is to provide legal and social assistance to refugees and asylum seekers and to work toward meaningful protection and durable solutions for them. JRS provides this assistance to asylum seekers in the capital city Phnom Penh, as they attempt to make a new beginning for themselves. The assistance is also provided in the form of a place where they can come and feel accepted and welcome. This plays the role of accompanying the refugees on their journey toward settlement and reintegration in a new country.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- legal assistance provided for primary applications for refugee status, as well as for appeal case proceedings to a total of 85 individuals
- financial assistance, health care and education support provided to 717 refugees and asylum seekers

landmines campaign

JRS became involved in a formal way in a campaign to ban the use of landmines in 1994 following a Regional Directors Meeting in Rome, which was attended by the Cambodian Director, who had been working in this field already in Cambodia since 1988. JRS Cambodia has been very active in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and in contributing research to the annual Global Landmine Monitor, including the 2003 edition.

In 2003, JRS Cambodia led a delegation by bus from Cambodia across the Thai border and into Bangkok, to be present for the Fifth Annual Meeting of States Parties to the 1997 treaty to ban landmines, which began on 15 September 2003. Among the delegation were 10 landmine survivors, including a mother who lost both legs to a landmine in February 2003 and who later gave birth to her baby on August 6. Another participant was a young boy who lost his eye to a mine while he was searching for food with his two young brothers. They ran to aid him and stepped on another mine and were both killed. The delegation arrived at the Thai border on 12 September and met with members of JRS Thailand and some Thai landmine survivors. The team's excursion received good press coverage and managed to collect many handprints for the "Hold Hands Against Mines" campaign, which was launched to coincide with the States Parties meeting.

assistance to land mine survivors

A series of meetings and seminars involving JRS Cambodia Personnel and landmine survivors – as well as people, from rural parts of Cambodia, paralysed by the effects of Polio – were held in mid 2000. During the meetings, the survivors expressed their urgent needs and subsequently an action plan for mine affected communities was devised. The project involves the construction of new houses, agricultural activities, the provision of water, education assistance, health care, income-generating activities, mine clearance and the production of wheelchairs.



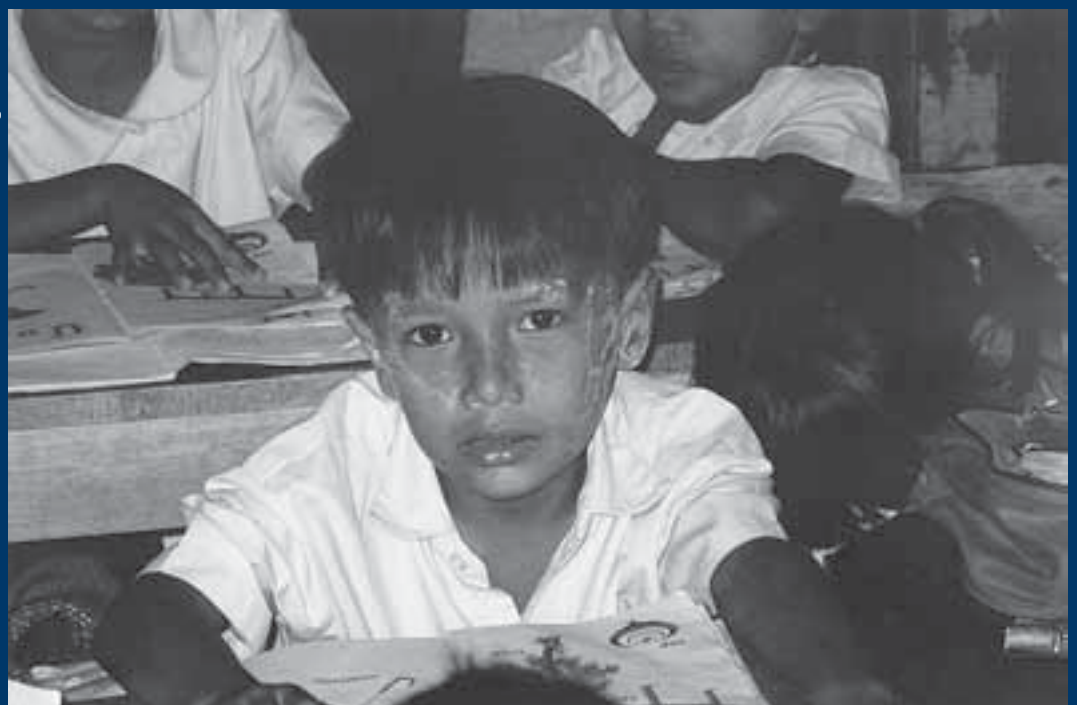
JRS staff and refugees in West Timor

Brick-making factory, an income-generating activity, in North Sumatra



Paolo Cereda/JRS

Luis Magrín S.J./JRS



Ranong, Thailand



THE SOLDIERS RAPED US (THAI-BURMA)

I lived in Karenni State and enjoyed a happy life with my husband and our two children. Until one day, I was stopped by three SLORC (military regime in Burma) soldiers on my way home back from our farm. I was with my husband and three women friends, and I remember we were in good spirits, chatting and laughing as we walked.

The soldiers appeared suddenly as we made our way through dense jungle and ordered my husband to go on home alone. I pleaded with him not to leave, telling him, "don't go, wait for us". But the soldiers forced him to move on. He pretended to go home but actually hid a little further on, out of sight. The soldiers took us deeper into the jungle and raped us. We fought them, but they beat us into submission with their guns and covered the face of one of my friends with a cloth. We were not as strong as they were so they were able to rape us. When they were finished, they ran away, leaving us behind.

We returned home, shy to tell our friends what had happened. One of us, a 60-year-old woman, could not face what happened. A short while later, she died.

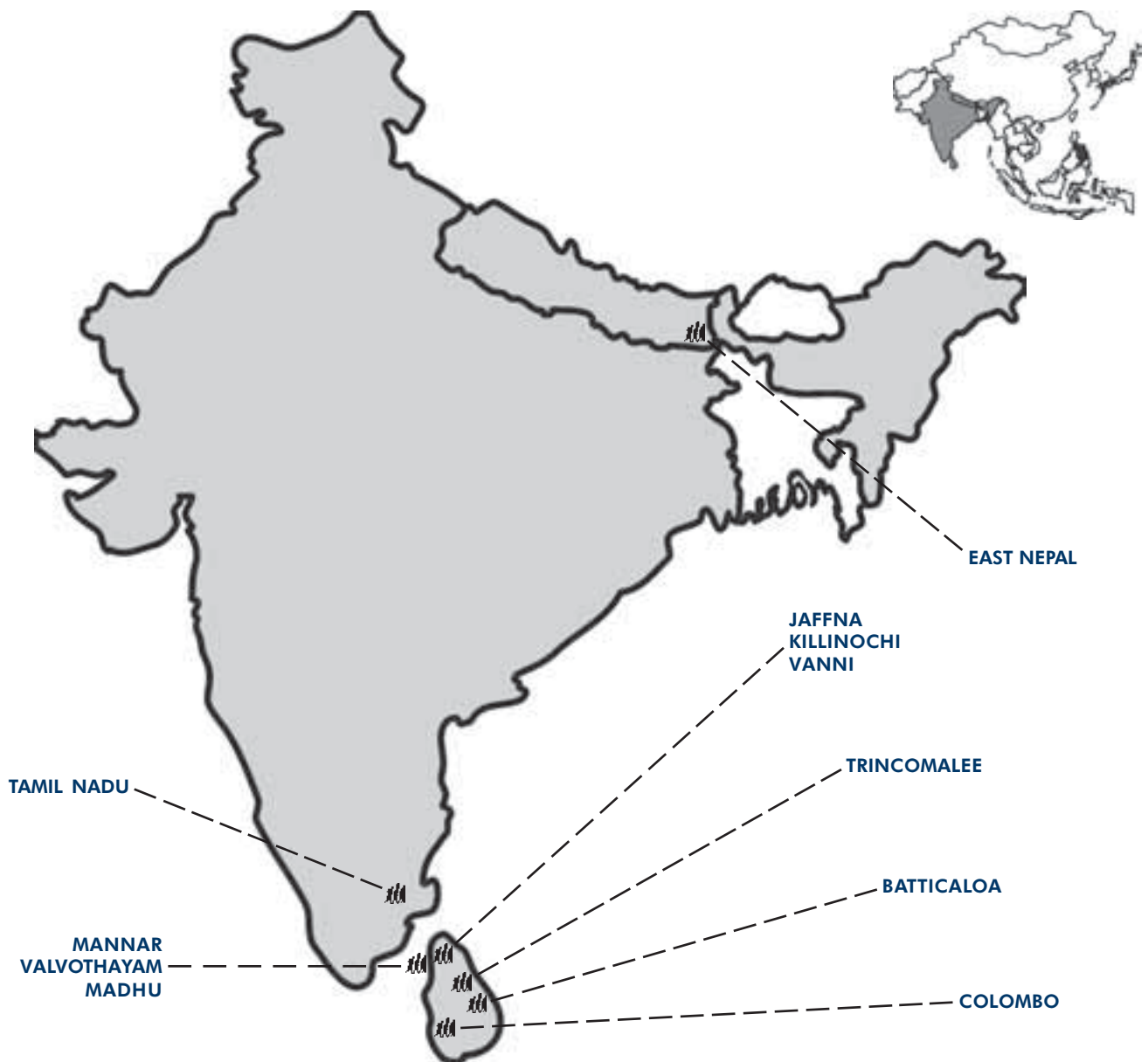
My life continues. I now live in the Karenni refugee camps in Thailand. I am a housewife, looking after my family as best I can. I am glad we have enough food to eat, healthcare is available, and my children can go to school. I hope they will never have to suffer as we have done.

As told to JRS



Karenni
Refugees
in Thailand

SOUTH ASIA



Sri Lanka



Lluís Magriñà SJ/JRS

2003 was a year of hope until the end of October for the displaced people in Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan refugees in Tamilnadu-India and the Bhutanese refugees in Nepal. Both sets of refugees had been hopeful of impending repatriations and the displaced Sri Lankans were looking forward to their lives returning to normal in a new peaceful climate.

Their hopes, dreams and aspirations dwindled during November and December 2003. In Sri Lanka, the peace process stalled and, as the year ended, uncertainty hung over the future of negotiations and, therefore, the stability of the country.

Although houses have been re-built, roads re-laid, education systems strengthened, land cultivated, trade conducted and many other developments point to a country returning to normal, the displaced people of Sri Lanka are living in an uncertain environment. The Sri Lankan refugees in Tamilnadu-India continue to languish in 103 camps, anxiously following the political developments in their native country, which will decide whether or not they will be able to return home.

Over 100,000 Bhutanese refugees of Nepalese origin have been living in seven camps in Eastern Nepal for over a decade, after they were expelled from their country. During a long, drawn-out verification process, the 12,000 refugees in one of the camps (Khudanabari) were placed into four categories by a joint team of Bhutanese and Nepalese officials. The results of the process placed only 293 individuals, from the 12,000, in Category I – bona-fide refugees with the unconditional right to return and live in Bhutan. Over 70 per cent of the refugees were placed in Category II, or those who had allegedly emigrated of their own free will, and have now to go through an elaborate process that will take two years before they can apply to once again become Bhutanese citizens.

Refugees living in Khudanabari camp are anxiously awaiting developments in the repatriation process, while the refugees living in the other six camps of eastern Nepal are waiting for the verification process to begin. As the displaced people in Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan refugees in Tamilnadu-India and the Bhutanese refugees in East Nepal continue to live in these harsh and difficult conditions, JRS South Asia continues to accompany and assist them and to advocate their cause.

PS Amalraj SJ, JRS South Asia Director

NEPAL

Over one hundred thousand Bhutanese refugees have been languishing in camps inside Nepal for fourteen years, unsure of their future. A verification exercise was carried out jointly by Bhutan and Nepal categorising the refugees into four groups. It completed its work in one of the camps and announced the results.

The terms and conditions placed by Bhutan have made repatriation an elusive dream, with 16 rounds of bilateral talks between Bhutan and Nepal unable to resolve the issue. Bhutanese refugees in the Khudunabari camp in Nepal reacted angrily on December 22, 2003 when visiting Bhutanese officials laid out the conditions that the refugees would have to accept if they are to be repatriated to Bhutan. The Bhutanese officials stated that many of the refugees would be housed in special camps upon their return and that they will also be on probation for two years and that the majority will have to reapply for citizenship.



JRS Nepal Director
Varkey Perekatt SJ



JRS continued to assist Caritas Nepal, the UNHCR implementing partner, in providing formal education to the refugees in the camps. The project involves 38,860 children.

formal education

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 8 play centres with 32 facilitators for 3,836 children aged between 3-5
- 9 main schools, 11 extension schools and 19 sector schools assisted
- 1,028 teaching staff and 141 non-teaching staff employed in camp schools
- 15 training programmes conducted for 1,028 teachers and 29 office staff
- workshop offered for all students of senior classes

This project provides integrated inclusive education to 806 special needs students with the help of 11 support teachers.

special needs education

There are two vocational training centres, which offer skills training for 356 individuals in 9 different trades, as well as providing skills training to 34 disabled people and special training to 311 hearing impaired individuals.

skill training

JRS is particularly concerned with the most vulnerable refugees and provides special education assistance to young people with disabilities.

disability programme

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- overall 3,265 disabled people were involved in the education programme with the assistance of 21 specially trained facilitators in 7 camps
- 7 sign language centres supported with 7 teachers for 210 students
- 2 training programmes conducted for 21 staff
- 2 training programme offered for special needs support teachers and one training programme on disability for all 1,028 teachers
- 38 disabled people financially assisted to carry out income-generating activities

JRS continues to lobby for bilateral talks between Bhutan and Nepal and works to ensure that the plight of the refugees is not forgotten. JRS works with other agencies in the camps, human rights groups, as well as credible Bhutanese refugee organisations and continues to push the repatriation issue with UNHCR and the Nepalese Government. It participated in the high profile international NGO mission to India and Nepal in 2003, meeting government officials and other influential actors, organised press conferences and issued press statements pleading for a just settlement for the Bhutanese refugees.

advocacy

SRI LANKA



JRS Sri Lanka Director
Vinny Joseph SJ

The people of Sri Lanka, who have experienced the effects of a brutal war for nearly 19 years, are now living in a state of neither peace nor war.

Nearly two years since a cease-fire was announced in the long-running civil war between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Sri Lankan army, as many as 400,000 people remain displaced within the country.

The peace, established in February 2002, has brought many positive results to a country that had suffered 19 years of conflict, with greater freedom of movement for citizens, as well as increasing levels of economic growth. However, the reluctance or inability of so many displaced people to return to their homes, several violations of the cease-fire and a breakdown in peace negotiations all remain serious causes of concern. However, guns continue to remain silent; bombs are not exploding; wanton destruction of property and indiscriminate killings have also come to end.

education

19 years of war has not only economically bankrupt the country, it has also impoverished the education system in the North and East. Most of the schools have been destroyed and the children are sitting under trees to study. After the cease-fire, many of the schools occupied by the army were handed over to the education department. Many buildings are being repaired and constructed, with the help of the government and NGOs. To help improve schooling standards, JRS has made education its top priority in accompanying the refugee children, providing pre-schools with nutritious meals, evening tuition centres, scholarships, educational aids, seminars and teacher training.

Total students – Pre-school: 1,683. Evening Tuition Centres: 11,232. Regular Schools: 2,656. Vocational Training: 205. Scholarships: 82 beneficiaries. Student seminars: 65 participants. 475 teachers trained. 106 benefited from the Life Skill Education Centre.

social services/ income-generating

BATTICALOA, MADHU, MANNAR, VANNI, JAFFNA, and elsewhere

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 167 disabled people assisted through income-generating activities and special assistance
- 175 widows provided with funds for small business and cash crop farming
- 1,121 people provided with shelter materials and 884 people with emergency assistance
- 340 problematic and traumatised children provided with psycho-social counselling
- 195 returnees from India assisted with emergency relief and school material for their children

village development

BATTICALOA; MADHU; VALVOTHAYAM, Mannar District 1,283 people who have recently returned to their homes were provided with loans to help them with farming and agriculture. The rate of interest is 2%. The initial money provided by JRS is used as a revolving fund for the project. Participants are also provided with a savings book.

orphans

BATTICALOA, JAFFNA, KILLINOCHI, MADHU, TRINCOMALEE Around 60,000 people have died since the beginning of the war in 1983, making widows and orphans of a large number of people in the society. JRS has opened orphanages in the affected areas with 106 beneficiaries.

human rights/ material assistance

COLOMBO, MANNAR

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 96 prisoners provided with food, clothing and toilet items

INDIA

Although India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and has not introduced any asylum determination legislation, it provides shelter to 345,000 refugees. Among them, 144,000 are from Sri Lanka, 81,650 of whom have been living in 103 camps in the Tamilnadu region for the past 13 years. The living conditions in the camps lack basic sanitary and recreational facilities, which has impacted heavily on the health of the refugees. The prolonged stay in the camps has had a very negative impact on the refugees in terms of their identity and culture. Some of the refugees have already returned home by air and by sea, though the majority are watching developments in their native land very closely, waiting for peace to emerge so that they will be given the opportunity to return home. As uncertainty hovers over their future, and life in the camps becomes increasingly difficult, many of the refugees prefer to wait for durable peace to be re-established in Sri Lanka before returning home.



JRS India Director
Francis Sales SJ



The two main areas that JRS focuses on in its work with Sri Lankan refugees in Tamilnadu are formal education and vocational training.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 89 evening tuition centres with 257 teachers catering to 8,995 students
- JRS assists 6 Government schools supporting 19 teachers and 860 students
- scholarships provided for 329 secondary and 128 tertiary students
- 16 training sessions conducted for 436 teachers
- 15 Workshops/Summer Study Camps held for 1,585 students

education

JRS believes it is particularly important that the young refugees are provided with skills which will help them to develop personally and become self-sufficient.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 5 life skill centres for 105 students assisted
- 5 tailoring centres for 113 trainers supported
- 139 students trained in different trades in 5 community colleges
- 103 young people trained in journalism at 4 centres

vocational training

This programme includes activities involving several committees that have been created in an effort to encourage the maintenance of law and order and peace and harmony in the camps, as well as to keep the camps as clean and vibrant places. Other programmes included emergency assistance, pastoral services to the Catholics, Widows Development Unit and the publication of a student magazine.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- high school students' forum and college students' forum created
- leadership and motivation sessions conducted
- income-generating activities encouraged and supported

community development



Jenny Caffiso/JRS

A SHELL FELL ON OUR HOME (SRI LANKA)

My native place is in Jaffna peninsula, however my family was displaced to the Vanni region (Akkarayan in Killinochi district) in 1990. On 15 July 1997, at 8.30pm, an artillery shell fell on our home. I was eight years old.

When the shelling started, I was inside the house and the others were outside. I went running out. My parents, grandfather, and 10-year-old brother were all killed. My father and grandfather died on the spot, the other three were taken to Mallavi hospital and they died there.

I was injured by the blast, and my leg was amputated in Mallavi hospital. From there, I was transferred to Vavuniya hospital. My other leg contained shrapnel, which was removed after six months in Vavuniya hospital, I was there for a long time. I was given a prosthesis in Kandy, sponsored by the local Red Cross.

Now I live in Vavuniya with my mother's elder sister. I still have a younger brother who is studying in Colombo. School is not far away from home, I go walking from here, or my friends take me by bicycle. Studying is easy for me. I want to study, to be able to help orphans and others in the same situation as I am in.

War is futile because it creates generations of people like me, handicapped. This must be stopped: resources are being destroyed and wealth is wasted. Peace must prevail.

Kamalavadhani, a displaced person living in Vavuniya, Sri Lanka



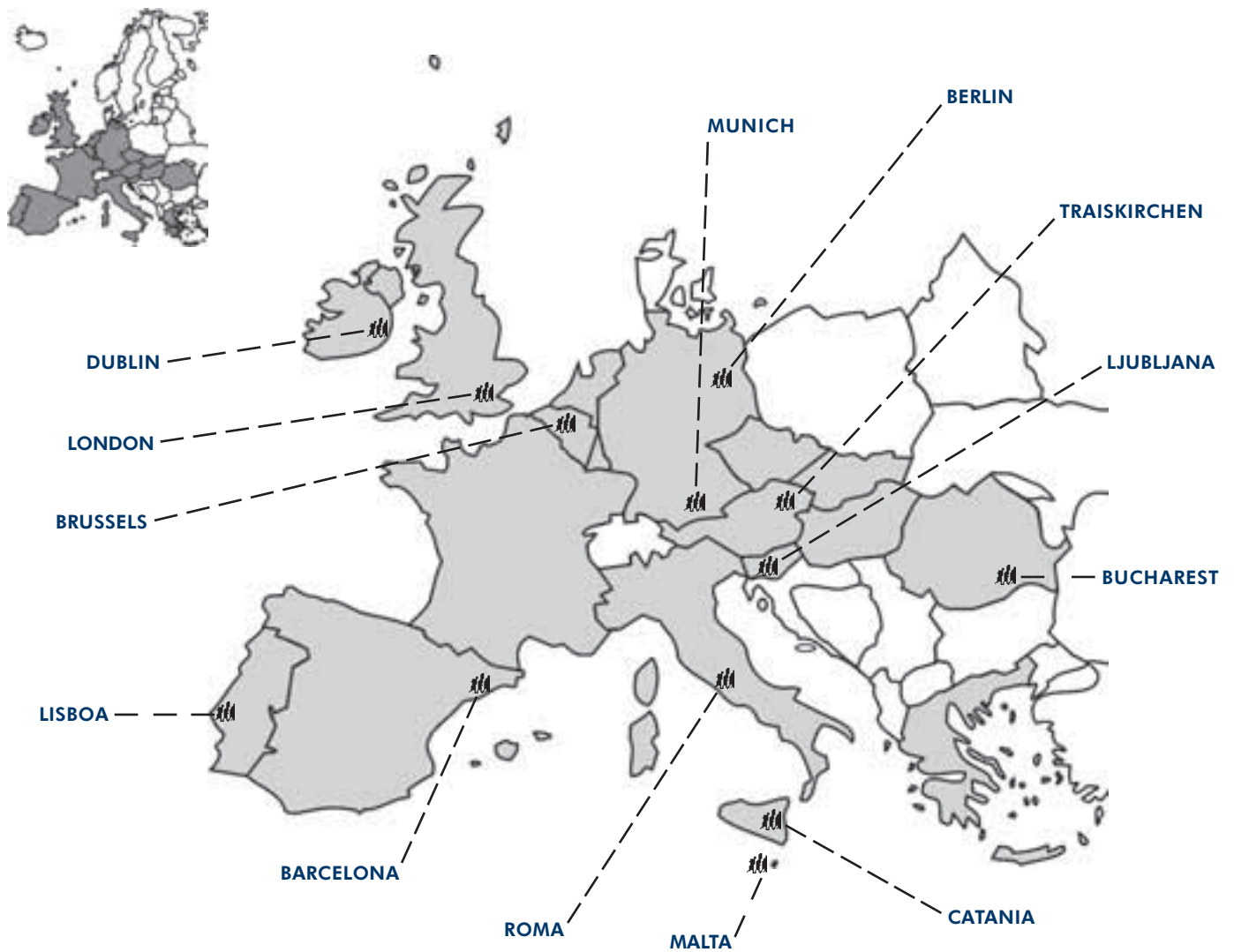
Paolo Ceredia/JRS



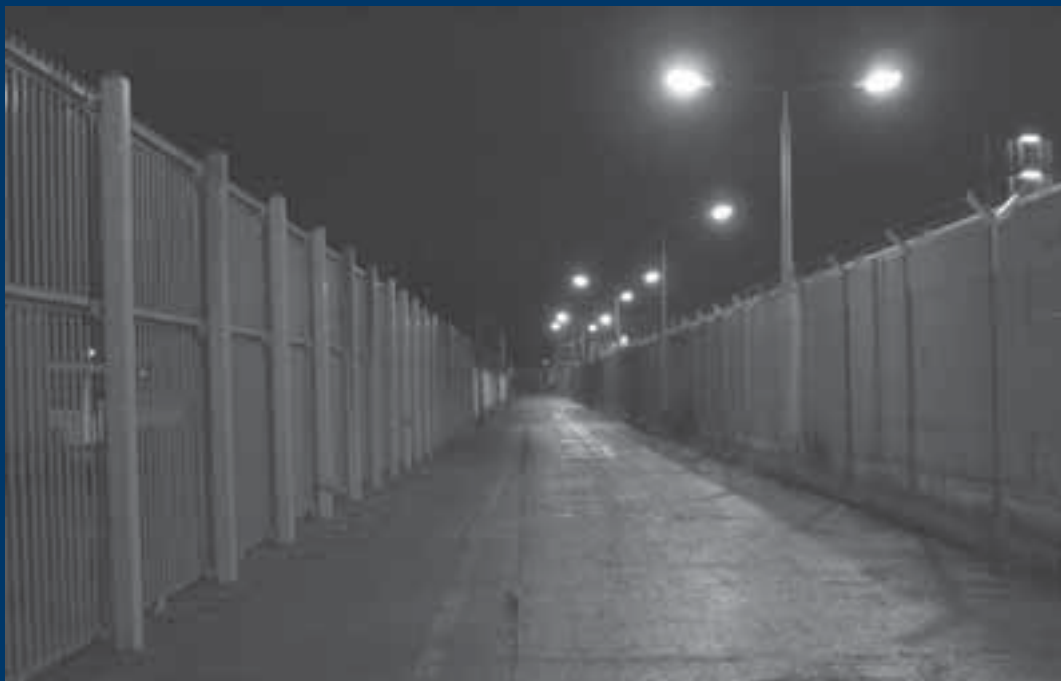
Mark Raper SJ/JRS

Vocational training,
Vavuniya, Sri Lanka

EUROPE



Detention centre in Germany



Nicolas Weiser SJ/JRS

The past year has seen new trends across Europe and new initiatives by JRS offices in response to these trends. In western and southern Europe, the big issue is access of asylum seekers to the territory. So many measures are taken to stop illegal migration. Consequently, refugees are also finding it more and more difficult to gain access to a country where they can lodge a claim for asylum. They are being excluded because the system fails to discriminate between those in need of international protection and those coming for other reasons. In this climate, the definition of refugee is being interpreted more and more restrictively and Europe is becoming less generous on how it interprets 'asylum'.

A specific concern is that more and more people are neither granted asylum, nor given humanitarian status but are 'allowed to remain'. They don't get any assistance whatsoever and are condemned to live on the streets and to beg for food or clothing. These people fall between the cracks of the system. The victims, meanwhile are marginalized, branded as illegal and even as criminal.

JRS work, in Germany, Austria, Belgium and the UK, focuses on legal aid for detainees and visiting refugees in detention. In Italy, JRS provides housing and food for significant numbers of refugees and migrants.

Integration of refugees into society is something that demands change on both sides: both of the receiving community and of the arriving individuals and groups. In Ireland, JRS launched a new project with the help of funds from the European Refugee Fund while in Portugal, JRS launched a project funded by the Gulbenkian Foundation on the recognition of qualifications of doctors largely from Eastern Europe.

The JRS offices in the central and eastern parts of Europe have developed to meet the needs of the growing number of refugees and asylum seekers there. Our offices, in Malta, Slovenia and Romania, visit asylum seekers in detention and offer legal assistance, help refugees integrate into society, provide them with language and work skills and analyse government policy on asylum issues. In all parts of Europe, JRS offices are concerned with public education about the issue of asylum.

As those countries prepare for EU membership their laws are being brought into line with laws in the rest of the EU. Sometimes this leads to improved conditions and a better system. But it may also lead to a fortress mentality – a Europe of 25 which comes together in order to exclude rather than include.

John Dardis SJ, JRS Europe Director

EUROPE



In **AUSTRIA**, there are four state-run accommodation centres for asylum seekers, though the capacity of these centres can only cater for one third of the total amount of those seeking refuge in the country. Under new regulations, certain categories of asylum seekers are excluded from these centres.

In **BELGIUM**, there is a backlog of 30,000 non-processed asylum files, and most applications recorded in 1999 or before may remain unprocessed for good. Generally speaking, the Government priority is to combat illegal immigration rather than to foster rights – with detention in closed centres a feature of policy.

The **CZECH REPUBLIC**, like other EU candidate countries, is moving from the position of being a refugee-producing country to one of being a transit country. Recently, it has received a significant number of asylum applications.

In **GERMANY**, among the issues that JRS deals with are detention of asylum seekers, released detainees who live without social assistance or support, and undocumented migrants.



JRS Austria contact person

Erich Drögsler SJ

AUSTRIA

The main activity supported by JRS is a programme for children and youth at Traiskirchen reception centre, where the team also provides particular assistance to mothers and babies, young families and sick people.

JRS Belgium Director

Christophe Renders SJ

BELGIUM

In partnership with 8 other NGOs, JRS has been in regular contact with detainees inside the 5 existing “closed centres”. JRS’ pastoral approach gives priority to “being with” detained asylum seekers and undocumented people. Visitors help detainees to understand the legal procedure and to prepare for interviews.

JRS Czech Republic contact person

Pavel Hruda SJ

CZECH REPUBLIC

JRS, in consultation with the local Jesuit Province, monitors the situation to discern how best to help. A project with the Roma community is being examined.

JRS France contact person

Bernard Chandon-Moët SJ

FRANCE

JRS France continues to help JRS worldwide especially in Burundi, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Congo Brazzaville and Bangkok. The French JRS contact person is also in close contact with the *Délégation Catholique à la Coopération*, an organisation which helps JRS to find volunteers for work abroad and which also provides training.

JRS Germany Director

Dieter Müller SJ

GERMANY

The main activities of JRS in 2003 were:

- pastoral care in three detention centres (Berlin, Brandenburg, Munich), visiting the detainees regularly, offering pastoral, legal and material assistance, as well as raising public awareness
- special assistance was offered to former detainees upon release
- continued research, included published material, into undocumented migration and other legal issues



EUROPE

During the first six months of 2003, only 3 asylum seekers were recognised as refugees in **GREECE**, along with 19 residence permits granted for humanitarian reasons. The recognition rate for asylum seekers remains one of the lowest in Europe.

A new detention policy and new asylum legislation in **HUNGARY** have resulted in positive changes in State practice, though the number of recognised refugees remains extremely low.

The numbers of asylum applications have been declining in **IRELAND** in recent months, to an average of about 600 a month. One of the main issues of the year was a Supreme Court decision, which stated that non-national parents of Irish born children may be deported.

The major concern of the **LUXEMBOURG** Government in 2003 was to try to return 800 failed Montenegrin asylum seekers, either of their own choice or through the use of force. In fact, very few were forcibly repatriated, as the Belgrade government did not agree to their return.



GREECE

JRS Greece contact person

Michel Roussos SJ

JRS Greece continued to provide shelter for refugees, including help with expenses for medical examinations or to cover travel costs. An education programme, especially the teaching of English and Greek, is offered to immigrants and refugees, to help them integrate into society. Legal advice is provided by a volunteer lawyer and psychological support by a social worker/ psychologist. Refugees are informed of the programmes from which they can benefit after their housing, nutrition, clothing and employment needs have been assessed.

HUNGARY

JRS Hungary contact person

Erno Nagy SJ

JRS has a contact person in Hungary who raises awareness of the refugee and asylum related issues and liaises with JRS Europe in Brussels.

IRELAND

JRS Ireland Director

Frank Sammon SJ

In Ireland, JRS runs a project that concentrates on the integration of refugees in Dublin City centre. With help from the European Refugee Fund, the project attempts to offer opportunities to local and refugee/migrant groups to come together and speak about their experiences and to learn from one another. The research phase of the project identified the need for such opportunities, for groups to meet among themselves and to have opportunities to meet one another. Working with schools in the area, both pupils and parents, is also an important part of the project.

LUXEMBOURG

JRS Luxembourg contact person

Pierre Meyers SJ

JRS takes part in the Collectif Réfugiés, a group of 14 concerned NGOs. Together, they analyse government asylum policy and make recommendations. In 2003, the group elaborated a position explaining under what conditions it would not be opposed to the forced return of failed asylum seekers. These include proper preparation of the return, help with re-adjusting to life in their home countries, consideration of the children's education needs, as well as the health of those people being returned.

EUROPE



In 2003, detention of asylum seekers continued in **MALTA**, and the country witnessed a drop in the numbers of people arriving to claim asylum, after a dramatic increase in 2002. Unaccompanied minors were removed from detention and placed in the community after months of lobbying.

The **NETHERLANDS** opened the first of two “deportation centres” in 2003, where hundreds of illegal immigrants and rejected asylum seekers – including women and children – will be detained pending expulsion. With a second facility at Amsterdam’s Schiphol Airport, the two facilities will hold 600 detainees.

In **PORTUGAL** JRS works with people who have arrived mainly from Eastern Europe, but who have been unable to regularise their legal status.

UNHCR estimates that no more than 2,000 asylum seekers and refugees are currently residing in **ROMANIA**. Refugees receive some assistance but not enough to be able to afford secure accommodation, food and medical care.



JRS Malta Director

Pierre Grech Marguarat SJ

MALTA

Celebrating ten years of activity in 2003 JRS Malta expanded its services, reaching out to detainees while at the same time keeping up services to refugees and others in the community. Advocacy and information work formed an ever-growing aspect of activities. JRS Malta depends largely on a group of committed volunteers to provide services often implemented in collaboration with other NGOs such as the local Red Cross. JRS was one of the few groups visiting the detention centres on a regular basis, servicing three out of six centres with one lawyer and a handful of volunteers. The average visit of the lawyer lasted between 4 and 5 hours, providing the opportunity to talk to 20-30 people.

JRS Netherlands contact person

Jan Stuyt SJ

NETHERLANDS

The contact person assists JRS international through contacts with partners in The Netherlands and is also chairman of the working group for Refugees of the Amsterdam Council of Churches.

JRS Portugal Director

Rosário Farmhouse

PORTUGAL

In the past year 4,000 refugees, displaced persons and immigrants came to the JRS centre for medical assistance and medication, legal aid, Portuguese courses, help in finding a house (or a place to sleep away from the cold), food and clothes. Plans for the future include a campaign in public schools on migrant and refugee issues.

JRS Romania Director

Luc Duquenne SJ

ROMANIA

In the past year, more than 2,000 people benefited from support offered by JRS Romania. The majority were from Iraq, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Somalia. A JRS project, established in 2002, has so far offered accommodation to 43 refugees, including 6 families. Another project – which also began in 2002 – offers language courses, cultural activities, informal education and computer courses. An emergency assistance project provides medicines, clothes, and other forms of basic support.



EUROPE

SLOVAKIA has experienced a steady growth in asylum seekers over the last two years. New asylum legislation has been in force since January 2003, containing a more detailed system of asylum procedures, conditions of temporary protection and new definitions of safe countries and a new integration policy. A specific issue in **SLOVENIA** remains the temporary protection of 2,300 Bosnian Refugees, who have been given the possibility of obtaining permanent residence and other rights, including the right to comprehensive integration assistance. Asylum applications to **SPAIN** have been falling in recent years, due in part to the government's restrictive policy, as well as new entry visa requirements for certain nationalities. 2002-2003 has been a period of great policy change and of hardening of attitudes towards asylum seekers in the **UNITED KINGDOM**. A new Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Bill (November 2002) has been criticised by JRS as representing an erosion of the rights of people seeking asylum in the UK.



SLOVAKIA JRS Slovakia contact person Dušan Bezák SJ

Two Slovak Jesuits are currently working full-time for JRS. The JRS contact person currently works in Brussels at the Regional office and is involved in media work.

SLOVENIA JRS Slovenia Director Marijan Šef SJ

With the help of volunteers, JRS reaches out to refugees held in detention, also offering training assistance to detention centre personnel, as well as working with migrants in detention and asylum seekers housed in Ljubljana.

Achievements:

- an integration programme for refugees from the former Yugoslav Republics (Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia) at the centre in Illirska Bistrica has been started
- in July 2003, a Summer Camp for young Bosnians was organised by JRS and other organisations
- February 2003 saw the start of regular radio programmes on refugee related topics

SPAIN JRS Spain Co-ordinator Josep Ricart SJ

JRS Spain motivates and encourages institutions, foundations and individuals to act, attempting to put refugee issues on the agenda of opinion leaders, institutional representatives, journalists and students. This involves organising meetings, conferences and university seminars, participating in campaigns, as well as publishing regular newsletters.

UK JRS UK Director Louise Zandre

JRS UK continues to visit detainees in immigration detention centres (recently renamed removal centres) and the occasional detainee still held in the prison estate, as well as being involved in a fortnightly service (either Mass or a Eucharistic service) at Harmondsworth Removal Centre. Other activities include raising awareness through running workshops, publishing newsletters, and through the JRS UK web site <http://www.jrsuk.net>, launched in May 2003. Lobbying work is also taking place, both on national and international issues, and JRS UK is involved in various campaigns, such as the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers and Landmine Action.

ITALY



JRS Italy Director
Francesco De Luccia SJ

The main countries and regions of origin of asylum seekers in Italy are Iraq, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and the horn of Africa. Throughout 2003, JRS Italy – Centro Astalli continued to work with and for refugees and asylum seekers in Rome, Catania, Trento and Vicenza.

The total number of beneficiaries in 2003 was approximately 10,000 and the majority were Kurdish refugees or asylum seekers from Iraq. Lately, however, we have witnessed the arrival of an increasing number of asylum seekers from West Africa, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire in particular, as well as new arrivals from Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia.

An immigration and asylum law passed at the end of 2002, has been criticised by organisations working with immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. With regard to asylum procedures, the law is clearly restrictive and barely fulfils minimum standards agreed by the European Union, introducing mandatory detention and restrictive appeal procedures.

ROME In the centre of Rome, JRS provides a hot meal in the early evening, six days a week. On average 300 refugees avail of the service. Night shelters provide 40 beds for men in two dormitories (San Saba) and a further 40 beds for women, children and unaccompanied minors (Casa di Giorgia). JRS, in collaboration with the national railways (FS) and the City of Rome, also provide dormitory beds for 100 asylum seekers in a former hostel for rail-workers. A medical clinic, operating 5 days a week in the centre of Rome conducts preliminary health screening and issues referrals to specialised structures and/or provides treatment with an average of 250 appointments made per month. Shower services are provided for those refugees who are sleeping on the streets.

emergency assistance

ROME An outreach and legal advice centre provides information, legal assistance and accompaniment to asylum seekers during their status determination procedure. Special attention is given to minors and on average 250 people visit the centre each month. Italian language lessons provided five days a week in Rome with approximately 100 students registered.

legal & social assistance

CATANIA In Catania (Sicily) Centro Astalli runs a social and legal advice centre, a medical clinic and an Italian language school.

Monthly edition of JRS Italy magazine with 3,500 copies distributed. Contributions to JRS publications and articles for local and national magazines and newspapers. In 2003, the Centro Astalli Foundation continued to implement *Finestre – Storie di Rifugiati*, a programme to raise awareness about refugee and asylum related issues throughout secondary schools.

information/ public awareness

ROME A laundry and linen rental service has been set up in rooms provided by the Jesuit Community in Rome. Training and advice on employment is also provided to refugees. Assistance is offered to refugees previously housed in the night shelters and dormitories, to find independent accommodation.

integration



Bruno Rascão

PAYING WITH OUR BODIES: EUROPE

Angela and Charity, both university students, saw nothing wrong in fighting for justice and human rights in their home country in West Africa. More and more people joined them in the demonstrations they organised. One night, they got a warning to leave the country immediately, as rumours were circulating about their imminent arrest.

Angela and Charity wasted no time. They headed for the harbour, hoping to get on a boat to a neighbouring country. They explained their situation to some sailors and were eagerly taken aboard a ship about to leave the port. They had no travel documents, and no money to pay for their tickets, but this did not seem to matter. The ocean liner left, with the two young women hidden among boxes and cases in the hull. Angela and Charity soon found out what payment was requested from the human traffickers they had unwittingly trusted.

In their own words, "we had to pay with our bodies". Although they begged to be let off the ship at the next stop, no matter where, their pleading went unheeded. So Angela and Charity ended up in Hamburg, Germany. They were handed over to a brothel where, it was explained to them, they had to work to make good the expenses they had incurred. Over and over again, the women insisted on being put in touch with an office where they could ask for political asylum. Eventually, one night, they were brought by car to Berlin and given passports as British subjects, despite their protests.

Early one morning, police and passport control officials appeared at the door of the apartment where they had been placed. Angela and Charity explained their case. "Documents deceit" was the answer of the police, and they were condemned to four weeks in prison. It was in prison that they finally got an opportunity to apply for asylum. The women were given an appointment for an interview for refugee status, and finally a place in a hostel for asylum seekers.

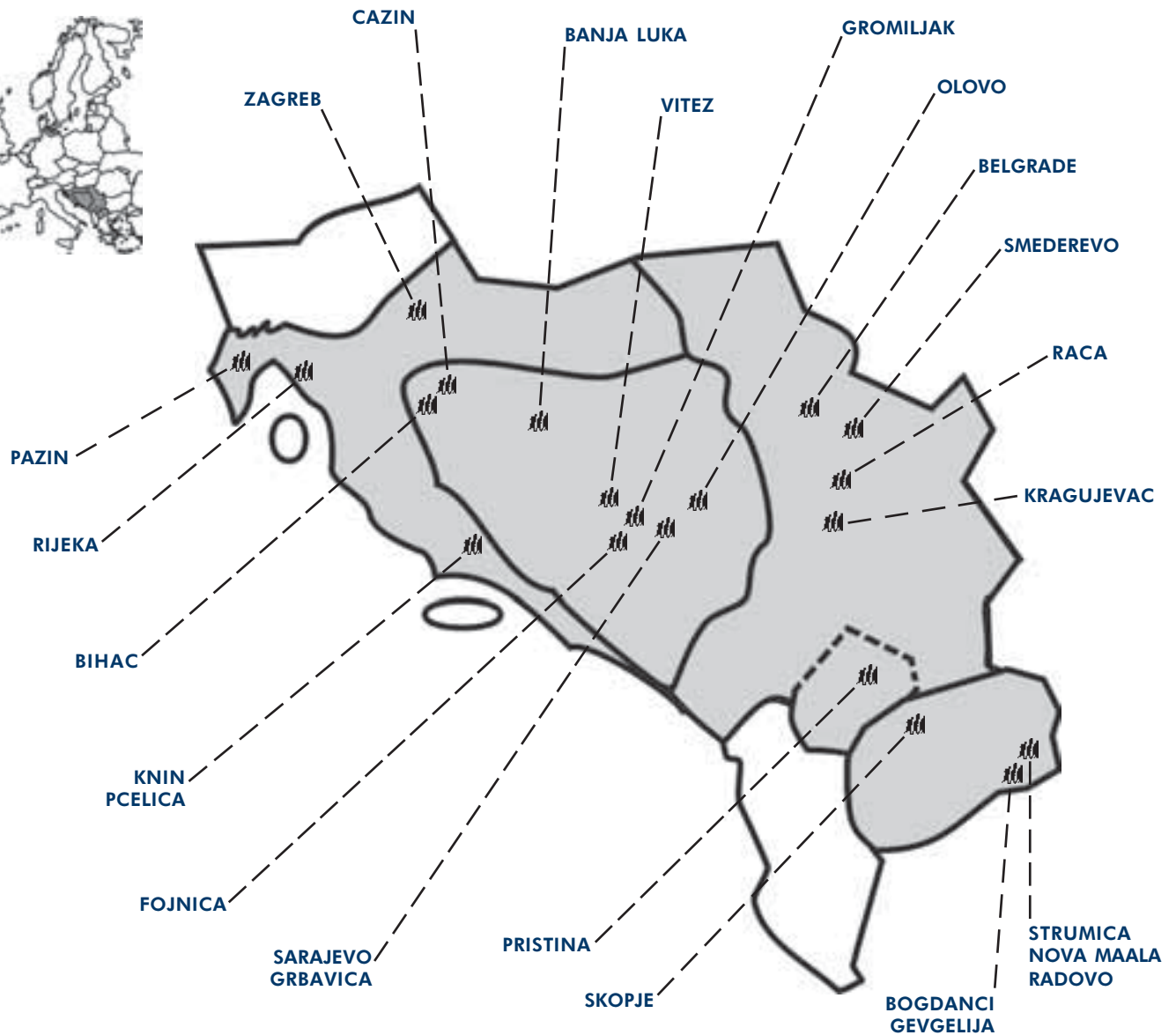
by a JRS Germany volunteer



Refugees in
Centro Astalli,
Rome, Italy

Hugh Delaney/JRS

SOUTHEAST EUROPE



Kosovo



Alberto Saccavini/JRS

On 12 July, 2003, JRS officially marked ten years of service in Southeast Europe, a region that comprises Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo), and which underwent a series of bitter wars during the 1990s. To mark the occasion, JRS in the region participated in an exercise of sharing the lessons learnt, engaging in strategic planning for the next three years.

Continued impunity for those who commit human rights abuses and fears for the sustainability of refugee returns were key features of life in Southeast Europe in 2003. Of those who have been internally displaced or made refugees, ethnic minorities continue to be particularly vulnerable, especially the Roma. Statistics released for 2003 draw attention to the over 1 million refugees and displaced people living in the region.

Though the conflict in the former Yugoslavia has now come to an end and media attention has long since passed on to other areas of the world, the work with those most affected quietly continues. This work varies greatly from country to country. In Croatia, JRS runs a pre-school in the town of Knin for young Bosnian, Croat and Serb children, offering an example of multicultural and peaceful interaction and integration. The parents are also highly involved in the project, which offers a space of security and safety, in particular to the Serb families who are gradually beginning, despite the obstacles, to return to Croatia after several years of exile following the conflict.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the focus is on accompaniment and support provided to mine victims. The support varies from assistance to access social benefits, such as the disability allowance, to financial support. With over 30,000 refugees and displaced people still living in 412 official collective centres in Serbia, JRS' work takes on a different focus. It works to meet the refugee and displaced population's immediate needs through the provision of washing powder and other such necessities. However, the projects also aim to meet the long-term needs of the refugees, through the provision of computer courses and assistance provided to local kindergartens.

In response to the needs of young mine survivors, summer camps were organised for young people from Kosovo. The children, from throughout Kosovo, come from the poorest families in the region. All of the participants carried the scars of conflict. For many of the children this was the first time they had come into contact with other people with similar physical, emotional, or psychological problems.

In Macedonia, although there were allegations of torture and ill-treatment by police and security officials, the human rights situation improved in 2003. To support the refugee and internally displaced populations, the JRS computer schools continued to equip young people with the basic skills to become self-sufficient.

Stjepan Kušan SJ, JRS Southeast Europe Director

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA



JRS Bosnia Director
Zdesla Sucur SJ

“The Dayton Accord stopped the war but impeded the peace”, said Monsignor Pero Sudar, the auxiliary Archbishop of Sarajevo. Bosnia is still a country in crisis, yet most aid organisations have closed their offices. These projects are increasingly left to the local organisations, which in the absence of external support are often unable to function. Even though Bosnia has disappeared from our TV screens, the political and economic situation did not improve substantially in 2003. In the last 7 years over 1,450 people were injured by mine explosions; over 30% of them fatally. The survivors have had to come to terms with life with a disability. The good news is that, according to the UNHCR, over 34,000 refugees returned to Bosnia during 2003. The number returning to areas where they form a minority of the population is constantly increasing. Nevertheless, many of those who returned to areas where they form a minority, in particular elderly returnees, have not been provided with adequate assistance, exposing them to many challenges in an impoverished country.



GRBAVICA, Sarajevo The project accompanies and supports elderly refugees by providing them with financial and medical assistance, and by visiting them on a regular basis. It also provides financial assistance to refugees and IDPs to return home and rebuild their houses. It covers the materials and the construction costs.

elderly home care

Achievements/Beneficiaries: 77 people assisted in 2003

SARAJEVO, GROMILJAK The computer school, established in 2002, continues to assist young people to acquire crucial computer skills at various levels: ranging from beginner to advanced levels.

education

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 80 students enrolled in 2003, up from 35 in 2002
- 5 teachers employed

SARAJEVO The JRS Mine Victims Assistance Programme (MVAP), established in 1996, continues to provide medical, material, educational, legal and psychosocial assistance to children throughout the country.

child mine survivors

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- over 300 children and young people have benefited from the programme
- 211 benefited from the medical assistance ranging from operations to help buying medicines
- 38 received material assistance such as food parcels, house repairs and clothing
- 33 received financial and other support to continue their education
- 179 families visited throughout the year
- summer camp organised for 25 children

SARAJEVO, VITEZ, BANJA LUKA, CAZIN, BIHAC, FOJNICA, OLOVO This project provides medical and rehabilitation assistance, from 10 orthopaedic and rehabilitation centres, to elderly mine victims. While it initially operated from Sarajevo, in 2003, it was extended to central and eastern Bosnia.

elderly mine survivors

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- medical assistance provided to 156 people
- psychosocial services provided to 136 people and a review of all cases from 2000 and 2001 was carried out
- legal assistance was provided to 81 people to help them to access government support for medical treatment



JRS Serbia Director
Viktor Glavina



SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

After more than a decade since the fall of communism in Serbia, the benefits of capitalism are not trickling down to ordinary people. The economy has been crippled over this period, with a fall in its national income of approximately 50%.

The crisis affected a large segment of the population, but the effect on the most vulnerable group – refugees, internally displaced persons, children and the elderly – was catastrophic. These groups now compete for dwindling public resources and reduced international support.

Within Serbia, there are 408 registered collective centres, accommodating 30,056 people. Of this number, 20,949 are refugees, while 9,107 are internally displaced persons from Kosovo-Metohija. About 10,000 live in unregistered collective centres, while others live with their relatives or friends, in their own houses and apartments or in rented housing.

According to recent reports, the UNHCR-funded centres are expected to close shortly.

computer schools

BELGRADE, SMEDEREVO Initially established to meet the education needs of refugees in Belgrade and later extended for those in the Smederevo refugee camp, the computer school is geared to help young people master the basics in computers. Since its inception over 3,000 students have completed the courses.

integration through education

The project, established in 2002, aims to promote the integration of the Roma and refugee children into mainstream society.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- assisted 6 kindergartens and 369 children with support providing monies for building renovation, rent, salaries, hygiene items and food

material assistance

KRAGUJEVAC, RACA The project, established in 1999, aims to accompany refugees from Bosnia and Croatia and IDPs from Kosovo and to improve the living standards of those in refugee camps by providing material assistance such as repairs, food and hygiene items.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- provided over 9,000 litres of washing powder and cleaning fluid, over 5,000 personal hygiene kits and 20,000 paper toilet rolls
- carried out a needs assessment for those refugees living in the 6 refugee camps in the Kragujevac region

MACEDONIA

According to international reports Macedonia is not yet the “success story” that it is often portrayed as. In fact, its post-conflict economy is characterised by ethnic tensions, human rights abuses, rampant criminality and pervasive corruption. With unemployment at 35%, existing social tensions are likely to be exacerbated. Against this economic and political background with the return of the majority of the displaced, the focus has shifted from emergency relief assistance to strengthening civil society, developing institutional capacity and revitalising the struggling economy. Identifying solutions for the over 9,000 IDPs and 3,600 refugees in Kosovo remains a priority for the international community. Moreover, there is little political support within Macedonia for the local integration of the over 3,500 refugees from Kosovo.



JRS Macedonia Director
Mato Jakovic

SKOPJE, STRUMICA, BOGDANCI, NOVA MAALA, RADOVO, GEVGELIJA A computers school, which focuses on assisting young people to acquire basic computer skills, continued throughout 2003. **education**

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 161 students completed the courses in 2003
- 88 enrolled in the course
- supported the Sisters of Mother Theresa and of San Vincenzo, Skopje, to provide food to the most vulnerable

KOSOVO

Though there was political, economical and social progress in Kosovo during the year 2003, the status of Kosovo remains unclear. The new UN Representative for Kosovo, Mr. Harry Holkeri, was to have organised the meeting between the Government of Serbia and the political leaders of Kosovo. This was to have been the first step towards the resolution of the very practical difficulties facing people like travel documents, freedom of movement of persons, goods and services. Recent news about the website of the so called Kosovo Liberation Army in Montenegro provoked violent reaction in neighbouring Serbia and could potentially encourage extremist forces in Kosovo too. Unfortunately the number of mine victims in Kosovo has been growing. However, the number of injured children is declining. This year there were 12 new cases. All the other mine victims during the year 2003 were adults.



JRS Kosovo Director
Mato Jakovic

The project was established in 1999 to cater for the refugees’ needs while they were in Macedonia and to accompany them in their return. It now focuses on assisting landmine survivors to overcome the trauma through psychosocial assistance, as well as providing material, medical and legal assistance.

landmine survivors

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- a total of 212 visits were made to the 163 participants
- summer camp organised for 23 children in Montenegro



JRS Croatia Director
Josip Divkovic



CROATIA

Accusations were levelled at Croatia for its failure to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia by delaying the arrest of two Croatian suspects indicted by the Tribunal. Violent incidents and accusations of discrimination against members of minority groups were reported. In spite of the post war political stabilisation, there are many obstacles preventing the return of refugees and their reintegration into the society of return. In particular, Serbs face huge problems returning to their pre-war homes. Despite numerous promises, the Croatian government has been unwilling and incapable of resolving this problem. In addition, fear of arbitrary arrest on war-crimes charges and discrimination in employment and pension benefits also deter return. Despite the early positive signs, hopes that the new government would really commit to the return of refugees have remained unfulfilled. Even though there are no border disputes within Croatia and relations with its neighbours are improving, ethnic tensions are still visible within the country.

social and pastoral

PAZIN, RIJEKA, ZAGREB The project was established to train lay people who work in or intend to get involved in social or community work and the work of the Church. The seminars focus on communication, social analysis and theological reflection. The project aims to promote tolerance, peace and reconciliation and the facilitation of refugee returns. A local independent NGO was created to ensure the work continues long after the JRS projects have closed.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 70 people completed a seminar series in 2003 and another 64 started a new series
- the Serbian Orthodox Bishop and Orthodox Pastor in Zagreb visited the project, considered a positive sign

reconciliation/ education

PCELICA, Knin JRS runs a pre-school in the town of Knin for young Bosnian, Croatian, and Serb children, offering an example of multicultural and peaceful interaction and integration. The parents are also highly involved in the project, which offers a space of security and safety.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 53 children enrolled in 2003
- the organisation of special events such as dentists' day, and visits from the traffic wardens and the local firemen



Kosovo

Serbia



Kosovo



HOPE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW: SOUTHEAST EUROPE

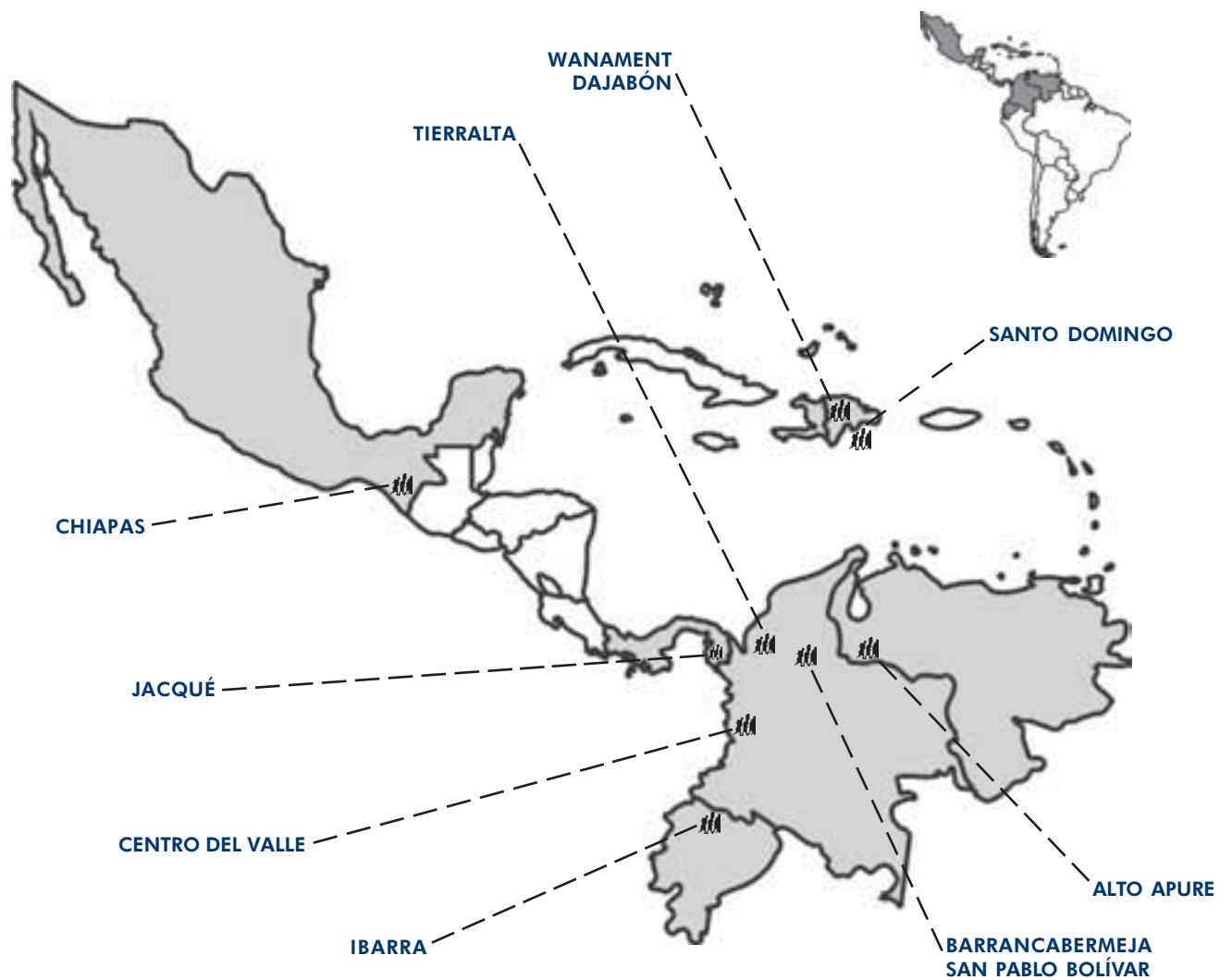
During the war, my family spent some years in Italy and Canada. I was so unhappy, I wanted to go home. Although at the time (1995), it was very dangerous to return to Sarajevo. We did return, although we had no work, no home, nothing. We do not have much, but we are happy. Things are getting better, they will get better.

Milka, who works on a JRS project in Sarajevo, which caters for elderly, sick and lonely people

Kosovo



LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



Human rights work with children in Barrancabermeja, Colombia



Ledís Bohórquez/JRS

Austere state economic, social and security policies and the escalation of conflicts between governments and opposition, exacerbated by a severe economic recession, have been the main features characterising the majority of the refugee producing and receiving countries in the region during 2003.

Colombia is suffering from the effects of over 40 years of conflict and the introduction of a new government security policy. Haiti is crippled by an economic crisis and a lack of political leadership. Venezuela continues to experience economic and political uncertainty following the unsuccessful *coup d'état* in April 2002, and the Dominican Republic suffered a crisis in its banking sector, which has severe implications for the country's economic development.

The impact on the refugee and displaced populations has been catastrophic. Costa Rica and Brazil have become destination countries for Colombian refugees, while Jamaica may become a focus for Haitians. In the impoverished Ecuador, there has been growth in discriminatory and xenophobic attitudes towards the many thousands of Colombians who have fled there to escape the conflict in their own country.

The forced displacement of civilians – especially those who live off the land, human rights workers, indigenous groups and trade union leaders – throughout Colombia continues unabated. New cases of displacement in Mexico (approximately 2,000 in 2003) and Haiti (between 10,000 and 15,000) were also recorded.

The authorities consistently failed to respond to the problem. In Venezuela, the recently established National Commission for Refugees has opened offices in the border region close to Colombia and the Government has granted temporary residence to some asylum seekers present within the State.

Incidences of forced repatriation have been reported from the Dominican Republic, as well as from Panama. According to non-governmental sources, in Jacqué (Panama), 220 Colombian refugees were forced to sign a statement accepting their voluntary repatriation.

José Núñez SJ, JRS Latin America & the Caribbean Director

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



JRS Dominican Republic Director
José Núñez SJ

In November 2003, as a direct consequence of the worsening political crisis in Haiti, there was a large increase in the number of asylum seekers assisted by JRS and other humanitarian organisations in the Dominican Republic. Analysts believe that clashes between Haitian government supporters and opposition groups may lead to armed conflict. There is a lack of political will to officially acknowledge the presence of, and grant legal status to, the approximately 1,000 asylum seekers in the Dominican Republic. Whilst the Migration Office provides asylum seekers with documentation, renewable every two months, the National Refugee Council fails to follow correct legal procedures. Moreover, the rights of the asylum seekers continue to be violated through forced repatriations, intimidation and harassment. The Haitian asylum seekers in the Dominican Republic survive under difficulties circumstances with the assistance of very few refugee NGOs and a Government unwilling to assume its international responsibilities.



WANAMENT, Haiti; DAJABÓN, Dominican Republic JRS accompanies individuals and communities on both sides of the Dominican-Haiti border. It provides assistance and support, such as human rights and skills training, which empower refugees to become more self-sufficient and to access their rights and benefits. JRS also raises awareness of refugee issues and campaigns on behalf of asylum seekers, immigrant children and grassroots organisations in the north of the island, as well as in the capital's suburbs. Human rights, community development and direct assistance to refugees are essential elements of each of the JRS projects.

border solidarity

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- drinking well constructed for Wanament rural community
- more than 50 children educated in issues such as solidarity and multiculturalism
- awareness raising of the needs of those repatriated and monitoring human rights abuses on the Dominican-Haitian border
- accompanied 2,745 living in temporary refugees and 1,233 Dominican and Haitian families affected by the heavy flooding in November 2003
- conducted research into the affected families' circumstances
- received and accompanied asylum seekers fleeing the conflict in Haiti

SANTO DOMINGO, WANAMENT, DAJABÓN Supported approximately 30 grassroots community organisations – including agricultural workers' organisations – promoting capacity building, and training in human rights, in particular on gender issues and the rights of forcible displaced people. Co-operated with 15 organisations assisting Haitian immigrants. JRS also contributed human rights monitoring.

networks/training

SANTO DOMINGO JRS campaigns for the right for all those born in the Dominican Republic to birth certificates and, therefore, access to basic social and state services, as guaranteed by the Dominican Constitution. Many children of Haitian origin have been denied Dominican nationality and are unable to attend school and avail of basic health and other services. The project also promotes anti-discrimination and anti-racism through training and seminars with various community groups and official bodies, as well as providing direct legal advice and assistance.

legal/advocacy

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- legal advice and casework support to 508 individuals
- JRS supported a legal team in bringing a landmark test case before the Dominican judicial system, which resulted in the Court ruling that all those born in the country, regardless of their parents' nationality or legal status, were entitled to Dominican citizenship and therefore birth certificates. The Supreme Court upheld this decision in October 2003, following an appeal by the Dominican Government.



JRS Colombia Director
Ledis Bohórquez



COLOMBIA

Colombia has suffered greatly from the effects of over 40 years of civil conflict. 2003 was marked by the implementation of President Alvaro Uribe's "Democratic Security" policy, characterised by a robust political and military campaign against the guerrilla groups (especially the *Fuerza Armada Revolucionaria de Colombia* and the *Ejército de Liberación Nacional*). Large numbers of civilians were also caught up in the conflict: victims of murders, disappearances, abductions, and other human rights abuses, including the forced displacement of both community leaders and the general population. The government, however, claims that displacement of civilians is on the decrease, partly in an effort to defend its own security policies. While there were less large-scale massacres in 2003, displacement took place on a more "drop by drop" basis. Warfare has been more common in the peripheral areas of the country, helping to hide the true extent of the problem, which is still as massive as ever.

education/ prevention

BARRANCABERMEJA The education projects are aimed at young people who have been displaced and in particular those who are very vulnerable to recruitment into armed groups. Peace education and working with the parents on issues of child welfare and the rights of the child are important parts of this project. The aim is to provide the children with the skills and tools so that they will be resilient to recruitment and that they will see that they are alternatives to becoming involved in the armed conflict. Monitoring the implementation of the project in schools is also carried out, as are cultural activities, which allow the children to develop their intellectual capacities. This work is currently going on in Barrancabermeja, where the JRS national office is also located, though plans include developing similar projects in all the areas where JRS is present in Colombia.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 71 children between the ages of 8 and 14, and 79 teachers
- 20 members of the displaced community and 10 members of youth organisations involved
- 12 members of both governmental and non-governmental organisations involved

general assistance

BARRANCABERMEJA, SAN PABLO BOLÍVAR, TIERRALTA, CENTRO DEL VALLE

JRS works with those in need, helping them with financial support, on issues of human rights, socio-cultural activities, personal matters and counselling. This is done through visits to the displaced people, personal needs assessments, meetings with groups involved and with the authorities, skills training, seminars on important issues such as rights, and support for the implementation of small subsistence and business projects. JRS also works closely with other non-governmental organisations and with governmental institutions in order to bring about change to the displaced people's lives.

In total, 3,455 people benefited directly from humanitarian assistance during 2003. This includes 36 families in Barrancabermeja and 100 families in San Pablo all in what is termed the "phase of transition", a period just following the emergency phase during which assistance is still required. In Tierralta, 350 displaced families, 60 in emergency phase, 39 in transition phase and 252 relocated families were supported. In Centro del Valle, 205 families with various different requirements were assisted.

reception/ orientation

BARRANCABERMEJA, SAN PABLO BOLÍVAR, TIERRALTA, CENTRO DEL VALLE

A major part of the work of JRS in Colombia is the provisions of services to individuals or groups of displaced people who do not know which way to turn for assistance. These services are in the form of information, orientation and actual assistance to displaced people that need to be received with care, and accompanied as they attempt to access the services to which they are entitled.

VENEZUELA



JRS Venezuela Director
Alfredo Infante SJ

In 2003, Venezuela underwent an unprecedented period of economic and political uncertainty with human rights seen as a critical issue. National strikes, the aftermath of an attempted *coup d'état*, and very poor relations between President and Opposition have all created a very unstable environment. In June, violent clashes took place following an anti-government demonstration. There have also been concerns that the authorities have used disproportionate force against civilians, raising questions of human rights abuses. The fear is that the current crisis may well escalate and spill over into open conflict. It is in this troubled context that JRS is working with Colombian refugees, who have crossed over the border to escape conflict in their own country. During 2003, the authorities established the National Commission for Refugees, with regional offices located in the regions bordering Colombia. There are an estimated 100,000 Colombian refugees in Venezuela though only 2,000 have officially applied for asylum, and only 15 have been recognised as refugees.

ALTO APURE The prime concern of JRS Venezuela is to accompany the Colombian refugees who are fleeing from conflict. Alto Apure is an area that sits right on the border with a region in Colombia that has suffered greatly from the long-running civil war. The harsh security policy, of the Colombian authorities in the region, has been blamed for contributing to the growing number of families who have been driven from their homes and over the border to relative safety. Many of the families arrive at the JRS office in Alto Apure to seek advice and orientation. During 2003, there has been a 100% increase in the number of Colombian refugees coming to the office compared with the previous year.

Beneficiaries: 900 refugees

**pastoral care/
advice**

ALTO APURE In partnership with UNHCR, JRS offers various forms of practical assistance to refugee families, ranging from the emergency assistance to integration support. The assistance provided during the emergency phase includes reception, the provision of medical care, legal advice and orientation. The next phase of assistance provides financial support to families, education assistance for children, help finding employment and human rights awareness raising.

**humanitarian
assistance**

ALTO APURE JRS, again in partnership with UNHCR, assists Colombian refugees to integrate as best they can into their new environment and community. This project works closely with the schools in the areas where the refugees are located, providing them with financial support to help educate the refugee children. In four schools, JRS has developed a programme that works with both refugee and local teenagers concentrating on human rights related issues. Part of the activities are aimed at preventing the young from being recruited into armed groups, a danger that many face. The project also works with local community organisations on integration programmes, strengthening the relationship between the host community and refugees.

Beneficiaries: 1,200 children involved in the project

**integration/
education**

ALTO APURE With the support of other organisations, JRS attempts – through the provision of legal services and advocacy work – to ensure that the refugees rights are respected. Raising awareness through a web site (<http://www.serviciojesuitaarefugiados-vzla.org>), regular publications and special events are vital parts of this work.

Beneficiaries: 1,045 people benefited from the project

**advocacy/
raising awareness**



JRS Ecuador Director
Luis Túpac-Yupanqui SJ



ECUADOR

Of all the nations in the Andean region, Ecuador has received the largest number of Colombian refugees. Between 2000 and 2003, 21,414 Colombians officially applied for asylum, of which 6,510 have been recognised as refugees.

This year saw a significant increase in the number of refugees crossing over the border from Colombia, with over 11,000 claiming asylum in 2003, up from the previous year's figure of 6,732. When the figure for 2001 is examined (2,929), it is clear that each year more and more Colombians are fleeing the conflict in their native land. Added to these figures is the presence of an even far greater number of Colombians who have not claimed asylum for security or other reasons.

Many of the refugees suffer from discrimination and xenophobia in Ecuador, a situation not helped by the behaviour of the media that sometimes portrays all Colombians as drug-traffickers, criminals or as belonging to armed groups. JRS is working to counter this new phenomenon through awareness raising campaigns.

social services **IBARRA** JRS established its presence in Ibarra, a city located two hours from the Colombian border, in 2002, in an effort to accompany the refugees who had fled to the region. Colombians living in Ecuador face many difficulties, such as problems accessing education for the young, healthcare for the sick, adequate housing, employment and other services and benefits. The current unstable political and economic climate in Ecuador only makes it more difficult for the refugees. JRS is involved in working closely with the refugee population, visiting them at home, offering advice and helping them to adjust to life in Ecuador.

integration **IBARRA** JRS works closely with the refugees and also with the host community, organising meetings between the two groups in order to facilitate better integration of the refugees and acceptance by the local population. Good relations and mutual understanding between the refugees and their host community are vital if prejudice and discrimination are to be overcome.

income-generating **IBARRA** JRS is involved in a network of organisations that attempts to improve the refugees' standard of living, mainly through small income-generating projects. One of the schemes involves land cultivation, offering the refugees, who ordinarily do not have access to land, the chance to plant seed and to cultivate food. JRS also offers skills training.

research **IBARRA** The significant increase in the number of Colombian refugees entering Ecuador during 2003 has meant that JRS has expanded its projects and taken on new staff members. Towards the end of 2003, JRS initiated a research programme to gauge the living conditions of the refugees and to establish exactly what their needs are. This research will be very valuable as JRS engages in strategic planning for future accompaniment of the refugees. It will also be used to encourage the development of networks and partnerships with other NGOs, church organisations, local government and community groups.

awareness raising **IBARRA** One of the main difficulties facing refugees in Ecuador is that they are often made to feel invisible, excluded from debate, ignored or vilified by the media and marginalised in society. As well as working with the host communities on integration projects, JRS also attempts to raise awareness of the issue of Colombian refugees among the general population. This is done through media campaigns, conferences and meetings with community groups.

PANAMA



JRS Panama Director
Miquel Cortes SJ

According to UNHCR statistics for December 2003, there are 759 recognised refugees in Panama, 30 asylum seekers and 589 individuals with temporary protection status, the majority of whom hail from Colombia. Unofficial figures speak of at least further 2,000 more Colombians who have crossed the border to escape the conflict in their native country. The majority of them are living in the border province of Darién. In April, 109 Colombians, including 63 children, living in Alto Tuira, were forcibly deported by the Panama authorities. Despite the condemnation of human rights groups, a similar forced repatriation exercise took place in December 2003. In July, an agreement was reached between the Panamanian and Colombian governments regarding voluntary repatriation. The fear is that refugees will be forced to sign statements indicating that they wish to return to Colombia despite their wish to stay in Panama.

JACQUÉ, Darién region Jaqué, close to the Colombian border, is quite isolated from the rest of the country. JRS works closely with the organisation *Fe y Alegría* and with the Teresian Missionary Sisters, to improve the living conditions and to promote the well being of the refugees we accompany. Technical agricultural assistance and pastoral care are provided.

general assistance

JACQUÉ Strategic planning meetings took place in September and projects for the future that emerged include: advocacy work, to assist refugees to obtain legal papers and throughout the refugee determination procedure. Included in this would be working with the government to establish a new law on migration, awareness raising and information programmes on the rights of refugees – aimed specifically at the host communities, capacity building in areas of health assistance, education, shelter and other forms of accompaniment to cater for future arrivals of refugees from Colombia.

planning

MEXICO



JRS Mexico Director
Pedro Arriaga SJ

The area where JRS works takes in the municipality of Chenalhó, in the Chiapas region, a zone that is affected by what is officially known as “displacements on account of war”. The three groups that require specific assistance are: displaced persons, those who have been relocated and those who have returned to their homes. The living conditions in the camps are sub-standard with a severe lack of basic services and food security. There is also a large military presence in the area, which weighs heavily upon the local Chiapas people. It also acts as a continuous reminder of the war, with serious and continued psychological consequences for the displaced population. However, a UN presence, to assist the displaced population, was recently suggested by the government.

CHIAPAS JRS-assisted projects reach out to 11,150 individuals: 1,400 directly and 9,750 indirectly, of whom 7,000 are displaced persons, 2,000 returnees and a further 750 who have been re-located, all situated in 42 communities and 8 camps in the Municipality of San Pedro Polhó. JRS accompanies these three groups, through pastoral care, cultural activities and also economic assistance in order to provide them with strength and encouragement.

Campaigning for rights,
Dominican Republic

COLOMBIA

We fled La Felicidad after the bombings, with our children. We spent three months in one place, four in another. I lost everything: pigs, chickens, and house...

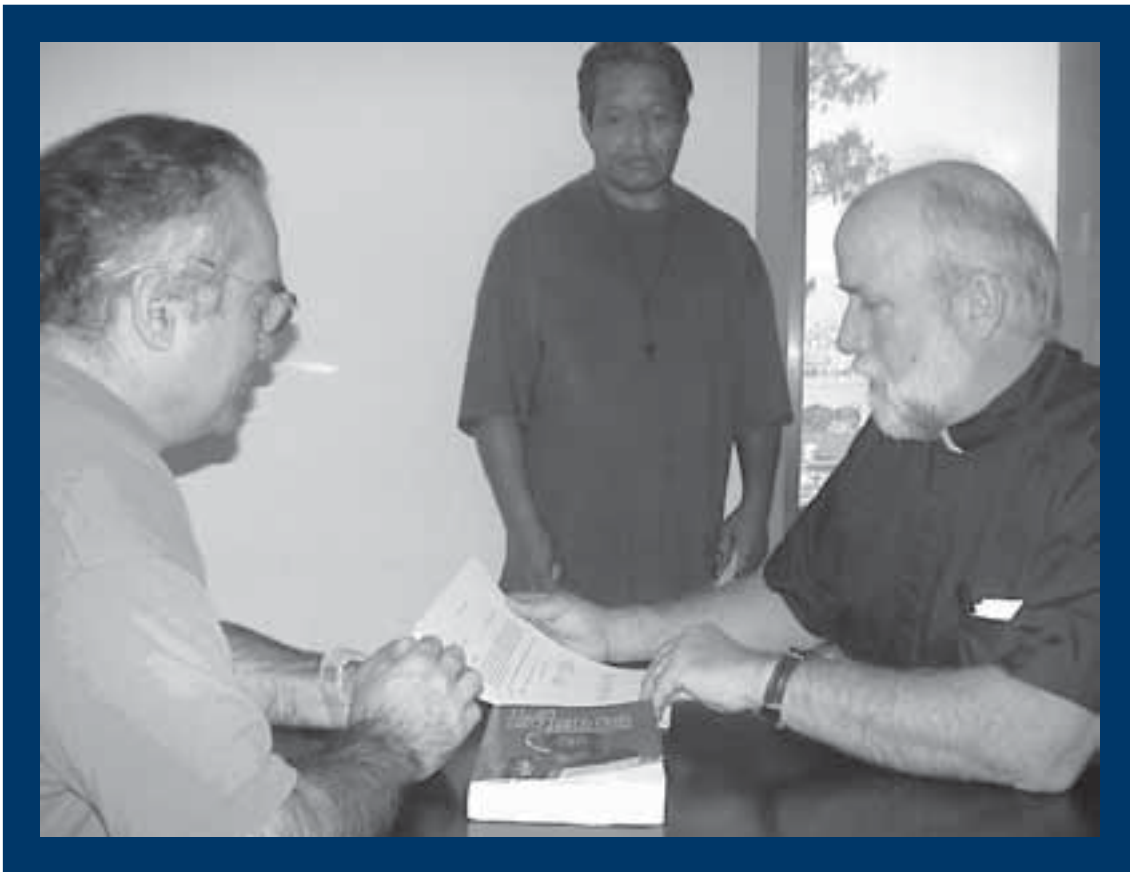
But we were tired of begging for our food and lodging, so we decided to return home, at least we could cultivate something. So we are 'displaced returnees'. We found the river had flooded our fields, washed away our houses. We have nothing...

We have suffered so much in this place: floods, then the bombing. But we still call it Felicidad, which means happiness.

Displaced people in Colombia's Magdalena Medio region

Tierralta,
ColombiaDominican
Republic

USA – CANADA



San Pedro Detention Centre, Los Angeles, USA

The context in which JRS operated in 2003 remained strongly influenced by three factors: the restrictive US federal detention legislation for non-citizens, the new security environment in the aftermath of September 11, and the transition of immigration detention authority to a newly established Department of Homeland Security in March 2003.

The US refugee programme continued to founder with resettlement figures once again, falling for a second year below the 30,000 mark, despite a US government goal of 70,000. In addition to the increased legal obstacles faced by asylum seekers, concern was raised that many non-US citizens from Arab or Muslim backgrounds detained after September 11 did not receive basic due process.

The US continued to interdict Haitian asylum seekers on the high seas and return them to Haiti. Furthermore, a sweeping federal decision directed immigration officials to consider national security arguments in future detention release cases involving Haitians who have come to the US seeking asylum.

On a more positive note, in October 2003, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced its intention to fund religious service programmes at its eight detention facilities throughout the country. With the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, responsibility for unaccompanied children was transferred to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) in the Department of Health and Human Services. Despite their more service-oriented and accessible approach, ORR has been slow in providing adequate housing for minors.

Ken Gavin SJ, JRS USA Director

USA – CANADA



JRS USA Director
Ken Gavin SJ

JRS joined with the Church World Service, a refugee agency representing the major Protestant denominations in the United States, in applying for a Department of Homeland Security contract to provide spiritual care to detainees of all faiths in the eight DHS detention centres. There are approximately 20,000 detainees held by or for DHS on any given day and more than 200,000 individuals pass through US detention centres annually. It is our hope that JRS' partnership with CWS will develop an ecumenical, non-proselytising model of pastoral care that will become the standard for all detention facilities in the US. JRS Canada works in the area of advocacy, research and refugee resettlement, providing language classes, legal and medical assistance, and pastoral accompaniment. It also supports refugees, as a member of the Ecumenical Sanctuary Coalition and the Canadian Council of Refugees. Recently, it has started working to highlight how the Canadian Government prevents refugees from boarding aeroplanes to North America and, thus claiming asylum.



detainees, pastoral

In 2003, JRS focused its chaplaincy services on three adult detention sites directly supervised by the Department of Homeland Security-San Pedro (600 detainees) in Los Angeles, El Paso (800 detainees) in Texas, and Florence (600 detainees) in Arizona. JRS chaplains are accessible to detainees, providing them with sensitive pastoral care that is greatly needed and appreciated. They facilitate the provision of services to meet the diverse religious needs of all detainees.

This year marked the conclusion of JRS' successful programme of social intervention and advocacy for children in detention in the Los Angeles area. Over the course of the last four years, this project has touched the lives of hundreds of children, bringing hope and support through such interventions as facilitating contact with families and community volunteers, arranging for legal representation, and improving conditions of custody, among others.

advocacy

- JRS joined with advocacy partners to develop a better understanding of the international system of food aid allocations and its effect on refugee populations. This informal coalition successfully advocated for an increase of more than \$500 million in appropriations for food aid in East Africa.
- JRS and other partners continued to lobby the US Department of State, the National Security Council, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and the DHS for the revitalisation of the US refugee resettlement programme.
- JRS devoted substantial advocacy work to the situation in Colombia. Despite the support and joint effort of other humanitarian groups, legislation providing temporary work permission and protection from deportation was not passed by the US Congress.

research

In partnership with Jesuit-sponsored Fairfield University, JRS helped to organise a seminar on migration for Fairfield faculty. JRS continued to assist with a variety of Fairfield research projects on issues such as refugee income-generating projects, migration, and asylum petitions.

scholarship Fund

The "Keeping Hope Alive Refugee Scholarship Fund" continued to solicit funds to provide tuition for highly motivated refugees to pursue university education in their own countries.

CANADA

As well as the activities described above, JRS Canada also maintains a close working relationship with JRS Colombia and has begun to develop its ties with JRS Dominican Republic.



JRS USA

DETENTION IN THE UNITED STATES

The emphasis in our ministry is on accompaniment – to be present with those who are abandoned by all others. The ministry demands great *self-possession*, the ability to be satisfied with being, not doing. Being present when no one wants to leave their bed to talk to you that morning, being present when the people show up to your service and ask for legal help or financial aid that you can't give, yet insult and abuse you when you turn them down, being present when they come to you and cry their hearts out from all the stress of bottled emotions.

When I enter a room to gather folks together for prayer, they forget their differences for an hour and hold out a hand in friendship instead of violence and distrust. They share their sorrow, frustration and desperation in a context that makes them feel secure. So much healing and relief happens.

Pete Neeley SJ, JRS Chaplain at the San Pedro Detention Centre near Los Angeles, California



JRS USA

JRS USA



JRS publications

<http://www.jrs.net> The JRS Web Site

Visit <http://www.jrs.net> – JRS's web site – for all the up-to-date refugee news and information. The site contains regular "Alerts" from specific countries where JRS is present, feature articles and special reports from JRS workers in the field, as well as JRS documents and publications.



To receive **Servir** and **Dispatches**, free of charge, subscribe through the JRS web site <http://www.jrs.net/lists/manage.php>

Servir

Servir, published three times a year, is a 12-page magazine that examines the issues of concern to the work of JRS, telling the stories of the refugees and displaced people, and the projects that have been established to assist them. **Servir** is available in English, Spanish, French and Italian.



Dispatches

Dispatches, a twice-monthly electronic news bulletin, details refugee news briefings as well as updates on JRS projects and activities. It includes reflections and refugee stories. Also available in English, Spanish, French and Italian.

JRS finances 2003

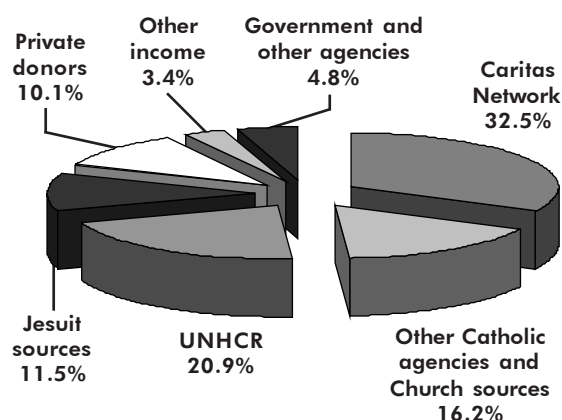
Some explanatory notes

1. Information extracted from the financial reports (income & expenditure) received from the country and/or regional offices.
2. In-kind donations, particularly from the Society of Jesus and religious congregations are not included in these figures. Although they play an important role in support of JRS, they are difficult to quantify.
3. **Sources of funding:**
 - *Other Catholic agencies and Church sources* refers to donations from the Bishops' Conferences, dioceses, religious congregations and Catholic agencies other than the Caritas Network;
 - *Private donors* includes individuals and private foundations;
 - *Other income* refers to earning from investments, interest on bank deposits and retail sales from income-generating projects;
 - *Jesuit sources* refers to funds received from Jesuit provinces, individual Jesuits and the Jesuit Mission offices.

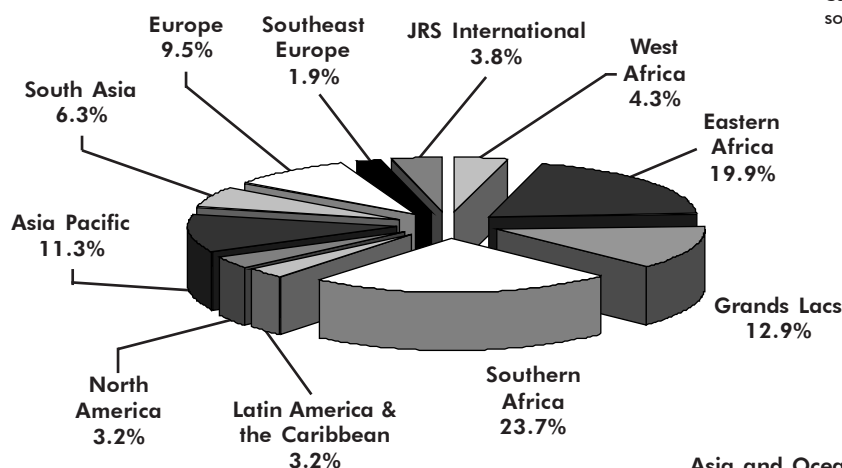
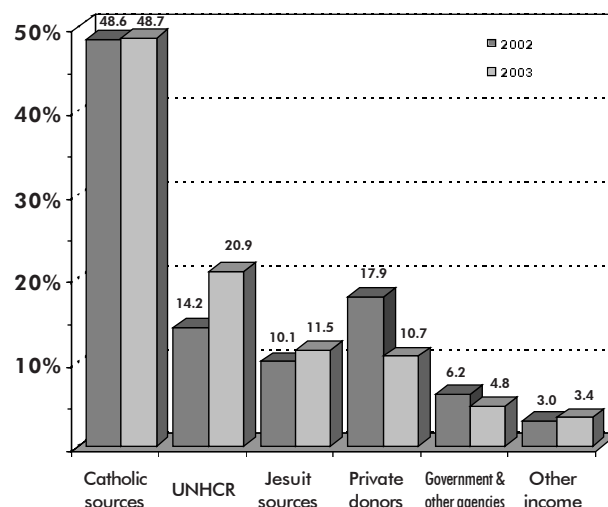
SOURCES OF FUNDING JRS WORLD-WIDE (in US dollars)

Sources of funding	Amount
Caritas Network	5,668,905
Other Catholic agencies and Church sources	2,826,091
UNHCR	3,639,440
Jesuit sources	2,006,388
Private donors	1,861,177
Government and other agencies	833,912
Other income	588,265
Grand Total	17,424,178

SOURCES OF FUNDING BY PERCENTAGE

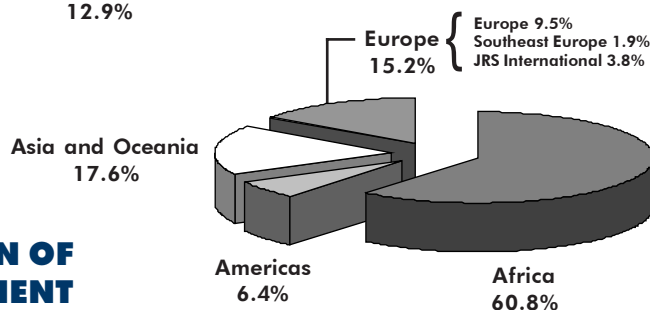


SOURCES OF FUNDING: COMPARISON 2002-2003



PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE BY CONTINENT

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE BY REGION



CONTACTS JRS

International office

CP 6139,
00195 Roma Prati, Italy
Tel: +39 - 06 68 97 73 86
Fax: +39 - 06 68 80 64 18
Email: international@jrs.net

Eastern Africa

PO Box 76490,
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 - 20 574 152
Fax: +254 - 20 571 905
Email: eastern.africa@jrs.net

Grands Lacs

B.P. 2382,
Bujumbura, Burundi
Tel: +257 210 494
Fax: +257 243 492
Email: grands.lacs@jrs.net

Southern Africa

PO Box CY 284, Causeway,
Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: +263 - 4 708 998
Fax: +263 - 4 721 119
Email: southern.africa@jrs.net

West Africa

Evêché, B.P. 45,
N'zérékoré, Republic of Guinea
Tel: +224 - 910 793
Email: west.africa@jrs.net

Asia Pacific

PO Box 49, Sanampao Post Office
Bangkok 10406, Thailand
Tel: +66 - 2 640 9590
Fax: +66 - 2 271 3632
Email: asia.pacific@jrs.net

South Asia

ISI, 24 Benson Road,
Bangalore, 560 046, India
Tel: +91 - 80 35 37 742
Fax: +91 - 80 35 37 700
Email: south.asia@jrs.net

Europe

Haachtsesteenweg 8,
B-1210 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 - 2 250 3220
Fax: +32 - 2 250 3229
Email: europe@jrs.net

Southeast Europe

Jordanovac 110,
10000 Zagreb pp 169, Croatia
Tel: +385 - 1 235 4303
Tel/Fax: +385 - 1 234 6129
Email: southeast.europe@jrs.net

Latin America & the Caribbean

Centro Bonó, Apartado 76,
Santo Domingo,
Dominican Republic
Tel: +1809 - 688 1646
Fax: +1809 - 685 0120
Email: latin.america@jrs.net

United States of America

1616 P Street, NW, Suite 300,
Washington, DC 20036-1405,
United States of America
Tel: +1 - 202 462 0400
Fax: +1 - 202 328 9212
Email: usa@jrs.net

United Kingdom

6 Melior Street
London SE1 3QP
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 - 20 7357 0974
Fax: +44 - 20 7378 1985
Email: uk@jrs.net

Australia

PO Box 522,
Kings Cross NSW 1340
Australia
Tel: +61 - 2 9356 3888
Fax: +61 - 2 9356 3021
Email: australia@jrs.net

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)

I want to support the work of JRS

Please find enclosed a donation of

My cheque is attached

☐

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Name:

Address:

City:

Post Code:

Country:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

For bank transfers to JRS

Bank: Banca Popolare di Sondrio, Roma (Italy), Ag. 12
ABI: 05696 – CAB: 03212 – SWIFT: POSOIT22

Account name: JRS

Account numbers:

- for Euro: 3410/05
IBAN: IT86 Y056 9603 2120 0000 3410 X05
- for US dollars: VAR 3410/05
IBAN: IT97 0056 9603 212V ARUS 0003 410

Bruno Rascão



