

Jesuit Refugee Service



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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 **2004 Report** is published in English, Spanish, Italian and French.

Cover photo:

JRS Venezuela

Colombian refugee girl, Venezuela

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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.

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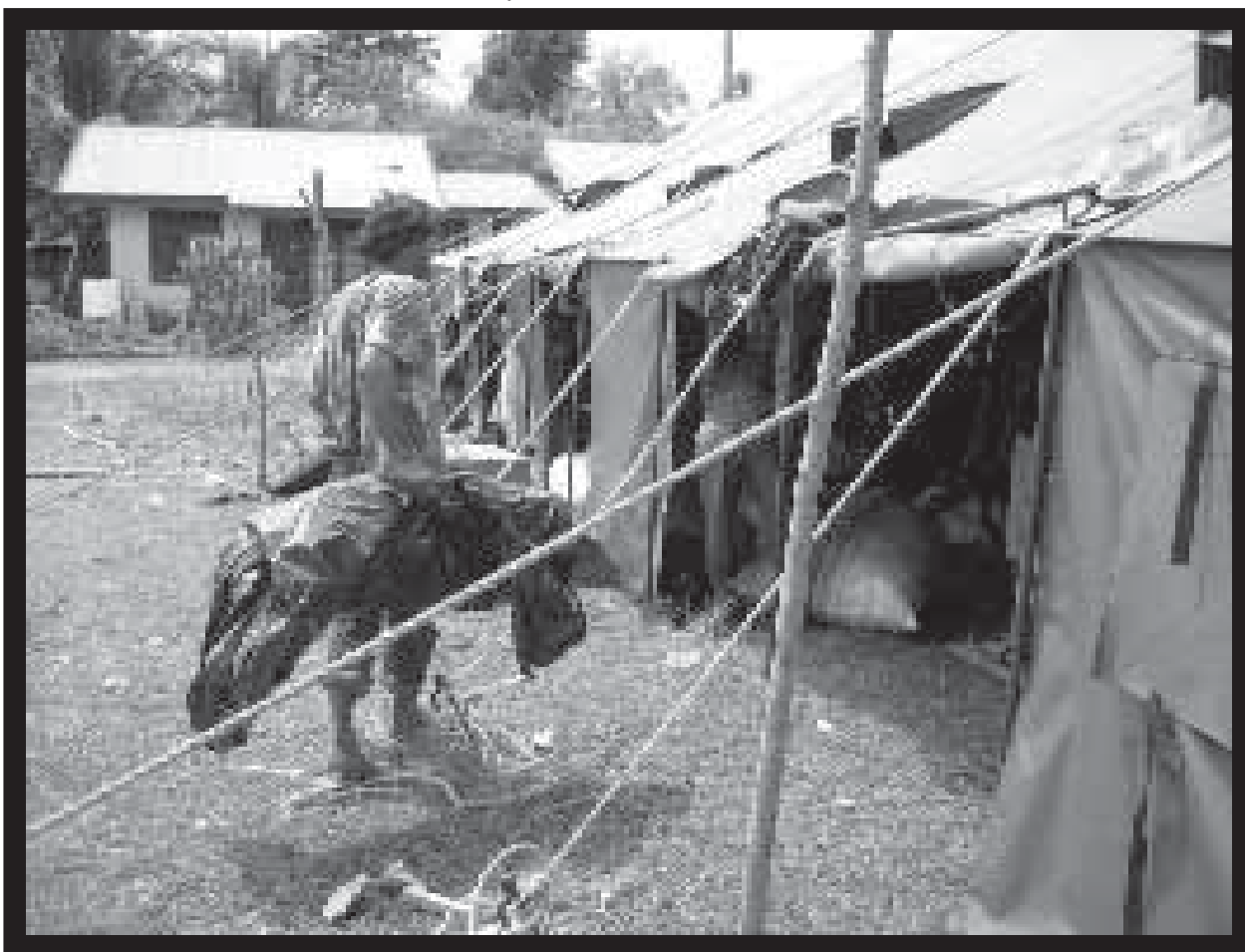


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Relocation after tsunami disaster, Seulimeum camp, Aceh, Indonesia



Ingild Solvang/JRS



Two Sudanese refugee children in a camp in Chad

Message from the International Director

Looking back, 2004 has been filled with joy and sorrow. Peace in southern Sudan, Angola, Liberia and Sri Lanka, to name but a few, have brought hope to thousands of displaced persons around the world. The recent peace agreement between the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and the Government of Sudan ended decades of war and millions of refugees and displaced persons now look forward to starting a new life in Sudan. Return programmes got underway in Angola and Liberia and over 50,000 refugees voluntarily returned to Burundi from Tanzania in 2004.

In many countries to which refugees were returning, JRS continued to monitor the situation on the ground and provide information to refugees, enabling informed decisions to be made with regards to their own resettlement or repatriation. In Tanzania, in 2004, JRS Radio Kwizera acquired an outside broadcasting unit, to improve their access to and accuracy of information broadcast to Burundian refugees anxious to return home. In these countries, and many others, JRS education programmes focused on promoting peace and resolving conflicts.

JRS programmes, in over 50 countries, have touched the lives of over 400,000 people. Our staff have accompanied those who have been displaced from their homes because of war and violence, assisting them to rebuild their lives. They have empowered people to access their rights, and provided them with skills training, education, health and pastoral services, and psychological support. It is through this direct accompaniment that our service and advocacy priorities have been set.

Sadly, 2004 also witnessed continued outbreaks of violence, and in particular in Darfur, in western Sudan where over 100,000 have died and a further 1.6 million have been displaced by conflict. As is so often the case, the most vulnerable have been the worst affected and it is for them JRS holds particular concern and commitment. JRS Uganda provided counselling and care, as well as education and skills training to a number of Congolese refugee women and girls, victims of sexual violence often perpetrated by armed forces.

Governments' have increasingly blurred the lines between the different groups of "people on the move" – irregular migrants

and refugees: indiscriminately detaining forced migrants on arrival, tightening up asylum procedures and taking measures to prevent their arrival. In response, JRS staff continued to visit detained asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants, providing them with pastoral care, legal assistance and even medical care.

The devastating tsunami on 26 December shocked everybody. An estimated 260,000 people were recorded dead or missing and over 2 million people displaced. Indonesia and Sri Lanka were by far the hardest hit. JRS staff working in Aceh, Indonesia and Sri Lanka responded without delay, deploying staff, former staff and volunteers to meet the immediate basic needs of the worst affected. The public response to the disaster was magnificent.

On 14 November 2005 JRS will have served beside and learned from refugees for 25 years. It is an appropriate point in time to give thanks to God for assisting us in our good work, to reflect back, learn from our wealth of experience and look forward confidently to dealing with the changing demands placed upon us. None of our achievements would have been possible however, without the commitment and hard work of our staff and volunteers and the many individuals, groups and organisations that support our work. For this I thank you. I look forward to your continued support for a busy year ahead.

Lluís Magriñà SJ



JRS and Advocacy

Over the past year the range of advocacy activities carried out by JRS offices to defend the rights of refugees and displaced people was as diverse as the many contexts in which JRS works around the world. For example, JRS advocacy work in 2004 included radio programmes about the positive contributions made by refugees to society in Tanzania, work to improve child protection in refugee camps in Thailand, and training on human rights for detention centre staff in Slovenia. But, despite this wide diversity of activities, JRS has developed an international advocacy network that works together on agreed principles, the first and foremost of which is that JRS advocacy work flows from its direct accompaniment of refugees and displaced people.

Decisions about JRS advocacy priorities and plans are not made in the JRS International Office; they come from the refugees and displaced people themselves. Putting this into practice requires the people working in JRS projects around the world to sit down with refugees, consult with them, listen to their problems, and discuss plans for actions that could help them to reclaim the human rights that are so often denied to them. JRS has always focused its work on the most marginalised and most forgotten refugees, so consultations will always try to include all sectors of the refugee community – women, men, young and old, and people of different ethnic groups or religions.

In 2004 JRS offices around the world made advocacy plans based on what came out of their consultations with refugees. Certain common issues came up in many countries where JRS works, and in 2004 JRS advocacy work focused on dealing with the following issues in many countries: negative perceptions of refugees, pressure on refugees to return to their countries of origin before it is safe for them to do so, the increasing use of detention of refugees, asylum-seekers

and migrants, access to fair and efficient asylum procedures, access to quality education for refugee and displaced children, equal access to education for refugee girls, sexual and gender-based violence against refugee women and girls, inadequate provision of food rations and of non-food items to refugees, access to health services for refugees, recruitment of children to armies and armed groups and landmines.

JRS works to empower refugees, so much of its advocacy work is directed towards informing refugees of their rights and assisting them to claim their rights. In 2004 JRS ran workshops and produced information for refugees about their rights and responsibilities in most of the countries where JRS is present. Providing refugees with this type of information is the first step towards enabling them to become their own advocates.

And ensuring that the voices of the people affected by injustices themselves are heard has always been a priority of JRS. An example of putting this principle into action has been JRS' work on the international campaign to ban landmines. One of JRS' important contributions to this campaign was a continued insistence upon the participation of landmine survivors in the UN conferences that were making decisions that affected their lives. In 2004, continuing this work, JRS organised the participation of landmine survivors at the First Review Conference of the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty in Nairobi and advocated for the voice of the survivors to contribute to plans, priorities and funding decisions on landmine issues.

JRS has learnt that the credibility and the impact of our advocacy work comes from listening to the voices of the refugees and enabling them to reclaim their rights.

Melanie Teff, Advocacy and Policy Coordinator

Sudanese secondary school student, beneficiary of the JRS Affirmative Action Programme, in Adjumani, northern Uganda



Frido Pflueger SJ/JRS

Africa: a continent in crisis, a JRS response

Ten percent of the world's population lives in Africa, but two-thirds of all HIV infected persons live on the continent. AIDS is altering the structure of African societies. Three-quarters of those recently infected were women and children, and the infection rates in Africa are increasing. These patterns are not likely to diminish in the near future – the rates are exacerbated by interrelated factors: high migration, economic collapse, family disruption, weak government and poor social services, chronic malnutrition, and food insecurity.

Numerous wars and violent conflicts continued to plague the continent of Africa during 2004. Consequently, more than 5 million Africans have been forced to flee, and many

millions more have been internally displaced within their countries of origin. Loss and disruption of lives and the breakdown of society have wreaked havoc on the lives of many more, and millions of children and young people have been denied access to education.

Aware that the causes of forced displacement in Africa cut across national and regional boundaries, directors from the four regions of JRS Africa, and the 20 or so countries they represent, have always felt the need to meet and address issues of common concern. In particular, they are keen to collaborate and share experiences on current repatriation processes in Angola, Burundi, Liberia, and Sudan.

Africa Education

JRS holds the conviction that education is a priority that is core to: restoring normality to those affected by conflict, providing a sign and source of hope for the future, and developing the capacities of local people and refugees to be able to build a more just and peaceful society.

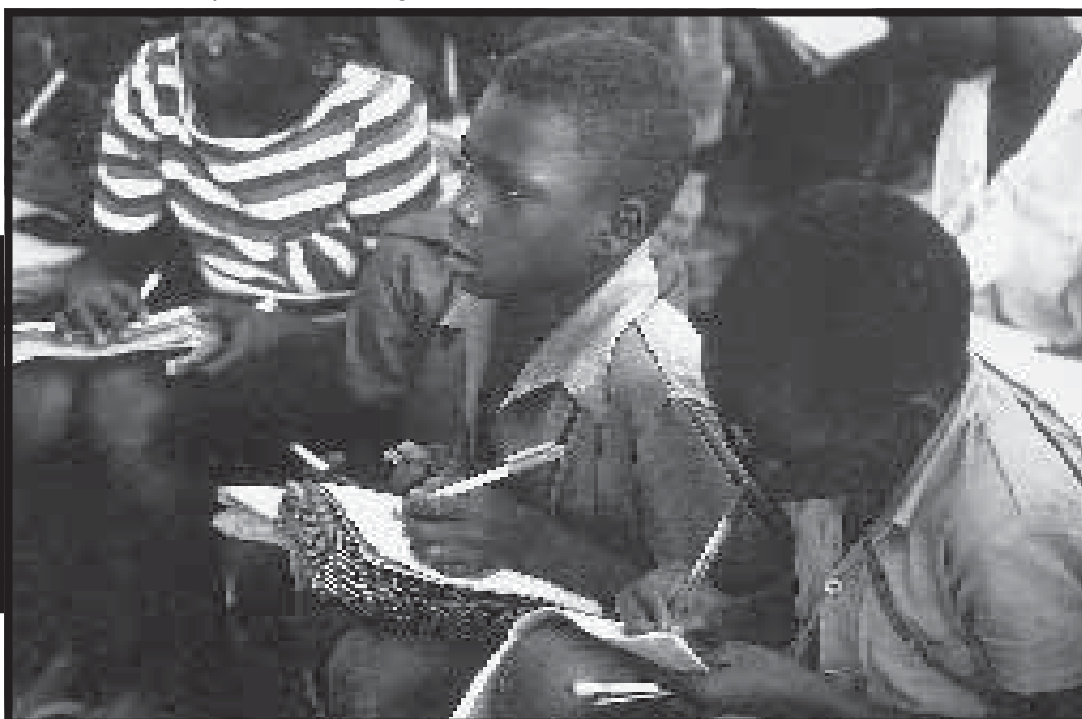
In support of its commitment to education, JRS began the Africa Education Project in 1997 to enhance the quality of teaching and learning for refugees and other displaced persons by providing educational expertise and resources to JRS field personnel, who directly accompany, serve and advocate on behalf of the forcibly displaced, usually in the most difficult and isolated circumstances in these African countries.

The project office and resource base for refugee education are in Nairobi, Kenya, but the scope and outreach of the project includes JRS education personnel and projects throughout Africa. In 2004, in addition to the resource material made available to the projects, the Education Resource Person for Africa visited JRS education projects in 8 African countries to: provide expertise in various aspects of education, facilitate education meetings, and carry out consultations and assessments. Similar support and collaboration was offered to others involved with education of refugees and displaced populations, i.e. the Church, UN agencies, other NGOs, and ministries of education.

<http://www.jrsafricaeducation.org>

African Regional Directors

Africa education, Adjumani, northern Uganda



Michael Coyne SJ/JRS



JRS Chad Director
Patrick Samway SJ

CHAD

Since early 2003, the conflict in Darfur, western Sudan, has caused the flight of thousands of refugees into Chad. In 2004 hundreds of Sudanese villages were destroyed. The Government of Sudan and armed militias have forcibly displaced an estimated 2 million civilians, and over 100,000 have died as a direct or indirect cause of this campaign. The UN Security Council resolutions for actions have been hampered by its permanent members' threatened use of their veto. Despite countless denunciations and professions of concern, little has been done to protect the people of Darfur. At present, 11 official camps in Chad accommodate about 150,000 refugees who have crossed the 600 km long border with Sudan. The camps are in desert conditions, with frequent dust storms and temperatures varying from 4°C at night in some seasons to 45°C during the day at other times. Access to the camps is difficult during the rainy season (May – September) due to the state of the roads.

JRS projects in Chad

education

KOUNOUNGOU, TOULOU & FARCHANA camps In 2004, JRS provided support to SECADEV, the local Caritas, to build up their capacity to manage the education programmes in three of the camps: Kounoungou, Touloum and Farchana, in western Chad. SECADEV is responsible to UNHCR for management of the camps. At the end of 2004, the population of these camps was 47,372 of whom 9,565 were registered in one of the 115 preschool or primary classes. In December, management of Touloum camp, was handed over to CARE International for logistical reasons. In the two other camps, Kounoungou and Farchana, SECADEV remains responsible for camp management, education and certain community services.

The situation in the camps has improved since October, 2004. Schools have stabilised, though there remains a constant need to ensure that new students are enrolled, teachers are trained, classes are constructed and furniture and materials are provided. The 3-18 year old age group is 40% of the camp population. In Sudan, 58% of children were enrolled. JRS' priority is to increase enrolment and continue improving the education system in place. UNHCR and UNICEF are responsible for the payment of the refugee teachers (directors, teachers and monitors) and for the supply of furniture and school materials to the children. JRS has been coordinating the management of the schools and follow-up to ensure that all children between 6- and 15-years old are educated, in particular primary aged children and girls.

Activities:

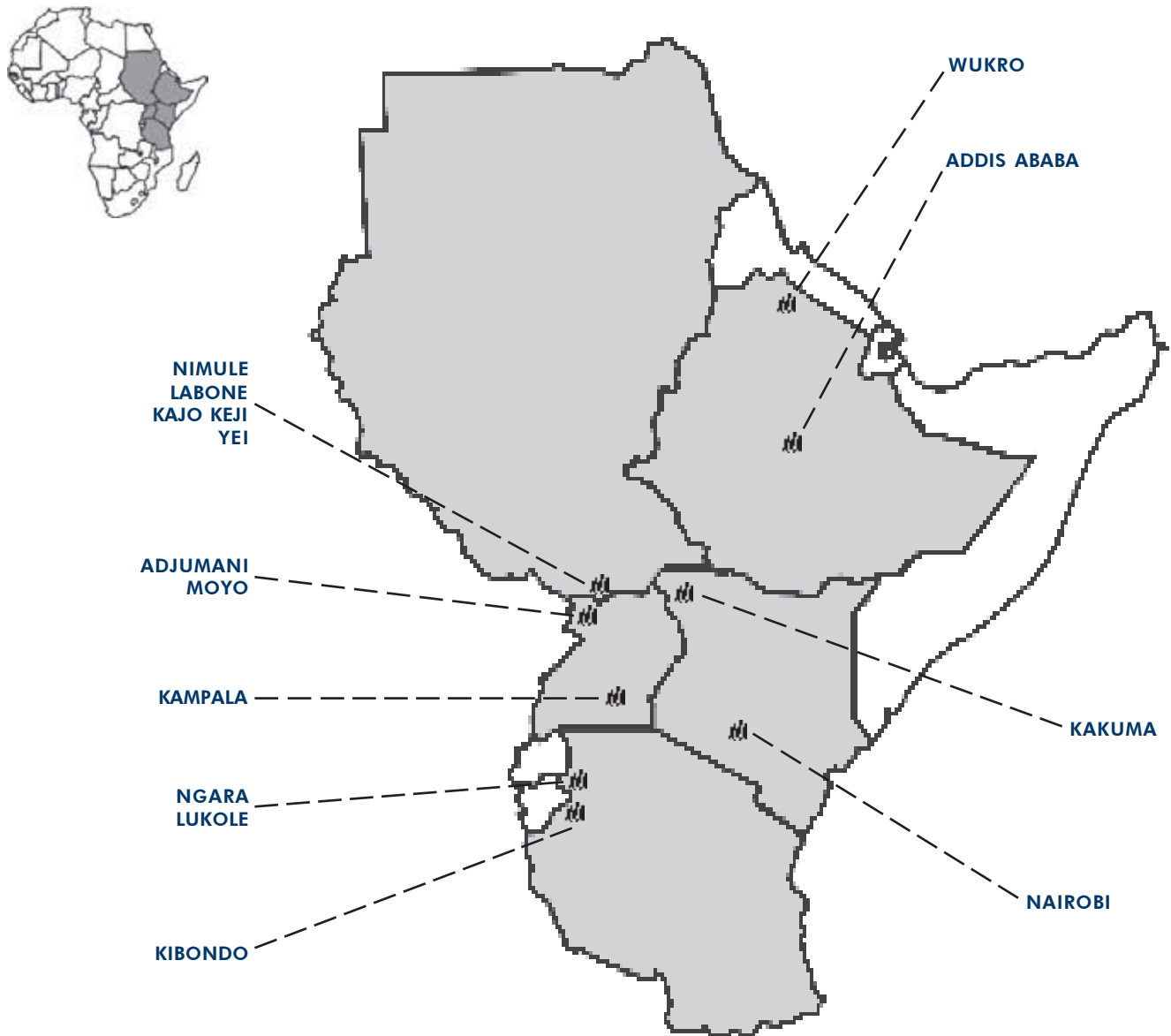
- 43 temporary school structures constructed for 9,965 children
- a parents committee (12 people in each camp) was put in place to ensure the monitoring and management of the schools' supplies and materials
- school and recreation materials provided, including 58 school kits, 40 recreational kits and 157 seating mats
- monetary and in-kind payments made to the school staff
- three headmasters, eight monitors and 132 teachers identified and provided with training
- young adolescents, 37 girls and 96 boys, provided knitting, weaving and sports classes

Refugee camp in Chad

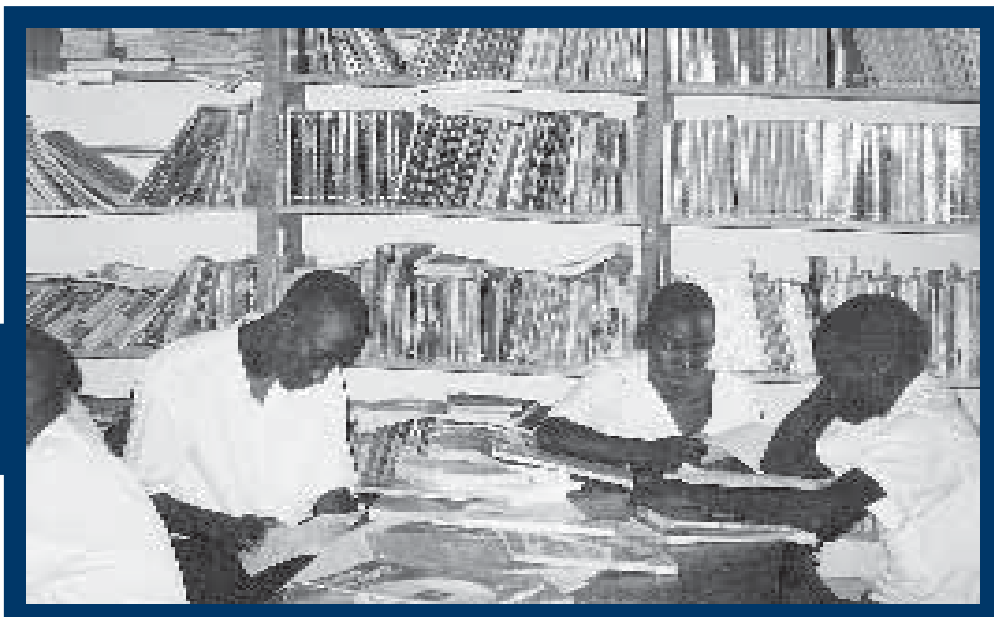


Patrick Samway SJ/JRS


EASTERN AFRICA



Sudanese children in a JRS-supported school, Adjumani, northern Uganda



James Stapleton/JRS



Two-thousand and four was a year of joy and sorrow for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Eastern Africa region. The recent peace agreement between the Sudanese People's Liberation Army/Movement and the Government of Sudan ended decades of war, death and displacement. With a sense of great relief and optimism, millions of refugees and IDPs now look forward to starting a new life in Sudan.

In 2004, the world's attention remained focused on genocide, as some have described it, in Darfur, western Sudan, where over 100,000 have died and over 1.6 million have been displaced by conflict. JRS Eastern Africa continued to seek access to Darfur in 2004, and is planning to assist the people of Darfur in 2005 now that restrictions to access have been lifted.

Northern Uganda continued to be home to over 1 million IDPs due to the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Fighting between the LRA and Ugandan Government were marked by grave atrocities, especially against children. JRS Eastern Africa completed a needs assessment in this region and plans to provide psychosocial, education and other support services to the IDPs in 2005.

This year, there were several serious outbursts of violence in North and South Kivu, in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Consequently, many thousands of Congolese refugees continued to seek refuge in Eastern Africa. Many of them, especially deeply traumatised women, sought assistance from JRS urban projects in Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Kampala. The Congolese refugees in the western Tanzania camps continued to wait for peace in their country.

Over 50,000 refugees voluntarily returned to Burundi from western Tanzania in 2004. However, with delays in setting a date for the referendum on the new Constitution, the rate of repatriation slowed towards the end of the year. Food shortages in certain regions in Burundi also discouraged further repatriation. There is, nevertheless, great hope that in 2005 all refugees will be able to return in freedom, dignity and security.

The flow of refugees from Ethiopia and Eritrea continued in 2004. Many Oromo and Anuak people from Ethiopia sought refuge in Kenya and despite an international boundary agreement, the border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea continued to cause tension. Many young Eritreans sought refuge outside their country due to obligatory military service and other forms of repression.

The Somalia peace agreement was signed and a parliament was elected and established, albeit in Nairobi. In 2005, the Parliament, President and Prime Minister hope to move to Somalia. At the end of 2004, however, security considerations still prevented decisive plans.

Last year was a year of progress and setbacks in which JRS continued to accompany and serve refugees and IDPs, bringing them a sense of hope. May JRS continue in its jubilee year, 2005, to bring greater service to refugees and IDPs as we reach out to the peoples of Darfur and northern Uganda.

John Guiney SJ, JRS Eastern Africa Director

KENYA



JRS Kenya Director
Jane Munge

In 2004, President Kibaki, after two years in office, struggled to respect his election promises. Commitments given to improve socio-economic conditions for the over 220,000 refugees and to introduce a solid legal framework to safeguard basic human rights were yet to reach fruition. Many refugees and Kenyan nationals continued to languish in poverty. The protracted refugee presence in Kenya has resulted in donor fatigue and pressure on resources. Further suffering and displacement were experienced following the heavy rains, and by the demolition of illegally constructed residences on public land. Nevertheless, significant progress has been made in promoting a regional solution to the long-running civil wars in Sudan and Somalia raising hopes for voluntary repatriation of 200,000 refugees. Elsewhere, the Kenyan and Rwandan Governments with UNHCR were negotiating for a tripartite agreement, leading to a resolution to invoke the refugee cessation clause, and the subsequent repatriation of thousands of Rwandan refugees. In 2004, the resettlement of nearly 10,000 Somali Bantus from Kakuma refugee camp to the USA continued.

JRS projects in Kenya

NAIROBI In 2004 JRS assisted 34 students to continue their primary, secondary vocational and university education by providing financial assistance, medical treatment, guidance and counselling services, as well as weekly workshops on peace building. Since 1991 over 2,000 refugees have been assisted.

KAKUMA camp This project provides financial assistance to refugees to attend Kenyan schools and university through distance learning. In 2004, 36 new students, of whom six have disabilities, were enrolled in primary schools and 25 in high schools whilst continued financial support was provided to a further 77 students. Four students graduated from university in 2004 whilst 25 continued and four were enrolled. Advocacy efforts continued to promote girls' education, with some success. Workshops were held to discuss gender issues, leadership and the importance of education for girls.

NAIROBI Started in 1991, this project continues to provide, and 2004 was no different, over 600 households every week with financial, material and medical assistance. No other agency regularly meets these newly arrived asylum seekers' emergency needs. Food supplements were also provided to 30 HIV/AIDS infected refugees and over 250 children. Several torture survivors and mental illness sufferers were referred for specialised treatment. Collaboration continued with community organisations to provide appropriate home-based care to HIV/AIDS sufferers.

NAIROBI Initiated in 1991, the Mikono Shop Project continued to empower vulnerable refugees, such as women with children, to become self-reliant by offering small loans and training in starting a handicraft business and financial management. The shop markets their products locally and internationally, providing the participants with a source of income. In 2004, loans were extended to 35 applicants. Efforts to extend the shop's customer base, through higher profile marketing, continued resulting in increased sales. Home visits and training sessions were also carried out, and used to raise awareness of their rights.

KAKUMA The project provides the most vulnerable, such as teenage mothers, those with physical disabilities and mental illnesses, with counselling and capacity building services.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- 45 refugees provided counselling services to an average of 840 clients weekly
- facilitated access to counselling, skills development and basic needs for 70 teenage mothers and 20 women, survivors of both sexual and gender based violence
- counsellors received 25 in-service sessions and a counselling/anger management course
- psychosocial support provided to 137 mentally ill day care centre clients
- 49 staff attended a 3-week training session on the needs of mental illness sufferers
- 41 parents/guardians attended a workshop and 12 talks on changing community attitudes and improving the quality of home-based care

scholarship

parish outreach

income-generating

social services



JRS Uganda Director
Aden Raj

UGANDA

Conflict between the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and government troops in northern Uganda continued to aggravate the humanitarian crises created by years of child abduction, rape, murder, looting and violent disregard for human life. According to UN reports, more than 40 LRA raids in settlements have been reported since early 2004 displacing over 1.5 million people and instilling widespread fear. Such raids continued to disrupt the JRS operations on the ground. Hopefully the peace agreement in Sudan will draw international pressure upon the warring parties in Uganda to come to a similarly peaceful arrangement. Meanwhile, UNHCR estimated that up to 35,000 Sudanese refugees may voluntarily repatriate in the months following the conclusion of the Sudan peace agreement. With so much happening on the political scene in 2004, JRS staff were required to work particularly hard to chart the effect of these processes on the refugees and IDPs in the area and to react and plan accordingly.

JRS projects in Uganda

education

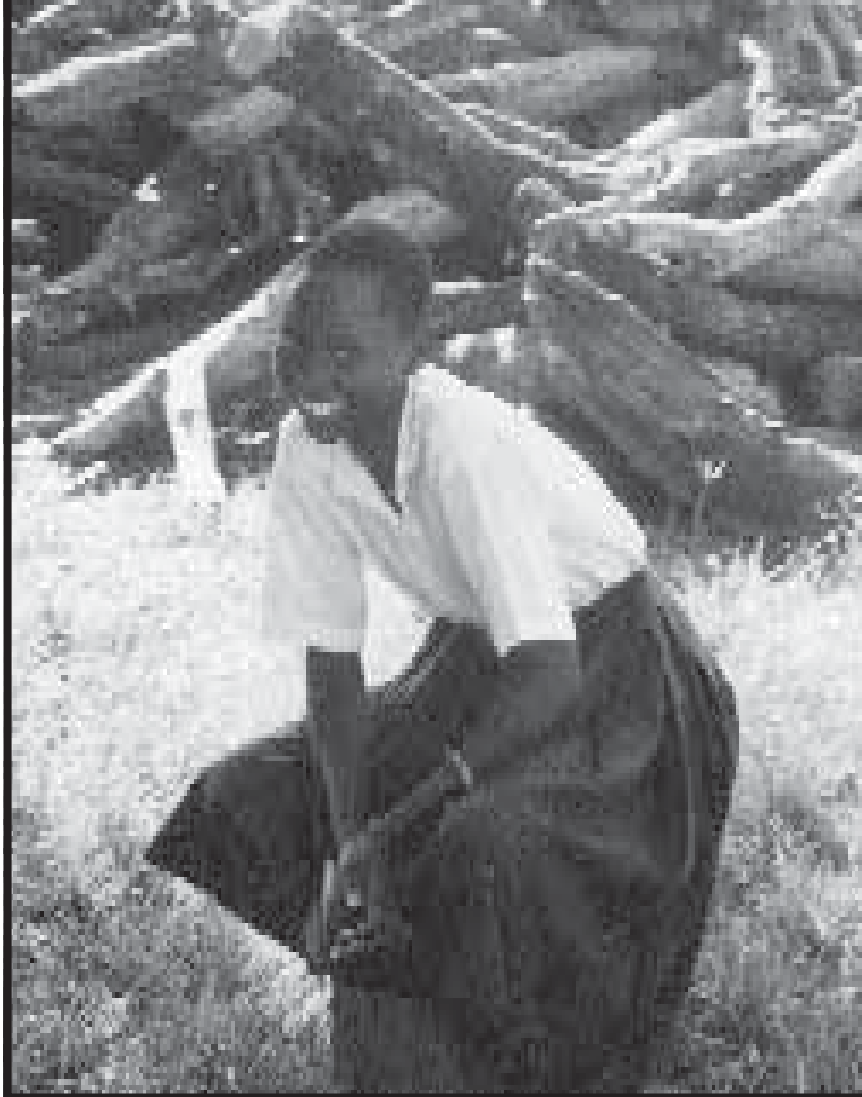
ADJUMANI, MOYO This programme, initiated in 1993, caters for 38% of the refugee population. In 2004 JRS provided school materials and training to teachers in 48 nursery schools and supported 84 new student teachers. Over 23,000 primary school children completed a successful year with over 920 students taking their final primary school examinations. School feeding programmes were supported and new latrines constructed. Special needs advisors were trained and appointed in all the primary schools and JRS participation in the sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) taskforce raised awareness of the issue in all the schools. JRS also assisted 15 schools in the Moyo District to become eligible to apply for government funding, of which two were allocated funds for the construction of classrooms.

Student enrolment in the five secondary schools increased by 20% to 3,363 and a pilot project of special classes for 487 girls in mathematics and English to improve their academic performance began. Access to education for girls continued to be JRS' main advocacy focus. Some 108 trainee teachers completed tertiary training courses, 188 students received educational materials, and 31 new applicants were selected to begin training in 2005. School management committees and Parent-Teacher Associations were trained and supported in areas such as the management of school funds and mechanisms for teacher supervision. Training was also provided to administrators and the Board of Governors to strengthen strategic planning and management.

pastoral

ADJUMANI, MOYO, RHINO camp In 1993, in the Adjumani area, and in 2001 in Moyo, JRS was invited to support pastoral work to the local and refugee populations in 46 parishes. Each chapel has one or two catechists. The mostly Sudanese Rhino camp settlement, of 26,500 refugees, opened in 1994. Nearly 80% of the population are under 25 years. In Adjumani, Rhino and Moyo, mass was celebrated weekly throughout the year. In Adjumani and Moyo, 91 training seminars were provided for over 40 catechists and up to 300 lay persons at a time, with a particular focus of the role of women in society. Almost 1,000 youth were involved in empowerment activities and leadership training promoting their role within the church and the wider communities. Regular meetings were also held in order to maintain close contact with community groups and associations to build community identity and cohesion.

In Rhino camp, 420 people were baptised and 120 received first communion. Seventeen Sunday school and youth groups' and seven Christian groups' programmes were initiated through which peace building and HIV/AIDS awareness seminars were organised for over 200 youth. A spiritual retreat was organised for 270 local community members. JRS also provided 165 loans to women for income-generating activities benefiting over 320 families. Twenty-six adult literacy centres were established with 50 instructors recruited to teach over 1,000 students.



Sudanese secondary school student, beneficiary of the JRS Affirmative Action Programme, Adjumani, northern Uganda

ADJUMANI, KAMPALA, MOYO This project strengthens community-based peace building strategies for refugee leaders, women, youth and community workers. By examining attitudes, building upon community values, knowledge and skills, enduring solutions can be found to prevent or minimize conflict and resolve disputes. In 2004, overwhelming demand for community peace education workshops led to 230 being conducted for 8,413 people. This training was also provided to 126 staff of other international NGOs. Culturally appropriate peace education materials were produced for use in core and extracurricular activities, strengthening the programme's application within primary and secondary schools. Advocacy efforts were successful in pressing for peace education to be incorporated into the new Ugandan curriculum with effect from 2006. Fifty-four peace education community facilitators were also trained in counselling, community management and mobilisation and hired to strengthen programme implementation, monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment. Over 100 peace groups were established with nearly 4,000 members (37% women). These groups have become strong advocates for human rights, especially for vulnerable groups, and in partnership with other agencies are often sought by the local courts to identify and settle problems.

peace education

KAMPALA This project was initiated in 1998 to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees not in receipt of assistance from other agencies. In 2004, it also provided basic legal aid, counselling, advocacy, language training and pastoral care, including monthly food assistance to 370 families, and bimonthly rental assistance to 432 families. Over 70 survivors of SGBV, mainly women and children, were also referred for medical care and medicines were provided for 206 others. Legal aid and counselling were provided to 1,100 new arrivals referring them to the appropriate authorities for registration under the refugee determination process. Service delivery was improved through stronger interagency networking and coordination.

urban



JRS Sudan Director
Aden Raj

SUDAN

The signing of a peace agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M) at the end of 2004 brings hope for lasting peace and anticipation of much needed reconstruction. Years of war have left the legal, political, educational, social and economic infrastructure of the region in ruins. Access to basic services is completely inadequate. Aid and development organisations have expanded activities across southern Sudan in preparation for the massive reconstruction effort, as well as the expected return of thousands of refugees. Sadly, widespread civil unrest continued in Darfur despite mounting international pressure. Reports of gross human rights abuses have persisted, displacing almost two million people and limiting aid agency access. Sudan's future is dependent upon enduring peace in the country. It is also dependent upon the will of the African and international community to support the reconstruction effort that is likely to be as long and arduous as the road to peace has proven to be.

JRS projects in Sudan

peace education

NIMULE, KAJO KEJI, LABONE JRS works to enable internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees to develop peace building and conflict resolution skills within their families and communities. In 2004, 33 peace education facilitators were hired to carry out 75 awareness raising workshops for 4,500 people. The facilitators received training in basic counselling techniques, as well as community management and mobilisation skills. Over 400 community leaders, and staff within the social and education civil authorities, have benefited from their guidance. In Nimule and Kajo Keji, peace groups assisted the local courts to identify and settle conflicts, such as land and marital disputes. They also assisted many IDPs to integrate into the local community. In Kajo Keji, women advocacy peace groups were established to advocate for the rights of vulnerable groups, such as young girls and persons with disabilities. The peace education programme has been mainstreamed into music, dance, drama, sports and academic activities in Nimule, Kajo Keji and Labone.

education/pastoral

NIMULE Initiated in 1997, JRS continued to support primary and secondary education, skills training, adult literacy and the Torit Catholic Diocese pastoral programme. In 2004, educational materials were provided to 6,960 students in 15 primary schools and over 1,000 secondary students.

Some 320 primary and 88 secondary students were provided with financial and logistical support to take their final school examinations in Uganda. Seventy-five new primary and secondary teachers were recruited whilst 46 teachers received further training. Parent Teacher Associations were supported to develop strategic short and long-term education plans with the County Education Office.

Two new adult literacy centres were opened bringing the total of JRS sponsored centres to 14. Small loans were also offered to cooperatives and tailoring and carpentry courses were provided. Sixty-two instructors in 14 centres provided materials and taught 681 adults to read and write. Advanced classes began in four centres.

Funding was provided for Nimule Parish to employ a part-time staff person and fund its many pastoral activities. In collaboration with other NGOs in the area, emergency assistance was provided to returnees from Uganda.

KAJO KEJI Initiated in 2001, last year 12 primary schools and a secondary school, educating over 5,800 students, were given scholastic materials, as well as sports and agricultural/gardening equipment. Inter-school debating, drama and music competitions were organised. Teacher training and a regular stipend were provided to 136 teachers, whilst 289 students were financially supported to sit the Ugandan Primary Leaving Examination. In addition, 25 female teachers were recruited to address a staff gender imbalance, as well as to encourage girls' participation and performance in school. Management workshops were organised for Parent-Teacher Associations and school management committees. Consequently, parents became more involved in the maintenance, renovation and reconstruction of the schools. A staff bicycle was provided to each school to facilitate communication and attendance at meetings.

Students in the JRS adult literacy programme, Nimule, southern Sudan



James Stapleton/JRS

YEI This project promotes community participation in the management, maintenance and the construction of schools. The importance of girls' education is also emphasised. In 2004, enrolment of children between 5- and 14-years old increased by 39% to almost 6,000 children. Textbooks, scholastic materials and sports equipment were provided, as well as school fee subsidies. Financial support and expertise were given to the County Education Office to oversee examinations. Retention rates rose due to parental support and involvement indicating a growing commitment to education.

LABONE In this poorest of areas in southern Sudan, this project has supported the establishment of 10 nursery schools catering for 2,573 children, seven adult literacy centres, as well as primary schools for over 3,000 children. During 2004, stationery, equipment and textbooks worth over 13.7 million Ugandan Shillings were distributed. One hundred and fifty-seven primary students took their final primary school examinations enabling them to graduate to secondary school and 438 secondary students took their final secondary school examinations. The ratio of female students overall increased to 43% and parent participation in schools improved indicating an increased commitment to the importance of education. Nearly 500 adults benefited from literacy and numeracy classes. Non food items were also distributed to the 1,631 returnees from Uganda.



JRS Tanzania Director
Romy Cagatin SVD

TANZANIA

Two thousand and four began with high expectations that the Arusha Peace Accords, of 2000, would allow large numbers of refugees, some of whom have been waiting for over eight years, to return home. However, the political climate in Burundi and its pending election in April 2005 have made many people cautious about returning. The massacre of 159 Congolese Tutsis in Gatumba refugee camp in western Burundi on 13 and 14 August caused widespread fear and registration for repatriation dropped even further. Despite a tripartite agreement between UNHCR and the Governments of Burundi and Tanzania, intended to facilitate repatriation by the end of 2004, over 79,000 Burundian refugees remained in Kibondo and more than 85,000 in Ngara. There continued to be serious concern about Tanzanian Government tactics to force refugees to return. Some of the least commendable tactics employed included limiting access to basic necessities by closing markets, unlawfully and randomly detaining male refugees and incidents of forced repatriation.

JRS projects in Tanzania

Radio Kwizera

NGARA, KIBONDO The community radio station began broadcasting in 1995 after the arrival of Rwandan and later Burundian refugees. It broadcasts in four languages, providing reliable information to the local community and refugees on the current situation both in Tanzania and their home countries. Programmes cover topics such as peace and reconciliation, cultural and women's issues, children's programmes, radio drama and discussions. In 2004, an outside broadcasting unit was acquired enabling journalists to travel further afield, improving access to and accuracy of information broadcast. Staff were also provided with training on peace building, social communications, media and good governance.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- introduced new programmes on broader development issues
- supported local NGOs to stage an AIDS awareness event in which 5,000 young people participated

pre-school education

LUKOLE camp, Ngara Since 1998 the project has responded to parents' wish for an educational service catering to the needs of their six-year old children, who, being either too old for the nursery centres or too young to join other primary education programmes, were frequently left to roam around the camps. The children also receive supplementary meals. In 2003, additional services were provided to children with disabilities. JRS continued to be the only UNHCR partner to provide such services in the camps. In 2004, library service facilities were extended to JRS staff, teachers, students and community members and a special education curriculum was developed. One hundred and thirty educators taught over 2,000 children after receiving training on peace and reconciliation, environmental protection and health issues. In response to JRS encouragement of parent involvement in the management and maintenance of the pre-school, 50 parents were elected to school committees and parents committees were established. JRS subsequently provided them with training. Fourteen refugees also trained as teachers and six pedagogical consultants, five supervisors, five school representatives and 12 special needs teachers were recruited.

socio-pastoral

KIBONDO The project provides education, counselling, income-generating opportunities, recreation facilities and other support and advocacy services to assist young adult refugees. Over 650 young people were provided with income-generating and sports activities, and leadership training. The project also supported trauma counselling and income-generating activities to more than 250 survivors of sexual and gender based violence, promoting their self confidence and independence. Workshops on non-violent approaches to conflict resolution, and weekly HIV/AIDS and health awareness events were held. Over 400 youths completed numeracy and literacy classes, and ongoing pedagogical training was provided to 53 catechists. The team also secured resettlement in third countries for several refugees particularly at risk.

ETHIOPIA



Even as some refugees returned home or resettled in third countries during the year, more refugees from all over the continent poured into AddisAbaba throughout 2004 mainly due to continued violence in Somalia and the DRC. During the year and in anticipation of successful conclusions to the Somali and Sudanese peace negotiations, registrations for repatriation were completed in two camps in western Ethiopia; in the other three, no preparations were made due to lingering insecurity. Repatriation of Somali refugees, some of whom have been in Ethiopia since 1988 continued from Aisha and Hartesheik camps in the East. An increase of refugees from Eritrea was also noted, rising from 85 in the first half of 2003 to 200 in October 2004. The majority of the new arrivals, aged between 18 and 35, were avoiding military service as increasing tension between Ethiopia and Eritrea in the latter half of 2004 instilled fear of a further outbreak of bloody conflict.

JRS Ethiopia Director
Stephen Power SJ (until March)
Seyoum Asfaw

JRS projects in Ethiopia

WUKRO The pilot programme, initiated in 2004, in Wukro, northern Ethiopia, works with displaced orphans and elderly people. Until 2003 the Government and the World Food Programme distributed food to vulnerable elderly and young people. In 2004, JRS provided financial support to the Missionaries of Africa to meet the education, health and nutrition needs of 500 orphans. They also supported the appointment of two social workers to accompany, counsel and provide general assistance to 53 orphans and to document the cases of 300 more. In conjunction with the local health centres, an HIV/AIDS assessment was carried out and an education programme developed to complement other HIV/AIDS awareness work in the region.

ADDIS ABABA The centre provides education, counselling, income-generation opportunities, childcare, recreation facilities and other related support services to assist refugees.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- provided emergency assistance to 86 individuals and medical referrals to 23 others
- conducted an HIV/AIDS workshop for 30 participants and provided counselling services to others found to be HIV positive
- held sports competitions to promote better inter-ethnic relations for 50 participants
- provided weekly music classes for 15 students
- provided computer courses for 52, and an internet service attracting about 13 refugees per day
- weekly language classes for 34 participants
- provided six refugees with loans to begin small businesses
- day care services were extended to the families of 75 children

ADDIS ABABA This project, started in 1998, to help displaced Ethiopians make the transition to independent living after the Government began to close the camps in 2002. It provided material assistance to 300 families and a 10-day basic Business Training workshop was conducted for 166 people.

ADDIS ABABA Since 1997, this programme has provided emergency assistance to asylum seekers and refugees who continue to flee civil war, persecution and violence. Last year it provided 517 individuals with material and travel assistance.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- provided material and travel assistance (to over 500 individuals), and advocacy support and basic counselling services to newly arrived asylum seekers
- visited 10 asylum seekers in detention and advocated for their release and fair treatment
- referred 1,800 refugees to medical clinics and hospitals
- assisted six youths with school fees and materials
- organised weekly prayer and support forum for 35 refugees

vulnerable groups

community centre

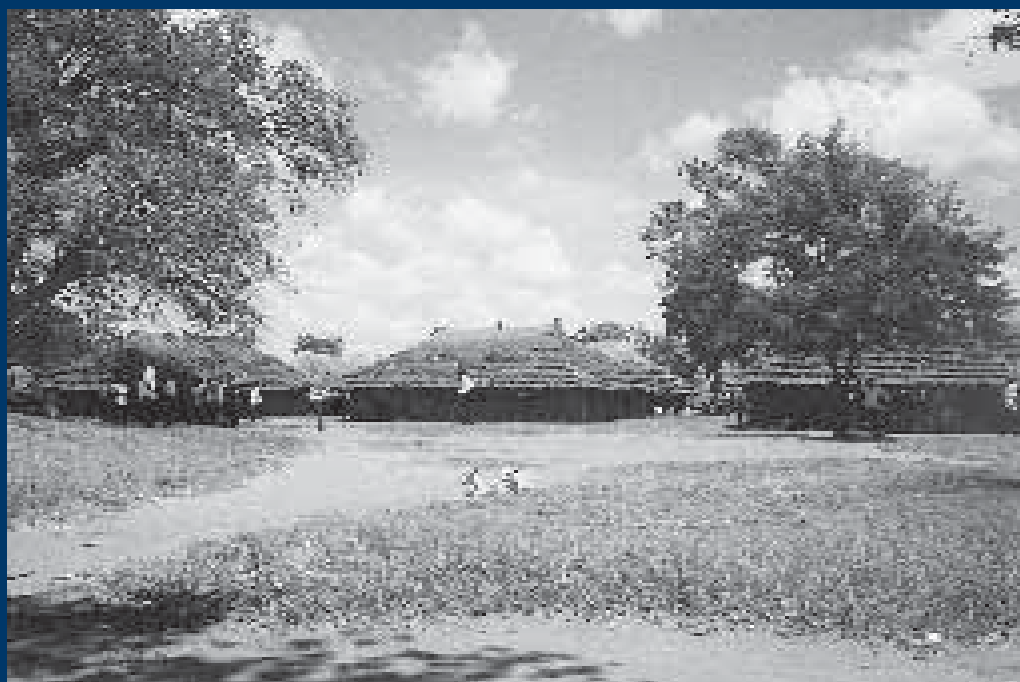
rehabilitation

emergency assistance programme



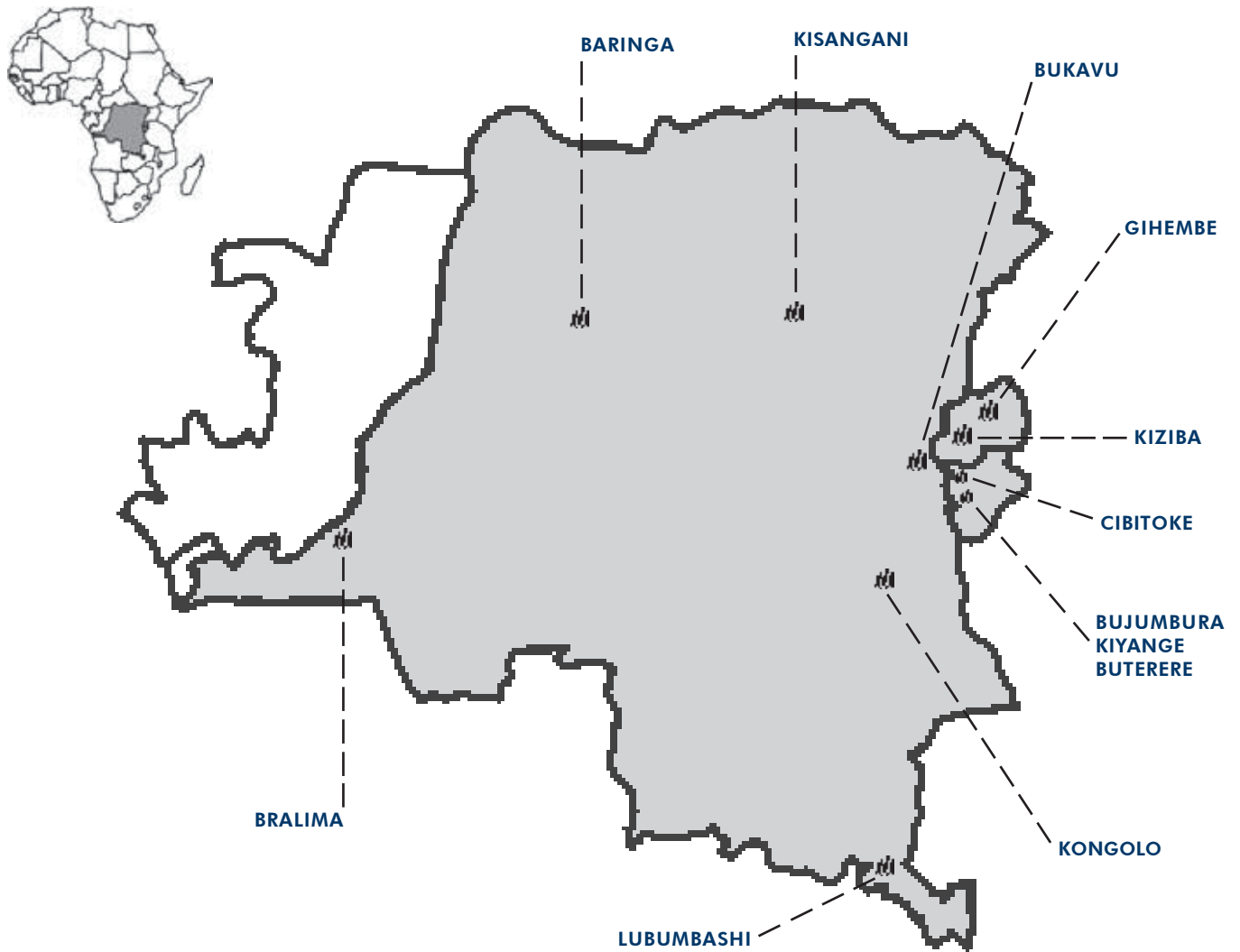
Students in a
JRS-supported
school, Kajo Keji,
southern Sudan

JRS-funded primary
school, Nimule,
southern Sudan



Beneficiary of the JRS
income-generating
project, Nairobi, Kenya

GRANDS LACS



Bukavu, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo



JRS Grands Lacs



From a political perspective, 2004 in the Grands Lacs region was another year of the so-called “peace process” though peace remained far from many people’s day to day reality.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi were engaged in a process which should have led to the end of their respective wars. In these two countries, however, progress was slowed by continual delays. Consequently, the population, the vast majority of whom were civilians, suffered the effects of fighting, pillaging and extortion for a further year.

In fact, the leaders of the two countries have left the most difficult part of the peace processes to the very end: the disarmament and re-integration of so many combatants back into civilian life. In Burundi the FDD signed a ceasefire on 16 November 2003. Their militia were to have been integrated into the regular army. However, at the end of 2004, it continued to operate as if it were an independent army, only 216 of the 50,000 had been demobilised.

Similarly in the DRC, the demobilisation of the Rwandan ‘Interahamwe’ was only symbolic. In Kanya-Bayonga, eastern DRC, fighting between former rebels and soldiers from Kinshasa revealed the existing tension between soldiers, who, on paper, belong to the same army. There will be no lasting peace in the Grands Lacs as long as the region remains so militarised. That in both countries a huge and well resourced United Nations peacekeeping presence exists – MONUC (Congo) and ONUB (Burundi) – has made little impact.

In 2004, humanitarian needs in the region once again went unmet. In eastern DRC, due to events in Bukavu in June and the wars in Kanya-Bayonga at the end of the year, thousands of people crossed international borders seeking asylum in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. In the interior of the DRC and Burundi, tens of thousands of people were displaced by conflict. The International Red Cross (IRC) published a new study on the inhabitants of various enclaves in the DRC highlighting the appalling conditions in which more than a million people continued to live, isolated from the rest of the world.

After the tsunami disaster, *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF) France was inundated with offers of aid for the victims of the tidal wave. Its director made a public plea asking that no more money be sent. “Send it instead to the Congo”, he said. How right he was.

Joaquín Ciervide SJ, JRS Grands Lacs Director

RWANDA



JRS Rwanda Director
Abbé Désiré Seruhungu

Despite the veneer of stability, in 2004 the Rwandan Government continued to suppress dissent and further reinforced its control by attacking civil society organisations, churches, and schools for supposedly disseminating genocidal ideology. In the course of reforming the judicial system, the authorities obliged more than 500 judges and judicial personnel to resign, reappointing less than 100 to positions in the new system. During the year nearly half the 106 mayors were also forced to resign. The authorities cited a lack of competence or corruption as reasons for their dismissal. Subsequently, in Bukavu, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), ethnic Tutsis became the target of random attacks in the region. This, as well as fighting in Kanya-Bayonga, eastern DRC and the massacre of 159 ethnic Congolese Tutsis in Gatumba, Bujumbura, Burundi, destroyed all hope that the refugees had of being able to return to their region of origin in 2004.

JRS projects in Rwanda

KIZIBA & GIHEMBE camps JRS is the UNHCR implementing partner for education in both Kiziba and Gihembe camps. Both projects are almost identical. The refugee population consists of some 30,000 ethnic Tutsi Congolese who fled in 1996 and have lived in the two UNHCR camps ever since. In 2004, JRS managed several programmes from maternity school to university programmes for over 10,000 students.

GIHEMBE Small co-operatives of 302 refugees involved in sewing, carpentry and embroidery were assisted and some 273 beneficiaries were trained throughout the year in carpentry, bakery, sewing, building and design.

KIZIBA The objective of skills training is to promote self-sufficiency for the refugees. In 2004, 86 of them took shoemaking, carpentry, sewing/needlework, and cooking courses.

KIZIBA, GIHEMBE The programme continued to provide medical, food and other assistance to 1,893 vulnerable refugees, including the elderly, sick, people with disabilities and orphans. JRS continued to provide pastoral care to the Christian communities in both camps.

KIZIBA, GIHEMBE JRS assisted the organisation of theatre, music, sporting and cinema activities with the young people in the camps.

education

income-generating

assistance

cultural

Mark Raper SJ/JRS



Rwanda,
August
2000



JRS Burundi Director

Vincent de Marcellac SJ (until March)
Nicolás Dorronsoro

BURUNDI

For the first time in a decade, most of Burundi enjoyed relative peace, except for the rural province Bujumbura, which remained a battleground between the rebel and government forces. Grave human rights violations, such as killing and raping civilians and pillaging their property, were committed by all sides. In August, FNL rebels, apparently together with combatants from other groups, massacred 159 Congolese refugees in Gatumba camp, near the Congolese border. Burundian national police in nearby barracks failed to respond to repeated calls for help from the civilians. The repatriation flow of Hutus slowed and even temporarily reversed due to uncertainty about instability that might result from the failure to hold elections. Hundreds of Tutsi residents also fled from Burundi to Rwanda in September and October, fearing violence. The Government of Burundi faces the problem of finding ways to reconcile the property rights of returnees with the rights of those who currently occupy the land.

JRS projects in Burundi

income-generating

KIYANGE The projects in Kiyange were created to assist those who have been displaced and threatened by the war. The focus, rather than simply helping people, is more on creating the conditions that facilitate the displaced to earn their own living, though this is an ongoing process. In 2004, JRS provided financial and technical skills training to 63 displaced persons to start agricultural, tannery, carpentry and bakery businesses and co-operatives.

BUTERERE The living conditions are poor in Buterere, accentuated in 2004 by armed conflict in the area. JRS provided financial and technical skills support to 394 displaced persons to start agricultural, basket weaving, sewing, soap making, restaurant and tannery businesses.

education/advocacy

BUTERERE Some 116 primary students were enrolled in the school programme, which included extra-curricular activities in the afternoon, such as vegetable cultivation and skills training. Other cultural activities with an education component including theatre, dance and debate were also provided. Thanks to a partnership with UNICEF, JRS assisted the education of 100 girls in the public schools in north 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.

KIYANGE JRS support to orphans, to the activities of the primary school, to catechism and to the library facilities continued throughout 2004. A partnership agreement with UNICEF allowed JRS to assist the education and cultural activities of some 100 students in the public schools around Kiyange. A committee, established in 2003 to raise awareness of the protection risks faced by young people in both Kiyange and Buterere, continued to operate.

CIBITOKÉ Cishemere transit camp, on the Burundian-Congolese border, for Congolese refugees was abruptly closed by UNHCR in May 2004. Until that time JRS provided materials, such as desks, tables, buildings, copybooks, pens and school uniforms etc., for over 2,000 refugee children. The pre-school and primary school teachers were also provided with training. Workshops on peace and the effects of violence against women were also provided to some 100 young people.

prisons

BUJUMBURA JRS, in collaboration with the Brothers of the Poor, continued to provide food and psychosocial support to prisoners held in Mpimba prison, about 90 km from the capital. They also provided financial support to vulnerable members of the community.



Kavumu camp, Burundi

BUTERERE Assistance was provided by transporting the sick to hospital, distributing food to the malnourished, providing medicines, paying rents and reconstructing houses. This project saved lives and accompanied 250 of the most vulnerable displaced persons.

BUJUMBURA Initiated in 2002, serving a population of approximately 8,000 urban Congolese refugees and in partnership with UNHCR, JRS makes basic health services available to the entire population. In 2004, 9,476 individuals were provided with medical care. JRS also provided accommodation and financial support to secondary school students from Gasorwe Congolese refugee camp in central Burundi and financial support to Congolese refugees to start small businesses.

BUJUMBURA Initiated in September 2000, in close collaboration with church committees, this project provides training to volunteers to create awareness of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. In 2004 JRS also provided psychosocial support and follow-up for approximately 150 HIV infected refugees.

KIYANGE JRS employs a full-time nurse to provide health services for former displaced persons.

health/assistance



JRS DR Congo Director
Victor Wilondja

DR CONGO

After 18 months in power, the transitional government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) remained fragile. During 2004, government soldiers and armed combatants engaged in numerous skirmishes for control over parts of eastern DRC. In May and June 2004 dissident soldiers rebelled and captured Bukavu in eastern DRC from government forces. Some of the rebels then fled to Rwanda while others retreated to North Kivu. JRS cars were stopped twice and the occupants robbed. JRS staff houses were also pillaged in May. Following the rebellion, thousands of ethnic Tutsi civilians fearing reprisals fled to Rwanda and Burundi. Soldiers of the national army and combatants of armed groups continued to commit serious human rights abuses against civilians. Tens of thousands of persons fled their homes, several thousand of them across international borders. After the attempted rebellion and the massacre of Congolese refugees in neighbouring Burundi, ethnic fear and hatred have risen sharply. Failure to address this situation potentially destabilises the entire region.

JRS projects in the DR Congo

health

BARINGA In November 2002, when JRS arrived in Baringa, in the north of the country, the local population had lived for more than three years without medical care. JRS responded to those most in need, by recruiting local staff, providing medical training, conducting a vaccination programme, health and nutrition education, and re-establishing a number of health clinics.

LUBUMBASHI The project focuses on the most vulnerable (the sick, malnourished children, elderly, pregnant women and orphans) and those in need of medical care. The health clinic has been operational for over two years, 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.

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 150 pre-school, 456 primary, and 126 secondary level students.

KONGOLO This project was 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 much, by repairing doors and windows, constructing school benches, buying books and other materials, providing incentives to teachers, evaluating the children's needs and their academic performance, conducting teacher training sessions and carrying out regular monitoring visits to the primary schools.

BUKAVU It was another difficult year in South Kivu, in particular during May and June when Bukavu suffered a serious attack. Initiated in 2000, the JRS project assisted 1,289 displaced children to attend school, mainly through the payment of fees and other expenses. During the year nine new classrooms and a library were built, 10 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.

KISANGANI Initiated in 2004, like in Kongolo, this JRS project also promotes primary education by repairing doors and windows, constructing school benches, buying books and other materials, providing incentives to teachers, evaluating the children's needs and their academic performance, conducting teacher training sessions and carrying out regular monitoring visits to the primary schools.



Bukavu, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

LUBUMBASHI In this difficult economic situation, JRS provided psychosocial support to vulnerable individuals and financial and other assistance to 362 families so that they could start their own income generating activities such as land cultivation, market gardening, bread baking and clothes making.

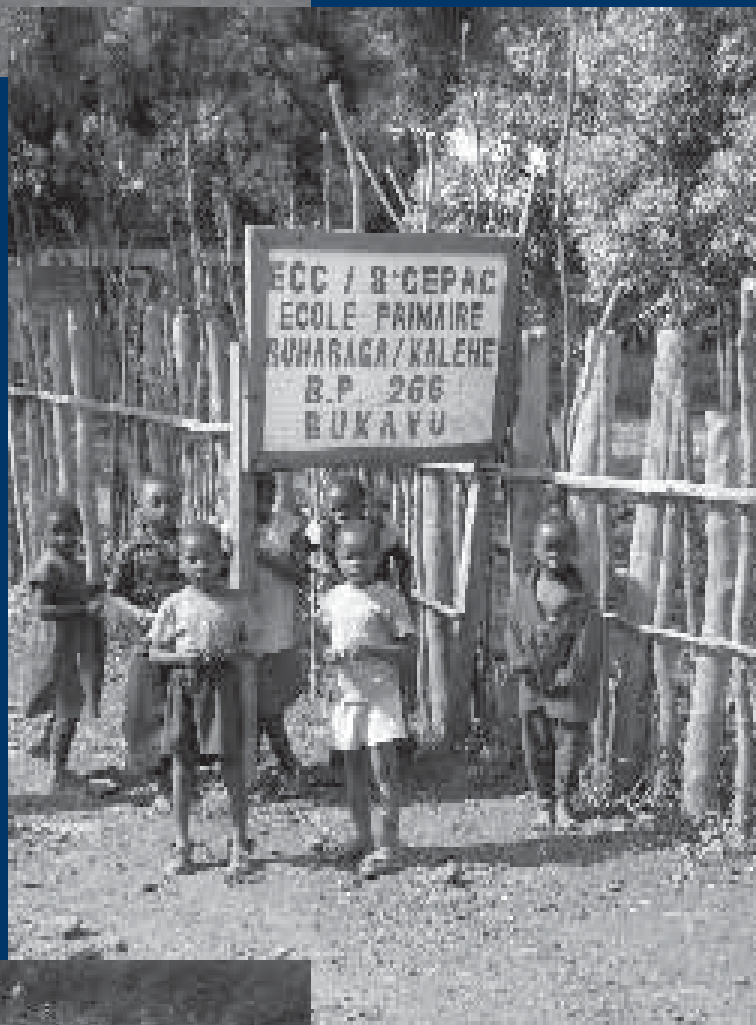
KINSHASA JRS provides support to internally displaced persons in three camps near Kinshasa. JRS organised agricultural activities, where displaced persons could grow their own food. Other activities included a bakery, soap making, handbag production and small sales projects. In 2004, JRS began a consultation process with the IDPs to identify their needs in order to facilitate their return to their regions of origin in 2005.

self sufficiency



JRS Grands Lacs

Guihemba School,
Rwanda



JRS Grands Lacs

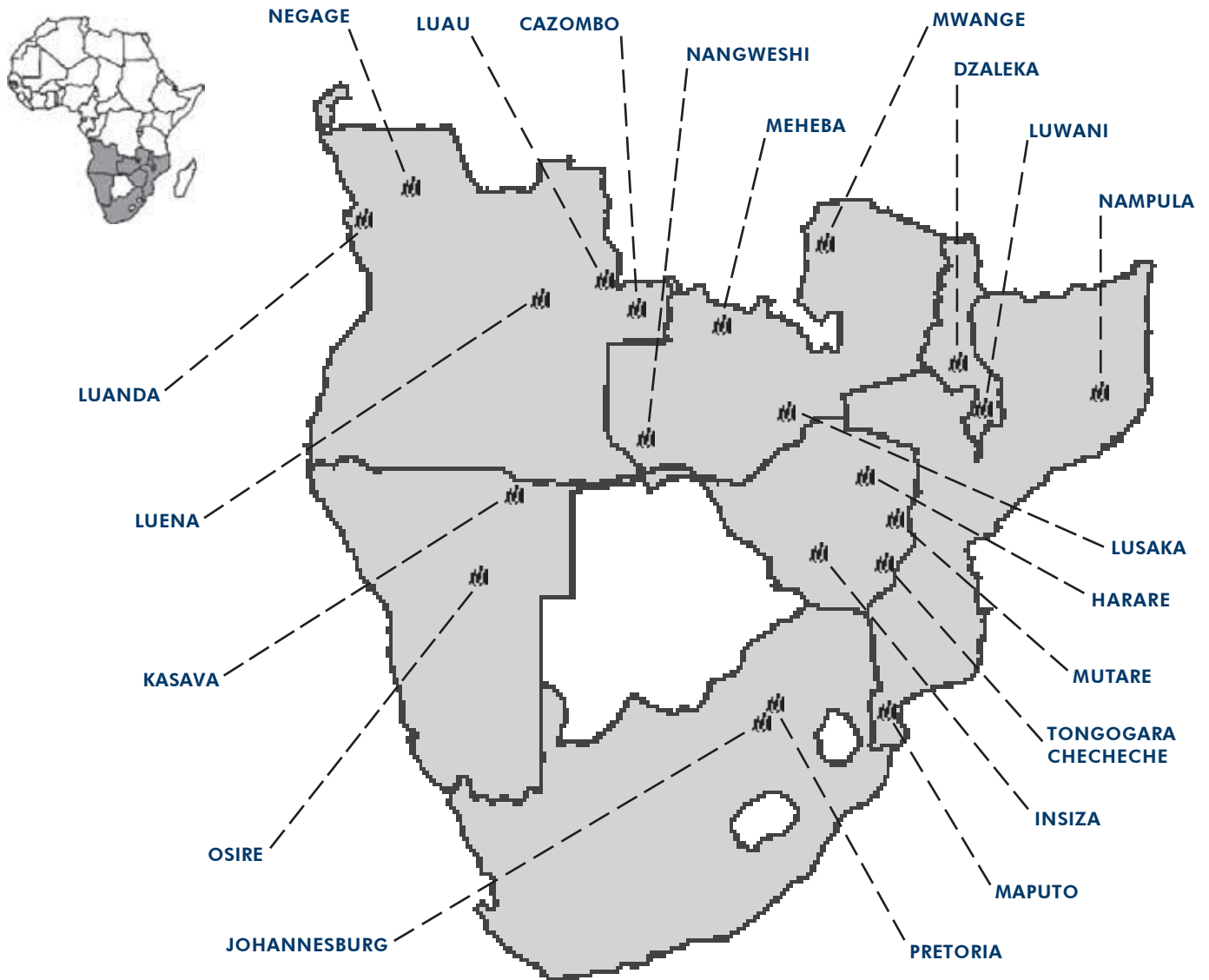
Bukavu, eastern Democratic
Republic of Congo

Kiyange, Burundi,
JRS income-generating
programme



JRS Grands Lacs


SOUTHERN AFRICA



Malawi



Michael Coyne SJ/JRS

A blue-tinted photograph of a group of people, including children, walking along a path in a rural setting. The path is unpaved and appears to be made of dirt or mud. There are trees and foliage in the background, and the overall scene suggests a rural or refugee camp environment.

For the last few years, principally due to inadequate rainfall and consequently poor agricultural production, most southern African economies have contracted sharply and social services deteriorated or become unaffordable for the majority. The number of people employed in the formal labour market also continued to fall. Only the South African and Mozambican economies continued to grow, though Zambian agricultural production increased. In addition, refugees continued to arrive. The ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) continued to be a source of new refugees throughout the region, albeit in smaller numbers than in previous years.

Continuing peace in Angola, however, was one source of hope in the region. Repatriation programmes for Angolan refugees living in neighbouring countries continued, despite being seriously under-funded. Over 27,000 returned from Namibia, 4,000 from Zambia, 19,000 from the DRC, and smaller numbers from other countries in the region. By September 2004, there were still approximately 190,000 Angolan refugees and according to the Angolan Government, 340,000 Angolans still internally displaced within the country.

Throughout the year JRS worked closely with many Angolan refugees both as they prepared to return home and on arrival in Angola. As peace takes root and the country opens up, new challenges begin to emerge. In the past, the rates of HIV/AIDS infection were low, but this situation is expected to change. Figures gathered in urban antenatal clinics estimate that rates of infection in the region were over 25%. In response, all JRS educational initiatives now include a focus on HIV/AIDS awareness.

A high-powered delegation of Rwandan Government officials visited many of the countries in the region. In conjunction with the host countries and UNHCR officials in each country, they attempted to persuade Rwandan refugees that it was safe to return home. Despite this, details surrounding the repatriation of Rwandan refugees, including what will happen to those who refuse to return, were still unclear.

Election fever gripped Mozambique, Namibia, Malawi, and South Africa during the year. The ruling parties won decisive victories in three of the countries; in Malawi, the ruling party's candidate won a narrow victory. Discussion on and hopes of elections in Zimbabwe, the DRC and Angola seemed to have receded by December. Zimbabwe's economic implosion continued unabated. The country's hyperinflation showed little sign of dropping, in spite of official claims to the contrary. The issue of food security in the country remained worrying as the gap between Zimbabwe's food needs and its predicted output grew and reached emergency proportions.

Joe Hampson SJ, JRS Southern Africa Director

ZAMBIA



JRS Zambia Director
Michael Gallagher SJ

In contrast to many of its neighbours, Zambia was peaceful in 2004.

Even though some politicians continued to make xenophobic statements to the press, Zambia continued to offer refuge to people fleeing conflict and persecution. This year was marked by the repatriation of Angolan refugees from Zambia. Although the peace dividend in Angola encouraged over 27,000 of its refugee nationals to return home, as the year progressed Angolans grew more cautious and the final repatriation figure failed to meet the UNHCR target of 40,000. Most Angolan refugees, who remained in Zambia, are expected to return in 2005 when it is thought that outstanding concerns about landmines and transportation difficulties will have been dealt with. With the departure of refugees from Meheba refugee settlement, north-western Zambia, JRS ceased its programme there. It remained active in Lusaka, the capital, and Nangweshi and Mwange camps. Financial difficulties faced by the World Food Programme meant that the remaining refugees in the camps were only receiving half rations.

JRS projects in Zambia

LUSAKA, MEHEBA & NANGWESHI camps The policy unit worked extensively to raise awareness of refugee issues, nationally and locally, producing one TV and 15 radio programmes and organising a national school essay competition for Zambian children. The team also carried out 47 prison visits to irregular migrants, and succeeded in getting 137 new cases opened, resulting in 94 being released and sent to refugee camps. They also raised the plight of nine detained irregular migrants with UNHCR and the Refugee Commission, of whom two were released. In Meheba, the team identified vulnerable Angolan returnees and provided their details to JRS Angola so that they could meet their reception and assistance needs in Angola. They continued to monitor the food distribution and ensured that 30 vulnerable refugee families obtained food rations and six obtained temporary documentation. They organised peace education seminars for 2,777 refugees and distributed 2,100 news articles on the political situation in Angola. They also engaged with the community leaders about the refugees' nutrition needs. In Nangweshi, the staff gave lectures on human and refugee rights to 35 community leaders, on landmine awareness to 127 refugees, on peace education to over 2,000 refugees and on repatriation issues to 30 refugees with disabilities.

LUSAKA, NANGWESHI, MEHEBA In Lusaka over 110 refugees were provided with support, including business training, to start tie and dye, restaurant, crafts, candle and soap making businesses. While in Nangweshi camp, JRS provided support to 36 refugees with disabilities and their families to start carpentry, shoe repair, knitting and sewing businesses. In Meheba, JRS supported 125 families to establish 25 kitchen gardens and 80 families to harvest their land. The refugees repaid the loans with food which JRS donated to the Sisters of Charity's food programme for mothers with malnourished children. The team also supported the construction of 10 houses for vulnerable refugees.

LUSAKA, MEHEBA, NANGWESHI, MWANGE camp JRS provided education services to 360 children in eight community schools in Meheba camp. They distributed materials and sports equipment to the schools and organised a 5-day teacher training workshop, as well as weekly peer-support for eight teachers. The scholarship programme funded four refugees to study in the University of Zambia, while library services were made available to 1,700 refugees. In Lusaka, the urban team provided 32 primary school children with scholarships, and language classes to another 156. They also supported sports and cultural activities, such as those of theatre and dance groups. In Nangweshi, using the profits from the income-generating activities, 300 people with disabilities were provided with medical attention, including the provision of prosthetics, counselling and physiotherapy services. Skills training was provided to 67 refugees with disabilities, formal educational services to 286 and a further 5,505 were given access to the libraries. In Mwange, JRS provided the Congolese refugees in the camps with pastoral and social services. The pastoral services included two weekly Sunday masses, confession for over 2,000 refugees and outreach visits to over 3,100. The team also supported social and cultural activities for over 2,000 adult and child refugees and provided 67 vulnerable refugees with monthly food and material assistance.

advocacy/policy

*community development/
income-generating*

*pastoral/
social services*



JRS Angola Director
Marlene Wildner MSCS

ANGOLA

In 2004, some 62,000 Angolan refugees returned, just over half the initial target and bringing the total number of returnees since the end of the civil war in 2002 to more than 281,000. Returning home was a constant struggle as Angolans encountered many obstacles, such as landmines hampering agricultural production and threatening their personal safety, and broken or non-existent infrastructure (roads, bridges, health centres and schools). One of the world's poorest countries, over 60% of the under 25's were unemployed and at least 1.2 million Angolans were in receipt of food assistance from the World Food Programme. Rights to property and land, and access to nationality remained very difficult. Many returnees lacked any documentation and knowledge of Portuguese which hindered their access to employment, schools and electoral registers. They were also at risk of being accused of being foreigners and expelled from the country. Despite the end of the conflict in Cabinda province, the army continued to subject civilians to serious human rights abuses.

JRS projects in Angola

education/ income-generating

LUANDA This project mainly focused on formal primary school education, teacher training and infrastructure maintenance. In addition, JRS was also involved in peace education, protection and advocacy training. The education project supported 1,415 students to sit their final state examinations and 307 students to sit the 4th class examinations. The team also assisted eight others to transfer from government to JRS schools. The timely distribution of didactic materials, including notebooks, textbooks, pens and pencils, to students and teachers ensured the provision of high quality education. In addition, the purchase of, and repairs to, classroom furniture enhanced the learning environment. The rehabilitation of Aksanti and Kassanguluka schools and their latrines also enhanced hygiene in these two schools. Some 36 teachers were also provided with teacher training workshops. JRS also successfully handed over responsibility for some schools to the State.

CAZOMBO JRS prioritised the provision of Portuguese language classes to some 6,000 children between 8- and 17-years of age. Teacher training was also provided to 30 teachers. All the students and teachers in the transit camp received sufficient education materials.

LUAU This project was set up primarily to assist Angolan children returning from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia, and other children outside the education system, with a 3-month Portuguese language course to equip them to cope better in the Angolan education system. The project staff recruited 18 Portuguese teachers, and purchased and distributed materials to 1,200 students. In response to the expressed needs of 100 women, an adult literacy course was established and materials were provided.

NEGAGE JRS worked in close collaboration with the government, local churches and community leaders to implement its programmes. In 2004, JRS supported the rehabilitation of five schools benefiting 1,081 primary school students. Teacher training was organised for 38 teachers and four Ministry of Education officials. JRS provided, with the assistance of Bungo Parish, professional training in sewing skills, and the sewing machines, to 19 vulnerable women to enable them start their own businesses. JRS Negage also supported a literacy programme for 554 adults and 13 teachers. JRS, in collaboration with Negage Parish, managed the construction of a new school, while the parish donated six classrooms for literacy classes.

LUENA Assistance was made available to landmine survivors on a number of different levels. Support was provided to 243 children to attend primary school and to 17 individuals to undertake carpentry and shoe making training. JRS concentrated on supporting educational and agricultural activities so to encourage sustainable development and community ownership. Agricultural implements and inputs were provided to 150 families and over 1,200 pupils benefited from JRS run schools in the community. Returnees were also afforded a chance to learn Portuguese so as to enhance their livelihood prospects through greater integration.



Stefano Maero/JRS

Distribution of food and agricultural equipment in Lunache, near Cazombo, Angola

LUANDA Community peace facilitators were trained and worked effectively within their various districts. JRS organised a number of activities, including six talks and three video presentations, to encourage peace and reconciliation in schools and in the community. In undertaking this work, JRS worked closely with several NGOs and government officials.

LUENA JRS provided peace education to 243 school children in two schools. Peace education and pastoral services were also offered to those in camps and areas surrounding Luena.

NEGAGE JRS worked locally with the community leaders to help promote human rights and a culture of peace. To increase their capacity to undertake the work, JRS organised seminars on human rights and conflict resolution for 35 teachers and 43 community leaders. They produced a video on the rights of the child and presented it to 803 children in five schools, as well as developing a poster to raise awareness of the dangers of landmines. JRS supported the establishment of an advisory council composed of 25 members to disseminate information on human rights in their communities.

LUENA The JRS pastoral coordinator regularly visited 607 individuals from the camp communities and assisted with different pastoral activities, including the baptism of 11 adults, the development of a youth pastoral programme, catechism for 10 adolescents and the organisation of a seminar for catechists. Sixteen catechists were also selected and trained and two chapels were renovated.

LUENA The programme focused on providing emergency support to vulnerable members of the community from six camps for displaced persons. It also supported the construction of houses for five families. Regular meetings with community leaders, elders and the affected population were held in all the selected areas to encourage: community support for vulnerable individuals, better awareness of the problems facing the area, and improved planning. Consequently, food items were distributed to 283 vulnerable individuals. Regular visits were made to 12 sick individuals, mainly landmine survivors, in Luena hospital and other health centres. They were provided with psychosocial support during the hospitalisation period and later in their homes. Food and non-food items and drugs were also provided.

NEGAGE Over 1,000 vulnerable families were provided with 1 kg of maize and 25 g of seed, including cabbage, tomato, rape and onion seeds.

CAZOMBO The project provided community services to 384 vulnerable persons in the transit camp. They were offered important psychosocial support and a total of 33 houses and toilets were also constructed for them.

*peace education/
advocacy*

*general assistance/
community
development*



JRS Namibia Director
Joanne Whitaker RSM

NAMIBIA

Refugees in Namibia are normally required to remain at Osire refugee camp, unless a case can be made to live outside the camp, such as for reasons of study, employment, or the receipt of medical care. The number of refugees in Namibia declined this year from over 14,000 to less than 10,000, about 80% of whom were Angolan. Others were primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi. The number of new arrivals was low at around 250, mainly from the DRC. A total of 4,807 Angolans returned, 700 spontaneously. Many of the refugees had decided to wait until 2005 to return to Angola, when, in late September, UNHCR announced that its assisted transport programme to Angola would cease at the end of 2004. However, an outbreak of meningitis in Cuando Cubango forced the cancellation of convoys to that province in mid-October which did not resume. Consequently, at the end of the 2004, UNHCR was reconsidering its decision to stop providing transport assistance.

JRS projects in Namibia

education

OSIRE & KASAVA camps JRS continued to work with UNHCR as their implementing partner for primary and secondary education in Namibia. In 2004, nearly 4,000 children, including 20 Namibians, were enrolled in primary schools in Osire camp of which 87% met the minimum standard for promotion to the next grade. Eighty refugee teachers were recruited, including the principal and vice-principal, and textbooks and stationery were provided to all students. Over 1,000 children, including 10 Namibians, were enrolled in Osire secondary school. Thirty refugees were employed as teachers, including the principal and vice-principal. Over 500 refugees and other members of the community benefited from the extracurricular activities in the secondary school. Two refugee teachers also provided 14 students, seven with hearing and seven with visual disabilities, with special education classes. About 4,000 refugees, community members and asylum seekers also benefited from expanded library services. Over 80 students were enrolled in Kasava Lower Primary School, taught by three refugee teachers and 62 children were enrolled in the local school, Mpora Primary. JRS provided the text books and stationery for the children in Kasava School and assisted the Mpora students' with stationery and other school supplies.

protection/ advocacy

JRS raised issues regarding the welfare and protection of 200 refugees and asylum seekers with various state authorities. Action on requests for study permits outside the refugee camps improved, as did action, after months of inactivity, on the refugee status determination applications' when the State Committee resumed regular meetings. JRS also assisted refugees to obtain permits to leave Osire and live elsewhere in the country.

Namibia



Lolín Menéndez RSCJ/JRS

MALAWI – MOZAMBIQUE

Regardless of the widespread poverty, **Malawi** is a peaceful country with democratic institutions upheld by elections. A close presidential race this year left the incumbent party (UDF) still in power. The anti-corruption crusade made the president unpopular within his party but popular with donors and the public. Many of 10,000 refugees in Malawi have been there for nearly 10 years. Since the signing of the tripartite agreement in 2004 between Rwanda, Malawi and UNHCR, volunteer repatriations of Rwandans have begun. So far only 13 individuals have volunteered. A few families also resettled in third countries.

Since the end of the civil war in 1992, **Mozambique** has made steady socio-economic and political progress, including the broadly free election of a new president in December, albeit from the same party as the last one. Peace, tranquillity and the prospect of economic growth have begun to attract refugees from all over Africa, predominantly from the Grands Lacs.



JRS Malawi Director

Anne Elizabeth de Vuyst SSMN

JRS Mozambique Director

Carmen Rodrigues

JRS projects in Malawi

DZALEKA & LUWANI camps In 2002 JRS became a UNHCR implementing partner with the responsibility for education, principally pre-school, primary, and secondary education for refugees. JRS particularly focuses on girls' and women's education, so as to promote independence and self-reliance. JRS supported 3,450 pre- and primary school students and 70 secondary school students. In Dzaleka, 65 students sat their Primary Leaving Certificate examination and seven students sat their final school examination as external students. JRS doubled the number of pre-school classes it supported to four, and with more qualified and trainee teachers, the teacher-pupil ratios improved significantly. JRS also supported a tutorial programme to improve the secondary students' performance at school. In Luwani camp, JRS began a pre-school programme, as well as opening libraries for adults and children. Refugee teachers were hired and the school restructured to meet minimum teaching standards. The team also worked with World Relief Malawi with whom they share office space and transport, the Catholic Church, which provided the premises and the milk, and with the Mwanza District Education Office.

DZALEKA In collaboration with the World University of Canada, four English classes were provided to adults, and students were coached to sit international English examinations. Dialogue also began with World Relief Malawi to strengthen cooperation on vocational issues. Vocational training was supervised by the Technical, Entrepreneurial Vocational Education and Training Authority benefiting 15 young adults who received carpentry training. Two students graduated from a 2-year vocational computer programme, and women only literacy classes were arranged in Swahili and Somali. Two hundred-twenty tertiary and 56 vocational students benefited from JRS education support.

education

JRS projects in Mozambique

MAPUTO, NAMPULA At the beginning of 2004, JRS was asked by the Mozambican Bishops' Conference (CEMIRDE) to assist the Mozambican Church to develop a more comprehensive response to the needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and returning migrants. The Centro de Estudos de População (CEP), University Eduardo Mondlane was commissioned to undertake a refugee needs assessment targeting over 6,000 refugees in Nampula and Maputo, in northern and southern Mozambique respectively. JRS and CEMIRDE monitored the research and data collection process and provided training to the researchers in the field.

MAPUTO, NAMPULA The project encouraged support for pastoral initiatives among refugees, particularly parish-based initiatives. Fifteen parishes in Maputo diocese were visited and meetings were held with local representatives. The project also managed to liaise with UNHCR and with the Mozambican Institute for Refugees in Nampula, which will be useful for future advocacy activities.

information/ research

pastoral/advocacy



JRS Zimbabwe Director
Joan Mtukwa

ZIMBABWE

A steady influx of refugees from countries in the region continued to flow into Zimbabwe throughout the year in spite of the political and socio-economic crises prevalent in the country. The food security situation in the country remained unstable and prices of basic commodities continued to rise well above the reach of many. The recent NGO Act has created a great deal of uncertainty for many NGOs working in Zimbabwe. Some NGOs had begun relocating to neighbouring countries, whilst others remained in Zimbabwe waiting to see if and how it is implemented. Government attempts to reverse the rural-urban drift of refugees from Tongogara refugee camp failed, as over 90% of refugees remained in major urban centres. Refugees living in camps continued to move back and forth between the camps and the capital city, Harare, for various reasons, including the availability of healthcare, as well as personal and security reasons. Many also left for South Africa after a rumour that a new camp had been established there.

JRS projects in Zimbabwe

material/food assistance

INSIZA, HARARE transit centre JRS distributed food to over 1,500 and clothing biannually to approximately 200 refugees and asylum seekers. Initiated in response to the drought in 2002, JRS involvement, in cooperation with the local NGO, the Zimbabwe Project Trust, in the food distribution programme in Insiza, southern Zimbabwe, came to an end in 2004.

health

HARARE transit centre Some 36 refugee patients were assisted to purchase medicines and two were assisted to pay doctors' consultation fees. Women and girls were provided with sanitary towels every month and baby clothes were purchased and distributed to 14 mothers. JRS also provided 54 refugees with vouchers to buy supplementary foods and encouraged the centre's asylum-seeking and refugee residents to participate in its maintenance.

social services/ community development

TONGOGARA camp JRS supported eight refugees to take responsibility for the camp's maintenance and purchased four balls for use during planned sporting activities.

CHECHECHE JRS provided 20 kg of maize seeds per family to 20 vulnerable families to encourage food security and self-sufficiency.

education

CHECHECHE A total of 37 primary and secondary school students had their school fees paid by JRS and all the students in the schools were provided with stationery and uniforms.

HARARE, MUTARE, TONGOGARA A total of 90 refugees were provided with vocational scholarships in Mutare and Harare and with sewing and computer classes in Tongogara.

income-generating

CHECHECHE, TONGOGARA In Checheche, JRS provided 19 goats to vulnerable families, while in Tongogara, six families were provided with loans to undertake various income-generating activities. The repayment rate was very impressive.

SOUTH AFRICA



JRS South Africa Director
Wendy Sadie (until July)
Mpho Tutubala

Despite being perceived as a wealthy country, the gap between rich and poor in South Africa is huge. Refugees are not the only people drawn to Pretoria and Johannesburg; many South Africans are also drawn there in search of employment and a better life. The lack of employment opportunities and accommodation continued to force refugees and jobless South Africans to compete for jobs and other services, exacerbating xenophobic tensions and attitudes. The South African Government also continued to deny any assistance to refugees beyond issuing them with permits, a very lengthy process for new arrivals. Migrants, regular or irregular, were often depicted as thieves and AIDS carriers. The arrival of refugees, mainly from the Grands Lacs, who fled Tongogara refugee camp in Zimbabwe, aggravated the situation. A national housing shortage meant that many emergency church and government shelters were overflowing. Living on the street has become a last resort for many South Africans, refugees and asylum seekers.

JRS projects in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, PRETORIA JRS provided support – such as grants, advocacy work and representation – to pre-school, primary school and secondary school children. In 2004, 58 pre-school, 154 primary and 130 secondary school children were provided with assistance to attend school, including transportation assistance. Some students were also given stationery and uniforms on the basis of academic merit. Some 54 unaccompanied child refugees were assisted with fees exemptions to attend JRS-supported schools. Some 220 students were provided with assistance to attend English language courses and 105 were assisted to attend vocational education courses. Twenty refugees' qualifications were translated and assessed, enabling them to seek employment and further education throughout South Africa. The advocacy programme also sought to ensure that more township schools enrolled refugees.

JOHANNESBURG, PRETORIA This project was established to provide short-term accommodation, food and non-food assistance to vulnerable refugees. In 2004, it assisted 2,431 refugees. Placements were found for unaccompanied child refugees, and guardians were screened, selected and trained. An advocacy programme specifically for unaccompanied refugee children was also launched.

JOHANNESBURG A community outreach programme on sexual and gender-based violence, and a youth group to help them develop non-crime related survival strategies, were started for 10 refugees, nine women and a single man.

JOHANNESBURG, PRETORIA JRS provided 88 refugee businesses with training and support services, and nine women and a single man were also given skills training. The trained refugee women produced several different clothing items like shirts, skirts, and trousers.

JOHANNESBURG, PRETORIA Over 1,030 refugees were provided with financial assistance to cover their medical bills. Counselling services were offered to refugees in need of support. The JRS advocacy programme also provided information on refugee rights and entitlements to clinic and hospital staff.

education

emergency
assistance

social services/
community
development

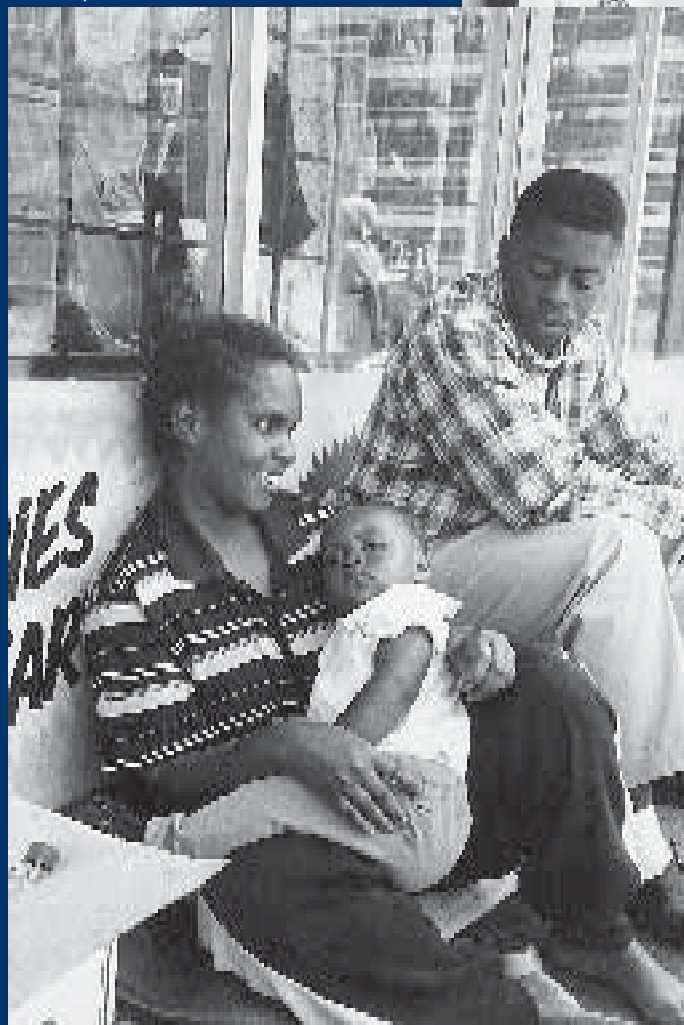
income-generating/
skills

health



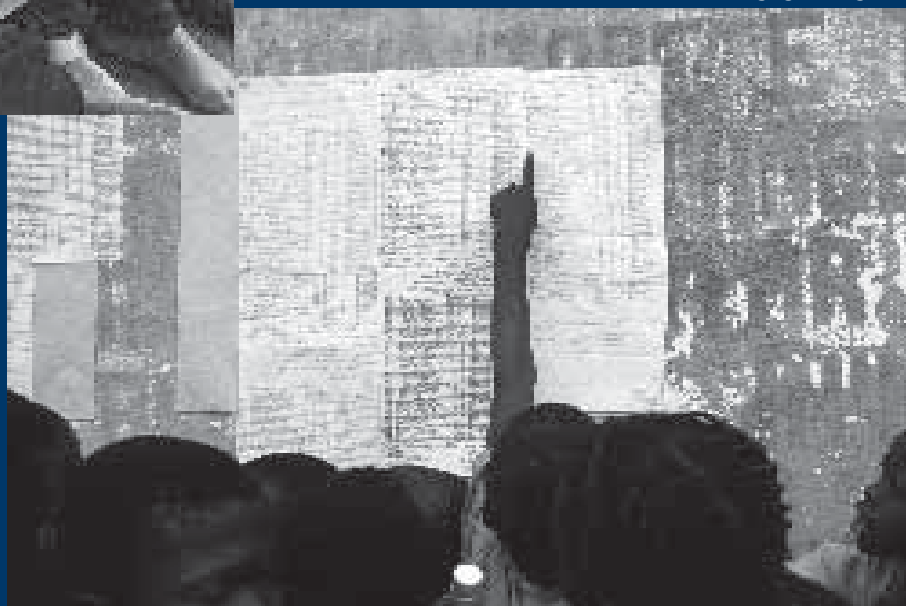
South Africa

Mark Raper SJ/JRS



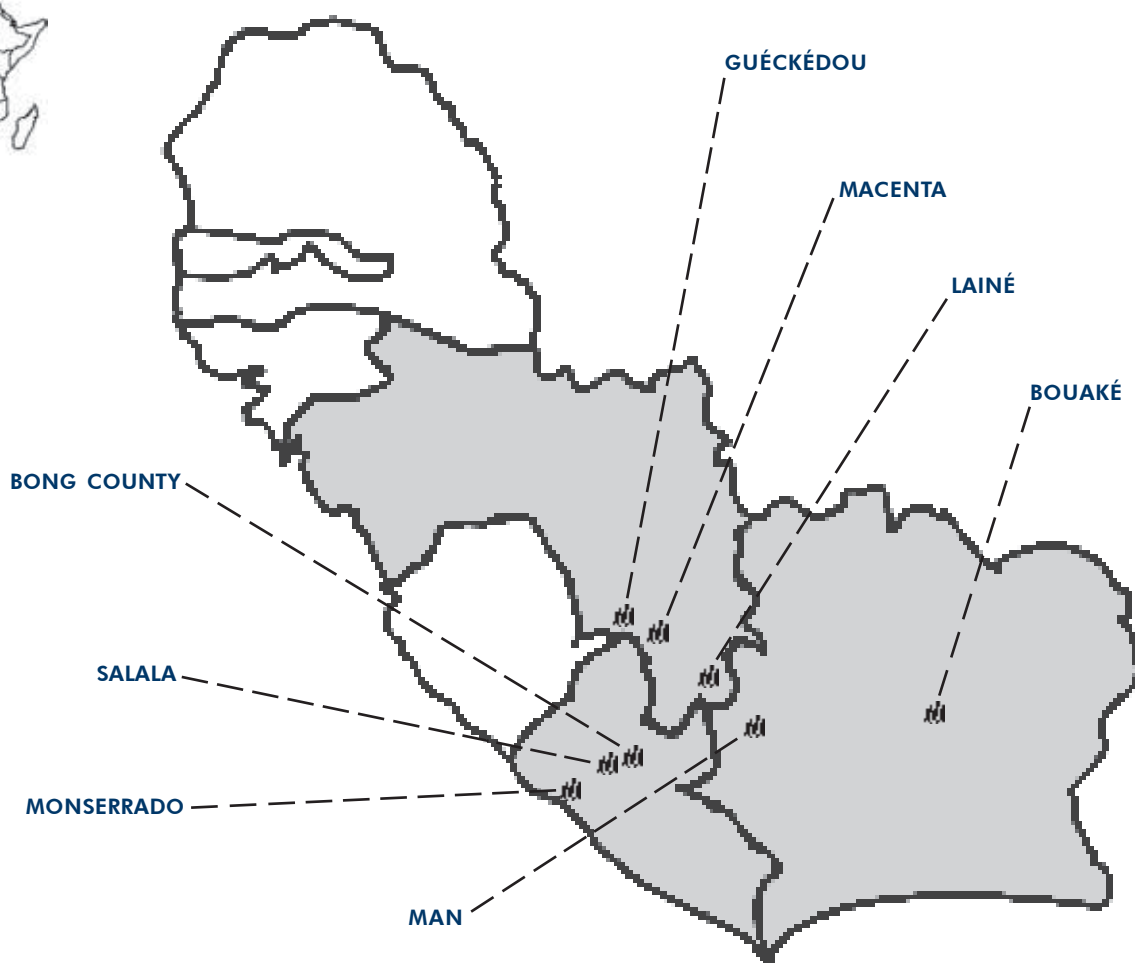
Bienvenue women's shelter, Johannesburg, South Africa

Children looking at their examination results, Negage, Angola



Xavier Garcia i Martí

WEST AFRICA



Guinea



JRS West Africa

The number of refugees in West Africa dropped significantly during 2004, in particular due to repatriation of large numbers of Liberians from Sierra Leone and Guinea, as well as integration of several thousand refugees into their host country societies. Refugee camps in Guinea were emptied as Liberians returned home. In contrast, the movement of Liberians from camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their home villages was much slower. In 2005, JRS expects that this process will accelerate with the return of tens of thousands of IDPs. Talk of disarmament of rebel factions and the possibility of elections in October 2005 dominated 2004. Moreover, the presence of UN peacekeeping troops, in Liberia as well as in Côte d'Ivoire, provided people with the security to begin thinking of peace and reconstruction.

The outbreak of violence however, in September in Liberia and in the first week of November in Côte d'Ivoire – where sectors of the population were attacked – were clear signs of political instability in the region. It was these political divisions that highlight the precarious nature of the situation in these countries. Unfortunately, the solutions offered to address these crises have not come from within the region but are policies imported and imposed by international organisations. It is widely felt that they are unrealistic solutions which fail to meet the expectations of most West Africans. Monrovia was peaceful, thanks to the presence of the United Nations peacekeeping force (United Nations Mission in Liberia, UNMIL). What would become of Liberia without UNMIL? Abidjan survived principally because of the presence of about 4,000 French soldiers. What would become of Côte d'Ivoire without the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (UNMCI) peacekeeping force?

It is clear that, once again, Africa, with the complicity of some of its leaders, has become the battlefield over which geopolitical and economic interests of certain countries and individuals are fought to the detriment of their peoples.

Mateo Aguirre SJ, JRS West Africa Director

LIBERIA

In 2004, despite difficulties in some areas, the process of repatriation and reintegration of some 500,000 people began as the country enjoyed a semblance of peace and security. This was largely due to the presence of 15,000 military and civilian UN personnel who were also deeply involved in the organisation of elections due in October 2005. However, by December 2004, Lofa County, which borders Sierra Leone and Guinea, had still not been declared as safe by the UN troops and its infrastructure was completely dilapidated. It is difficult to imagine how the return of refugees and displaced persons can continue beyond May 2005, when the rainy season will make communication even more difficult in this forest area. In this context the work of JRS Liberia will be to continue to monitor the situation and provide psychosocial support to the IDPs in the Salala and Monserrado camps as long as they are there, and open new projects to facilitate their re-integration.



JRS Liberia Director
C Amalraj SJ

JRS projects in Liberia

MONSERRADO With such high rates of illiteracy these programmes are absolutely necessary. In 2004, JRS established centres in four IDP camps, in which 32 teachers taught 1,040 students who were supplied with scholastic material. Human rights, HIV/AIDS awareness and healthcare-related issues were also taught.

BONG COUNTY In partnership with the Education Ministry, JRS supported 50 teachers to provide 932 students with literacy classes in seven adult literacy centres. In addition, the 50 teachers also received specialised training and teaching material.

BONG COUNTY Together with the IDPs committees, JRS repaired and furnished seven schools in seven IDP camps in which 14,000 children were enrolled. Teachers were financially supported and stationery was provided to them and to the children. In addition, peace building activities were mainstreamed into school, cultural and sports activities.

MONSERRADO The project repaired schools in four IDP camps. Some 3,873 children were enrolled and supplied with scholastic material. Twenty-seven training workshops were held for 40 teachers who were also provided with financial and material assistance to improve the quality of the education projects.

MONSERRADO A huge number of youngsters and adults were denied an education during the conflict. In 2004, 37 instructors provided 1,415 individuals in five vocational training centres, one per camp, with vocational training, such as tailoring, carpentry, and tie and dye courses. JRS also established cultural groups and provided materials to vocational graduates to start income-generating activities.

BONG COUNTY A total of 1,417 IDPs from seven camps directly benefited from JRS vocational training in four centres. Upon completion of the course, all of them received a JRS Certificate in their respective trades and a start-up kit consisting of basic tools and materials. With continued JRS support, graduates established various income-generating activities.

SALALA In partnership with UNICEF, JRS provided ongoing teacher training, not only to some 330 JRS teachers, but also to the Bong committee in which the teachers in the Catholic Network, as well as the public system, participated. In total, 2,700 teachers were provided with eight training seminars from May to August.

adult literacy

education

*vocational education/
teacher training*



JRS Guinea Director
Gonzalo Sánchez-Terán

GUINEA

The social and political situation in Guinea in 2004 was dominated by the undemocratic presidential elections in December 2003 in which General Lansana Conte, who had first taken power during a *coup d'état* 20 years earlier, remained in control. Consequently, Guinea found itself further isolated from the international financial institutions, and the country plunged into an economic crisis that reached its lowest point in September. In southern Guinea, which is home to thousands of Ivorian and Liberian refugees and Guinean returnees, ethnic tension and growing poverty exacerbated the already high risk of violence. In October the good news of Liberian refugees returning home was overshadowed by worsening conflict in Côte d'Ivoire. Even though the repatriation of refugees is likely to continue in 2005, the conflicts in neighbouring countries and political, social and economic deterioration in Guinea make it one of Africa's hottest spots.

JRS projects in Guinea

reconstruction

GUÉCKÉDOU After 18 months work, this project ended in February 2004. During that period, 400 war-devastated houses were reconstructed in cooperation with the beneficiaries who were selected from all of the religious and ethnic communities. The 35 most vulnerable families received doors and windows to complete their houses. At the end of 2004, Guéckédou City, which only three years ago was empty and demolished, was full of life.

MACENTA In June 2004, after two years work, the project ended. During that period, in cooperation with the local population in 22 of the country's most isolated villages, 325 houses were reconstructed. The creation of inter-ethnic and religious village committees greatly contributed to the consolidation of the reconciliation process and the successful return of IDPs.

social services/ health

MACENTA The project, provided education to 180 children, health to 138 individuals, and material assistance to 692 individuals in one of West Africa's poorest areas. JRS built and equipped, in cooperation with local communities, two schools, one rural clinic and four chapels. The JRS team also began the construction of two more schools for children who live very far from the existing schools.

education/training

LAINÉ camp In the first half of the year, the camp population increased to over 30,000 Liberian refugees. Some 737 students graduated, from 16 departments, in the JRS-supported vocational school and at the end of 2004, a further 1,049 registered. JRS provided support to 219 vocational school graduates to start income-generating activities and informal education was given to nearly 220 persons with disabilities. The JRS-supported *kindergarten* provided food and education services to 421 children aged between 2- and 4-years old. Cultural events were also organised for over 16,700 refugees and material assistance provided to 2,883 vulnerable refugees.

development

MACENTA In 2004, to stimulate development in this devastated region, JRS operated as a 'Seed Bank', buying rice seeds on the international market and providing them to refugee farmers. Some 337 families from four villages produced 1,805 kg of rice. Its success persuaded eight more villages to participate in the project. JRS also provided vocational training in tailoring and adult literacy classes to 20 teenage mothers.

GUÉCKÉDOU JRS provided 114 Guinean returnees in four villages near the Liberian border with agricultural assistance, including seeds, tools and technical support, to cultivate their rice fields. It also provided vocational training, including soap making, tie and dye, and adult literacy courses, to war widows.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

In 2004 Côte d'Ivoire continued to be divided between the rebel forces in the north and the government forces in the south. What is more serious is that there are no solutions on the horizon. The way things were looking, it seemed that none of the parties to the conflict were interested in resolving the problem. Such a situation has impoverished the country and negatively affected future community relations.

November was particularly difficult for JRS teams in Man and Bouaké.

The resumption of hostilities and the bombing of towns in the north, notably in Bouaké, destabilised life for everyone in Côte d'Ivoire and the JRS teams were not spared. There were very tense moments, JRS cars were stolen by the paramilitary groups operating in the north, and activities had to be temporarily suspended. At the end of 2004, the mobile clinic in Bouaké was experiencing difficulties restarting its programme, but JRS Côte d'Ivoire expected they would be resolved in 2005.



JRS Côte d'Ivoire Director
Sr Josée N'tia

JRS projects in Côte d'Ivoire

MAN After distributing 1,630 school kits in Abidjan colleges the project expanded to Man. The war has meant a total breakdown in the education system in the rebel-held area, especially in the west, where the rebel groups were less organised. In Man, the schools finally opened on 16 February, but children did not receive any materials. The project distributed 446 school kits to children of varying ages in two schools.

education

BOUAKÉ Since the outbreak of war, JRS has been the only NGO providing health services to the rural areas surrounding Bouaké, a deeply insecure region with a number of rebel troops and check-points. From its four centres, the JRS team carried out 13,357 medical consultations.

health

MAN From its eight centres the JRS project team provided medical care and nutritional assistance to individuals in Man and its surrounding rural areas. Until the outbreak of violence in November caused the project's suspension, 4,385 persons had received nutritional assistance, 15,234 medical consultations had been carried out and 101 patients had been taken to other cities for medical treatment.

BOUAKÉ The number of AIDS cases increased during the war, mainly in the rebel-held area. Consequently, the team, in close collaboration with members of the Muslim community, has undertaken 23 AIDS awareness-raising events for 1,696 individuals in schools, parishes and mosques, and provided medical care. Up to 853 individuals received medical care in the JRS centre and 148 home visits were carried out.



Refugees waiting to visit Bouaké Health Centre, Côte d'Ivoire

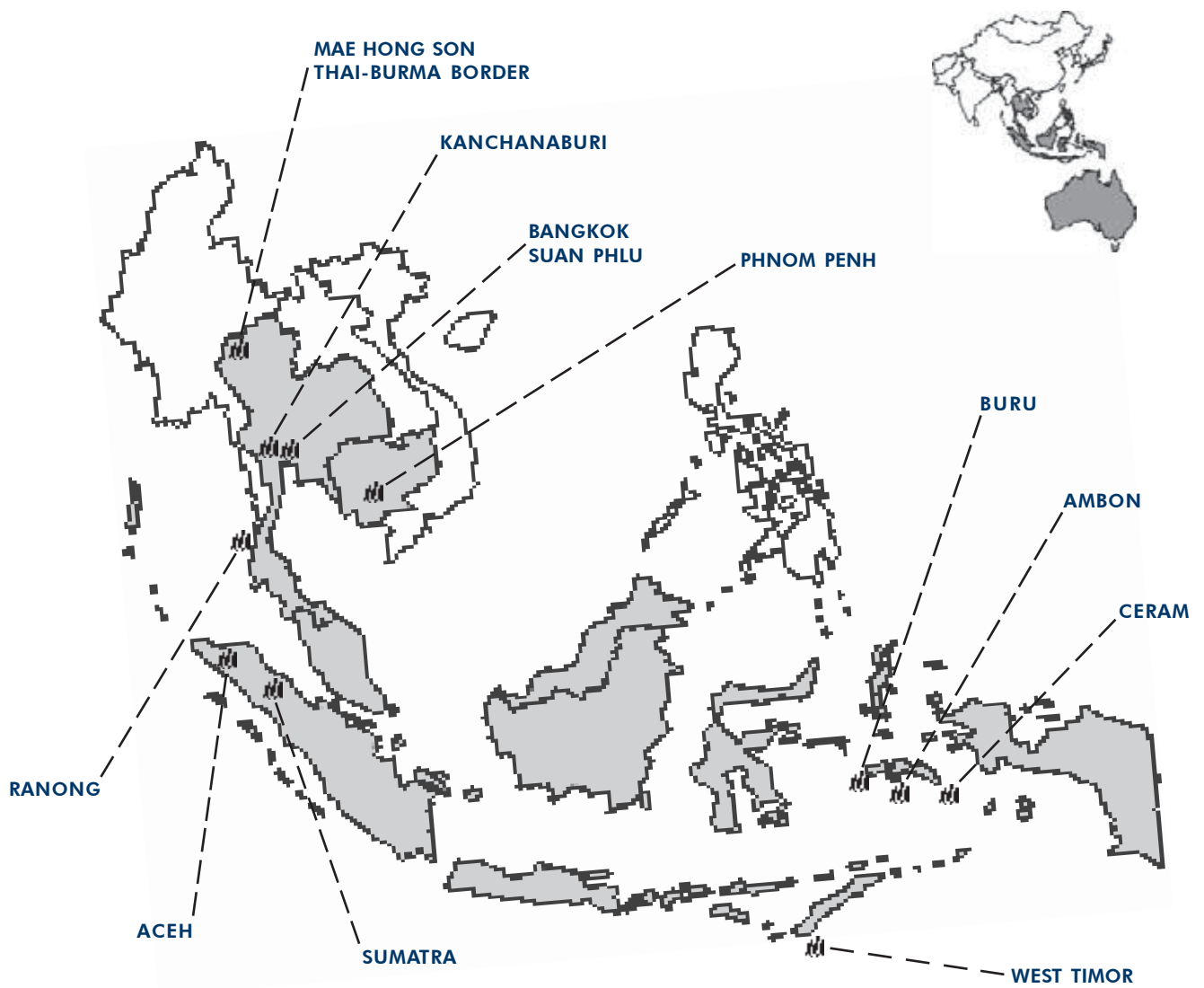


Guinea



Liberia

ASIA PACIFIC



Post-tsunami humanitarian relief, Pulau-Aceh, Indonesia



Ingvid Solvang/JRS

Indonesia successfully held parliamentary and presidential elections in 2004. Even though the change of government had limited impact, many people remain hopeful that the new government will tackle the ongoing problems of security and corruption, and work towards promoting peace.

During the year thousands of Indonesians were forcibly displaced from their villages under suspicion of being supporters or members of rebel groups. The military ordered them to live in camps in the name of "protection". However, insecurity pushed many of them to flee to Malaysia. Those who fled were often arrested by the Malaysian authorities and were detained and deported back to Indonesia where there have been allegations of mistreatment. Acehnese, in particular, who were deported from Malaysia were generally treated as suspected rebels.

Conflict in Poso, Ambon, and other places displaced many more people this year and the prolonged conflict has made returning more difficult. The diversity of ethnicities and religious beliefs, in the absence of peace building and reconciliation mechanisms, means Indonesia remains fragile and vulnerable to further conflicts.

The tsunami disaster on 26 December shocked and saddened everybody. At least four countries in this region were affected by the tsunami, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Burma. Indonesia was by far the worst hit. In Indonesia and Thailand, the tsunami directly affected JRS beneficiaries, i.e. IDPs in Aceh and undocumented Burmese migrants in southern Thailand. JRS responded immediately, deploying JRS staff and former staff to Banda Aceh. In Thailand, JRS projects in Ranong were not seriously affected by the tsunami which principally struck southern Thailand. At the end of the year, little was known of the effects of the tsunami in Burma. The information released by the military junta was not considered credible.

As 2004 ended, the hope of peace negotiations in Burma between the military junta under Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and the ethnic minority insurgents began to fade. In October 2004, General Khin Nyunt was replaced by Lieutenant General Soe Win, allegedly responsible for attacks on Burmese opposition supporters and leaders. All of the preparations for peace negotiations came to nothing as attacks on ethnic minorities continued under the new government.

Andre Sugijopranto SJ, JRS Asia Pacific Director

THAILAND

UNHCR was forced to suspend screening of new asylum seekers from Burma, to move Burmese refugees living in urban areas to nine camps along the Thai-Burma border and to cease renewing protection certificates to refugees who did not comply with the new regulations.

Some 130,000 recognised refugees were permitted to reside in nine border camps. As the Thai authorities only recognise those “fleeing fighting” and not persecution, many refugees were considered “illegal aliens” and risked deportation at any time. The Government of Thailand allowed UNHCR to register vulnerable Burmese urban refugees as “persons of concern” and about 4,000 qualified for resettlement. The rest were supposed to leave Bangkok to stay in the refugee camps. Many urban refugees from minority Burmese ethnic groups, such as Burman and Mon, were unable to access these ethnically constituted camps for the mainly Karen and Karenni Burmese. Following the tsunami disaster thousands of migrant workers who had lost their ID papers, were arrested or went into hiding.



JRS Thailand Director
Siriphen Limsirikul

JRS projects in Thailand

SUAN PHLU, KANCHANABURI immigration detention centres The centres’ conditions continued to be poor and overcrowded. JRS supported a full-time nurse and doctor to provide medical care to the detainees. To be released, detainees must pay their own fare home. Given that many detainees lack information and resources, JRS continued to contact embassies and pay the airfares of those who had been detained for more than six months.

Beneficiaries: 534 detainees released and medical care provided to 6,370 patients

BANGKOK The programme assisted asylum seekers throughout the potentially protracted Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process with the UNHCR office in Bangkok. Representation to the UNHCR was made concerning policies affecting asylum seekers. Asylum seekers were provided with financial aid on a case-by-case basis to meet their basic needs, i.e. food and shelter. In 2004, 626 new persons and 1,500 existing cases were assisted with basic financial aid.

MAE HONG SON JRS worked in Karenni camps in Mae Hong Son providing education and pastoral services. JRS continued to offer a 2-year teacher training and monitoring course to young Karenni. Assistance was provided to the Karenni Education Department (KnED) in the development of appropriate textbooks. Stipends were also provided to 378 refugee teachers. In 2004, vocational and nursery training were offered to the teachers, and overall 7,046 children, 378 Karenni teachers and over 3,000 families were assisted.

THAI-BURMA BORDER JRS provided emergency assistance to Burmese Shan refugees, providing a hospital referral service and supporting the education of Shan children from three orphanages in the area. In 2004, an income-generating programme providing seeds to families was set up. In 2004, 75 orphans, 650 schoolchildren and 1,500 families were assisted.

RANONG JRS provided assistance to Burmese families to manage community schools and encouraged the Thai authorities to admit the children into state schools. The JRS team also provided emergency assistance and health referrals to hospitals. Last year 950 schoolchildren and 17 teachers were assisted.

JRS Thailand Ban Landmines project served as coordinator for the Thailand Campaign to Ban Landmines and contributed to Landmine Monitor Report 2004. A number of presentations were made on the landmine situation in Thailand to the press, government officials and other audiences. JRS also participated in a number of international UN supported conferences on landmines in Geneva and Nairobi, in particular the Nairobi Summit on a Mine Free World in November 2004.

detention/medical

urban programme/
advocacy

education/pastoral

health/education/
material assistance

outreach

ACEH & SUMATRA



JRS Indonesia Director
Edi Mulyono SJ

With the presence of about 40,000 Indonesian military (TNI), Aceh was under martial law for a year, until 19 May 2004, during which time thousands were displaced, over 2,000 were killed and nearly 3,000 alleged rebels either surrendered or were captured. Under the pretext of searching for GAM (Free Aceh Movement) rebels, the military forced many people into camps. However, none of the high-ranking GAM officials were caught, nor was peace restored. All foreigners and international NGOs were required to obtain special permission from Jakarta to stay and/or work in Aceh. On 19 May, civil emergency was declared; little changed and military operations continued as before. In northern Sumatra, about 5,000 remained displaced, mainly ethnic Javanese, from Aceh, who received little assistance from the authorities. On 26 December the tsunami hit Aceh province, killing over 200,000 and displacing another 400,000. Huge changes were imposed with the arrival of foreign military and NGOs. The Indonesian Government said that foreign troops should have left Aceh by March 2005.

JRS projects in Aceh & Sumatra

monitoring/ advocacy

ACEH Like most humanitarian NGOs JRS' access to assist those in need was limited by the Indonesian authorities, thus it was not able to carry out most of its planned activities in Aceh. Reports of humanitarian abuses continued in 2004 which ensured that JRS' role of information gathering and monitoring was vital to be able to identify and support the most vulnerable. The team provided financial assistance to family members visiting their husbands/fathers held in detention mainly for doing humanitarian work. JRS hired an information officer, based in western Aceh, to gather data and actively distribute briefing papers, on the ongoing situation in Aceh, to our international partners. In collaboration with a local NGO, JRS produced two videos: on the humanitarian situation in Aceh and on child soldiers and children used in the conflict. The information gathered in western Aceh greatly benefited JRS Bangkok's refugee programme work with Acehnese asylum seekers.

SUMATRA Information gathered by staff working with displaced persons in Sei Lengan camps, northern Sumatra, was used to identify individuals who had not received their termination grants from the authorities and assist them in accessing this government assistance. Further, JRS worked closely with various agencies and NGOs for the 500 displaced families living in Mount Leuser National Park. They continued to encourage the authorities to negotiate with all the stakeholders and refrain from repressive action.

general assistance

ACEH Access to basic necessities was very problematic this year. However, JRS continued to assist the most vulnerable displaced people, providing food for children and pregnant women, as well as support to meet their education needs.

Activities:

- provided rice, cooking oil, and other food, including food supplements for 1,000 pregnant women and infants, both internally displaced and returnees
- assisted the establishment of a peace and reconciliation women's group and a living values education programme during the latter half of the year

SUMATRA JRS worked to ensure that most vulnerable IDPs received adequate relocation assistance and that they were afforded access to education and health services, as well as employment opportunities.

Activities/Beneficiaries:

- supported two nurses' and teachers' wages
- provided food supplements to 460 IDPs and 140 infants
- provided textbooks and scholarships to 300 school children
- assisted 26 IDP families who were being relocated to purchase land; more families are expected to join them in 2005
- provided loans to 43 families, particularly to households headed by women, to start small agricultural and fishing businesses

MOLUCCAS – WEST TIMOR

On 25 April 2004, another riot broke out in Ambon, the situation quickly got out of control, causing the death of at least 38 people and displacing more than 10,000. It was the worst outbreak of sectarian violence in the **Moluccas** since the peace agreement, ending three years of conflict, was signed in 2002. The situation remained very tense and the line between Muslim and Christian communities became clearer and many thousands remained displaced. Issues centring on the ownership of property remained one of the key obstacles preventing the return of IDPs.

After five years, JRS ended its operation in **West Timor** on 30 November 2004. Following the independence of East Timor from Indonesia in 2003, thousands fled to West Timor and other parts of Indonesia. In 2004, only a few thousand East Timorese remained in West Timor, mostly families of military personnel and other civil servants. A few separated children who could not locate their parents also remained in West Timor.



JRS Indonesia Director
Edi Mulyono SJ

JRS projects in the Moluccas

AMBON, BURU, CERAM JRS continued to support over 100 displaced families in agricultural income-generating activities by providing them with seeds, tools, and livestock, and loans with which to buy other equipment. The participants' activities were closely monitored and advice on planning was also provided. JRS encouraged the students to attend school and assisted 500 children with the provision of teaching materials and books.

AMBON, BURU, CERAM JRS accompanied those suffering from trauma and other stress-related ailments, in particular vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant women, by providing them with trauma therapy, medicine, food supplements and other care.

Beneficiaries:

- 1,931 children and pregnant women assisted with trauma therapy
- 100 children and their families provided with healthcare and medicines

AMBON, BURU, CERAM JRS sought to raise national media attention about the issues faced by vulnerable displaced people and returnees. The team also sought to promote reconciliation between the displaced and local populations through mediation.

AMBON As a result of the serious riots on 25 April, JRS established a special project to provide emergency relief to 4,250 Christian and Muslim IDPs and returnees in the most vulnerable areas. It provided material assistance to vulnerable groups such as the elderly, families and children. It also provided assistance to meet childrens' basic education needs.

income-generating/
education

health/pastoral

information/advocacy

emergency
assistance

JRS projects in West Timor

JRS continued to work with communities in West Timor who wished to resettle to other parts of Indonesia. In 2004, it monitored and supported the resettlement of 20 IDP families who had participated in the migration programme to Sumba Island.

JRS worked to bring about durable solutions for 200 families and children. It continued to register, trace and verify the family relationship between the children and their families. It was involved in organising meetings and mediating to ensure that the best interests of the child were always respected.

resettlement

family reunification

AUSTRALIA



JRS Australia Director

Nguyen Van Cao SJ (until September)
David Holdcroft SJ

In Australia during 2004, with the drop in spontaneous asylum applications, the Government increased its offshore refugee quota from 4,000 to 6,000 people. This reduction prompted the closure of the Port Hedland Detention Centre. In the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) report, the detention of children was criticised. It called on the Government to release all children from immigration detention by 10 June. However in August, the High Court then ruled that the indefinite detention of children was legal under the Migration Act. By the end of 2004, over 60 children were still being detained. New temporary visas were made available to those people holding temporary protection and temporary humanitarian visas placing many in unstable and stressful situations. A new 'return pending' visa which extended their rights to stay by 18 months and offered permanent residency to those able to secure employment was issued. In Australia, with 896 people in detention, mandatory detention remained an issue, though many of these people were not seeking asylum.

JRS projects in Australia

campaigns/ advocacy

Groups such as JRS continued to advocate on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers in Australia. In particular, the number of children held in immigration detention centres, the uncertain nature of temporary protection visas and the existence of bridging visas were many refugee agencies' advocacy foci. JRS Australia was particularly involved in supporting groups that campaigned against inappropriate detention.

public awareness

Questions surrounding children in detention have gained prominence as a result of the HREOC report and the High Court decision. Largely though, refugee issues did not occupy the front pages of Australian newspapers during the past year. JRS continued to speak out in defence of refugees and asylum seekers through whatever avenues available.

assistance

In 2004, asylum seekers granted a bridging visa were allowed to remain in Australia but were not entitled to work, or receive medicare (financial assistance for healthcare/medication). They were not granted housing or any government assistance. The burden largely fell on church agencies to support these people. JRS Australia supported some asylum seekers released from detention, and also supported people detained at Villawood detention centre.

volunteer recruitment

JRS Australia last year continued to recruit and place Australian volunteers in JRS projects in the region. They were debriefed on their return, and supported while working in the field.

CAMBODIA

One year after the elections, the Cambodian People's Party formed a new government in July 2004. Under pressure from foreign donors about impunity, corruption and poverty reduction, in July 2004 the Government authorised UNHCR to resume field operations in north-eastern Cambodia for the 770 ethnic Montagnard asylum seekers who had fled land confiscation and religious persecution in Vietnam. However, in contravention of international law, the Government continued to authorise forced expulsions. Despite being a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention since 1992, determinations in the past were made by UNHCR. In 2004 Cambodia was pushing to implement its own refugee determination procedure. Given the state of impunity, human rights groups warned UNHCR of possible violations of refugee rights. The legislation to establish the Tribunal to bring senior Khmer Rouge leaders to justice for crimes against humanity was passed by the national assembly, but no dates were set. A huge section of the population continued to lack access to basic services.



JRS Cambodia Director
Denise Coghlan RSM

JRS projects in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH JRS provided asylum seekers with legal advice and representation during the protracted first instance and appeal applications process with UNHCR. In cases where the applications were definitively rejected, it discussed alternative solutions with the asylum seekers. Where asylum seekers were recognised as refugees, JRS assisted them in exploring options for resettlement in third countries, as Cambodia was not in a position to offer durable solutions to refugees.

In 2004, JRS assisted 32 refugees from eight African and Asian countries resettle, mainly to Canada. In 2004, legal assistance and advice was provided to 63 asylum seekers and refugees from 15 countries, in particular from Vietnam and Afghanistan, throughout the asylum determination procedure and to those seeking resettlement to third countries. In October, JRS met with UNHCR to discourage them from hastening the refugee status determination decision-making process. Subsequently, UNHCR announced that asylum seekers would no longer be automatically referred to JRS for legal assistance.

PHNOM PENH The programme not only offered basic social assistance for food and accommodation to the most vulnerable but also provided a place where asylum seekers and refugees were welcomed and accepted. It aimed to build trust and friendship and to help them re-establish lost social networks and a sense of community. JRS assisted asylum seekers and refugees in finding appropriate accommodation and employment; provided basic household items and carried out follow-up visits on vulnerable individuals. In 2004, 70 urban refugees, mainly Afghans and Vietnamese, and 15 asylum seekers received financial assistance.

JRS was also responsible for managing food, education, healthcare and sanitation programmes for 704 Montagnard refugees in four UNHCR managed camps. In three of the camps, JRS assisted the refugees to purchase and distribute food and take care of the camp maintenance. Last year language, math, dance, art, sewing, gardening, computer and carpentry classes were organised for 614 adults and children. It also supported 145 refugee children's primary and secondary education and provided space and materials for religious, sports and music activities.

JRS assisted, including by providing transport and interpretation, asylum seekers and refugees to access health and medical services. They arranged appointments with doctors, purchased pharmaceuticals and took people to hospital in cases of emergency. Some of the refugees were survivors of torture and trauma. Several refugees had been referred for counselling and psychiatric treatment. Nevertheless there were no adequate facilities in Cambodia for refugees who required psychiatric treatment and counselling, as well as hospitalisation. JRS also supported social worker visits for 14 pregnant refugee women.

legal assistance

general assistance



An IDP woman
in Ambon,
Moluccas
Islands,
Indonesia

Landmine survivors,
Banteay Prieb, Cambodia

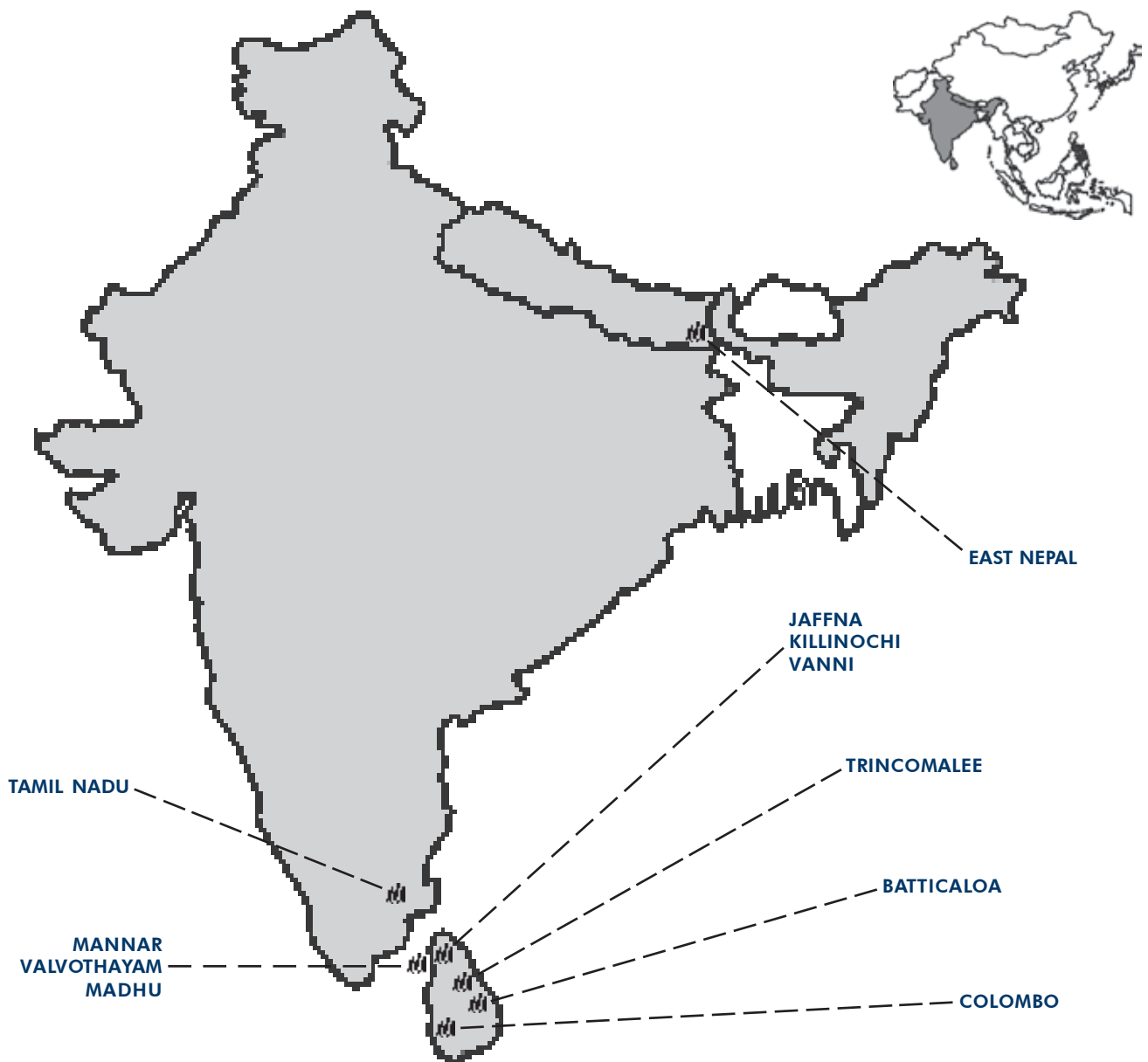


Andre Sugjopranoto SJ/JRS



Thailand

SOUTH ASIA



Post-tsunami food distribution, Sri Lanka



JRS Sri Lanka

The year began on an optimistic note with newly elected governments saying that they would take a new look and find solutions to protracted refugee and internal displaced persons' crises in the South Asia region. Ahmed Karzai's caretaker government in Afghanistan was elected, strengthening the hopes for peace, reconstruction and the return of Afghan refugees. In India, the election of the United Peoples' Alliance led by the Indian National Congress brought fresh hopes of changes in India's foreign policy. They initiated peace talks with the moderate independence groups in Kashmir and Nagas.

The improvement in Indo-Pakistani relations ushered in a new beginning. The subsequent ceasefire between the two countries and renewed cooperation has resulted in a substantial decrease in the infiltration of Pakistani sponsored Kashmiri militants across the Indian border. A new oil pipeline from Iran passing through Pakistan is to be commissioned, showcasing the renewed economic partnership developing in the region. With the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) set to become a reality, there is hope that economic stability will bring about political stability.

However, in Sri Lanka, with the help of the leftist JVP, the People's Alliance came to power; both the parties had opposed the peace process started by the UNP government, and the LTTE Tamil rebels have also been sending signals that it may be difficult to sustain the three year ceasefire without a real political dividend.

In Nepal the weak government installed by the monarch to conduct fresh elections and resume talks with the militant Maoist rebels failed to comply with the wishes of the people and the monarch. Unfortunately, there was no strategy to resolve the Bhutanese refugee crisis and their exile in Nepal continued. The King of Bhutan allowed the Indian army to enter Bhutan to flush out separatist Bodo militants fighting for a homeland in the Indian state of Assam, thus the Indian Government was not in a position to pressure the Bhutanese Government to resolve the issue. Consequently, the Bhutanese Government continued to obstruct the return of the refugees.

The year ended on a sad note as the tsunami struck the coasts of India and Sri Lanka. An estimated 40,000 in Sri Lanka and 10,000 in Tamil Nadu, India, lost their lives and over 503,000 and 691,000 were displaced in Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu respectively. Many thousands more also lost their property and livelihoods. As a symbol of solidarity, India immediately provided an aid package of more than US\$100 million to its small neighbour. India refused external aid as it had enough resources to rebuild its damaged south-eastern coastal belts, a sign of its growing status as a regional superpower.

PS Amalraj SJ, JRS South Asia Director

NEPAL



JRS Nepal Director
Varkey Perekatt SJ

In 2004, the brutal 8-year civil war between Maoist Communist rebels and government security forces raged on and little progress was made towards finding a lasting solution to the Bhutanese refugee issue. Disunity amongst political parties, as well as within the ruling party has weakened the democratic political process and strengthened the Maoist insurgent's cause. Increasing violence and diminishing economic stability throughout the country caused a political crisis diverting attention from the urgent refugee issues at hand. The conflict and the political stalemate have had a devastating impact on the already desperately poor rural population. Almost 40% of Nepal's 23 million people live below the poverty line and the state's limited capacity to provide essential health and education services has been severely curtailed by lack of access to Maoist controlled areas. The Bhutanese Government's refusal to resume stalled bilateral talks made 2004 a dark year for the more than 100,000 refugees who have been living inside Nepal's borders now for 15 years.

JRS projects in Nepal

JRS continues to assist Caritas Nepal, the UNHCR implementing partner, in the management and administration of 53 schools serving 37,641 primary and secondary students in the seven camps in eastern Nepal. The programme, known as the Bhutanese Refugee Education Programme (BREP) operates with 1,019 refugee teaching staff and 138 support staff. BREP provides training and support to teachers and quality education to refugee students. Some 87% of the 2,907 students in the elementary graduating class passed the district board examination and 83% of 2,631 students in the high school graduating class passed the Nepalese School Leaving Certificate examination (SLC).

Other Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- supported by 11 special needs support teachers 678 children with special needs, for example due to hearing impairments, were integrated into the camp schools
- 3,317 students in years 11 and 12 benefited from scholarships
- 440 students benefited from counselling services
- 718 school staff, including teachers, administrators etc., were provided with training programmes, such as education management and administration, holistic health and counselling skills
- career guidance and sex education training provided to teachers
- 21 instructors trained 331 students in their choice from nine different trades (carpentry, mechanics, plumbing etc.). Courses ran from 6-9 months.

The main purpose of the programme is to integrate the 3,364 people with disabilities into mainstream community life in the camp. Thirty-one staff members offer a variety of integration programmes. This year some of the programmes included sign language classes for 314 hearing impaired, surgical correction for 65 children with birth defects and vocational training for 35 people with disabilities.

The JRS Nepal team continued to collaborate with the International NGO coalition, facilitating the flow of information and strengthening the work of the coalition at the national and international level. Apart from assisting with briefing papers for the European Commission and donors, and letters of appeal to the King of Bhutan, JRS also supported local refugee groups in their advocacy efforts. JRS funded local NGOs to send nine staff to participate in the World Social Forum, 2004, in Mumbai.

education

disability programme

advocacy

SRI LANKA



JRS Sri Lanka Director
Vinnny Joseph SJ

In April 2004, short but fierce fighting broke out between rival factions of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the first major hostilities in the country since a February 2002 ceasefire between LTTE and government forces. After 20 years of civil war and three years of stalled peace talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE rebels, over 350,000 Sri Lankans remained displaced. Whilst returnees remained vulnerable, another 60,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) wanting to return, found their land occupied by the government's armed forces. The devastating tsunami in December destroyed a huge part of the eastern coast of Sri Lanka killing over 30,000 people and displacing more than 500,000; a number of whom had just recently resettled in their homes after the ceasefire was signed in 2002. Political tensions are mounting in the wake of the tsunami. But it is hoped that renewed international attention to tsunami recovery will address needs of the longer term displaced as well.

JRS projects in Sri Lanka

education

In 2004, JRS continued to meet the education and other needs of Sri Lanka's internally displaced children, including their daily nutritional needs.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- supported 98 teachers in 60 pre-schools catering for 1,798 children and appointed 67 teachers in 37 schools teaching 3,929 students
- established 174 evening tuition centres with 360 teachers catering for 14,603 students
- 176 students in primary, secondary and higher secondary education were also provided scholarships and 450 school leavers were provided with eight teacher training courses
- JRS supported six professionals to counsel 833 students at two centres
- supported five teachers to meet the care and education needs of 106 children in four orphanages
- to encourage creativity, JRS supported, printed and distributed 4,000 copies of the monthly student magazine 'Manavar Vidiyal'

vocational training

Early school leavers, particularly girls, are offered opportunities to learn a trade enabling independence, self-confidence and shaping them to play a role in society. Five life skill centres were established, training 140 girls under the care of five supervisors. Nine tailoring and embroidery centres were opened for 210 trainees. Similarly, in collaboration with the ministry of technical education, carpentry and mechanics courses were provided for 40 students.

social services

JRS provides financial and material assistance to meet the basic needs of vulnerable IDPs and those wishing to return to home. Some 257 returning refugee families were assisted with materials to make temporary shelters and 1,522 families returning from Indian camps were supported and financially assisted to meet initial needs. Emergency medical treatment was provided for 43 people and 266 prisoners from IDP families were visited and assisted.

income-generating

In 2004, several small income-generating schemes, i.e. development units, were established to assist certain sectors of the community, in particular agriculture and fishing. Each development unit offers a saving and credit scheme for the communities.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- village development units offered credit to 1,283 families to engage in agricultural activities
- seven fisheries development units offered financial assistance to 250 families to buy nets and boats
- eight widows' development units offered were small loans to 175 families to undertake poultry, dairy and other income-generating activities
- four development units offered small business loans to 152 families of persons with disabilities, most of whom have been victims of war or landmines

INDIA

The new Congress Party-led government, which replaced the Hindu nationalist BJP after elections in May 2004, has taken some important positive steps with regard to respect for human rights, including the repeal of the oft-abused Prevention of Terrorism Act. Notwithstanding, for the Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu, India, the hope of returning home remains an elusive dream. Precarious peace negotiations, changing policies of repatriation and laws of citizenship both in India and Sri Lanka, have meant that more than 57,000 people in 103 camps, and 20,000 others living outside the camps, are still unsure of what the future holds for them. Dwindling support for their plight has added to their sense of urgency to return home but reports from those who have made the journey speak of hardship and poverty in Sri Lanka, risks from landmines, as well as continued ethnic tension. After almost 23 years, it is hard for these refugees to know whether it is better to stay or leave.



JRS India Director
S. Singarayar SJ

JRS projects in India

All students in the 103 camps are permitted to attend government schools. In 2004, JRS continued to support the ongoing education needs of Sri Lankan refugees in Indian schools.

Achievements/Beneficiaries:

- provided tutoring programmes in 98 tuition centres for over 8,330 students with 238 teachers
- funded 11 teachers from five government schools to close a staffing gap in schools that refugees attended
- funded five 5-day and four 1-day workshops/summer study camps for 1,015 secondary school students and 345 university students respectively
- granted scholarships to 568 primary, secondary and university students covering tuition and housing costs
- paid tuition fees for special coaching for 654 students
- conducted nine teacher training workshops for 212 teachers to work in the 98 tuition centres
- 3,675 students attended 22 special writing and public speaking classes in 98 camps
- supported the student creative writing magazine 'Manavar Vidiyal', published monthly and distributed to over 2,000 readers

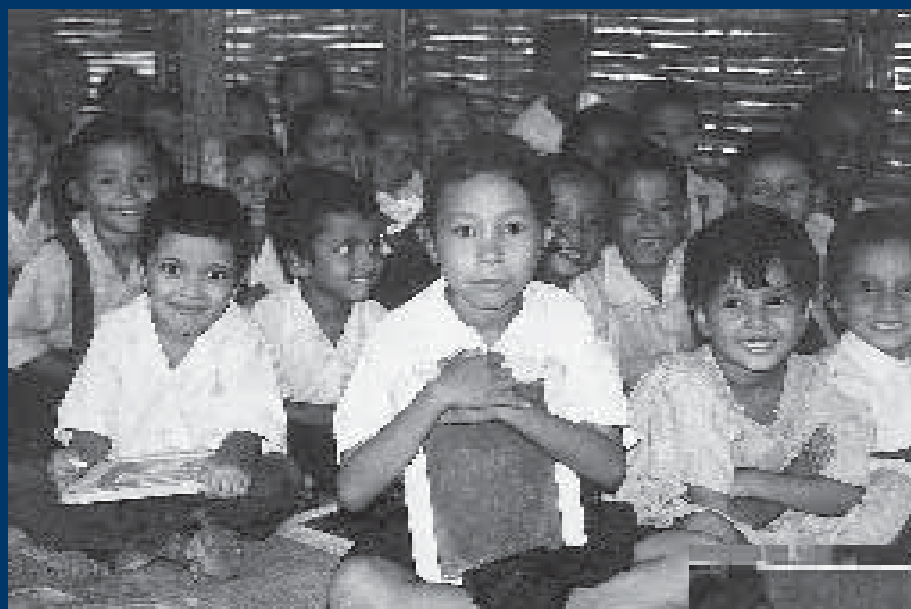
Early school leavers, particularly girls, are offered opportunities to learn a trade enabling independence, self-confidence and shaping them to play a role in society. Two JRS life skill centres offered training in handcrafts, as well as a number of workshops in health and women's rights and leadership training for 119 girls. Three tailoring and embroidery centres also trained 85 women. Similarly, in collaboration with four technical colleges, JRS enabled 111 students to be trained in courses such as nursing, carpentry, mechanics and computer science.

In 2004, JRS continued to strengthen and build capacity in the social structures of the camps through support of women's groups, student associations, as well as camp and district development committees.

education

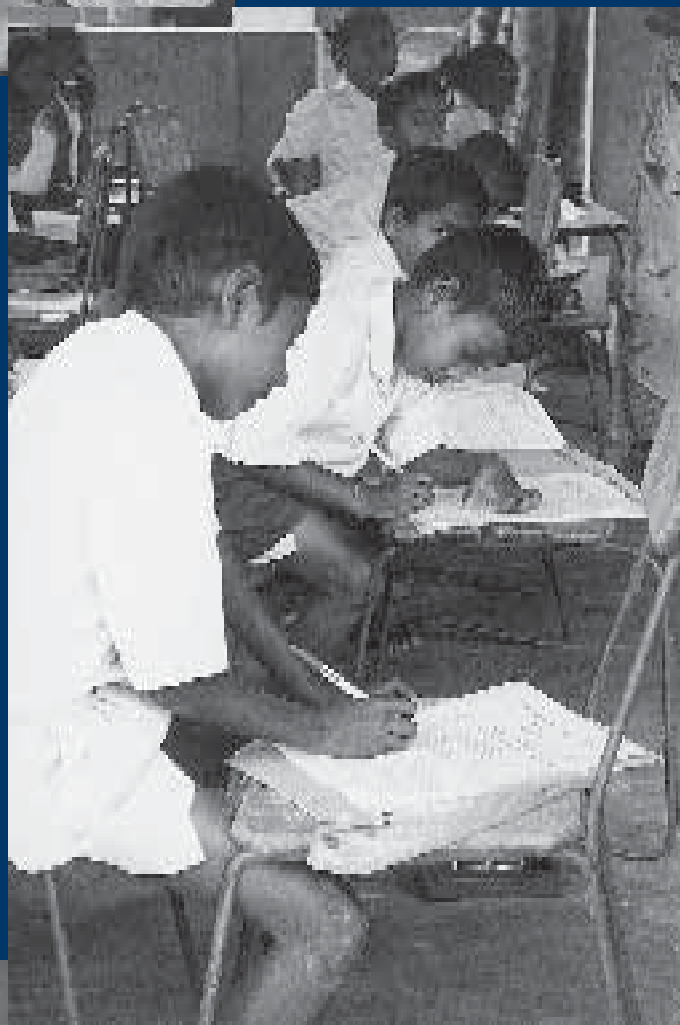
vocational training

community development



JRS Nepal

JRS-supported school,
eastern Nepal



Children doing
examinations in an
IDP camp, Mannar,
Sri Lanka

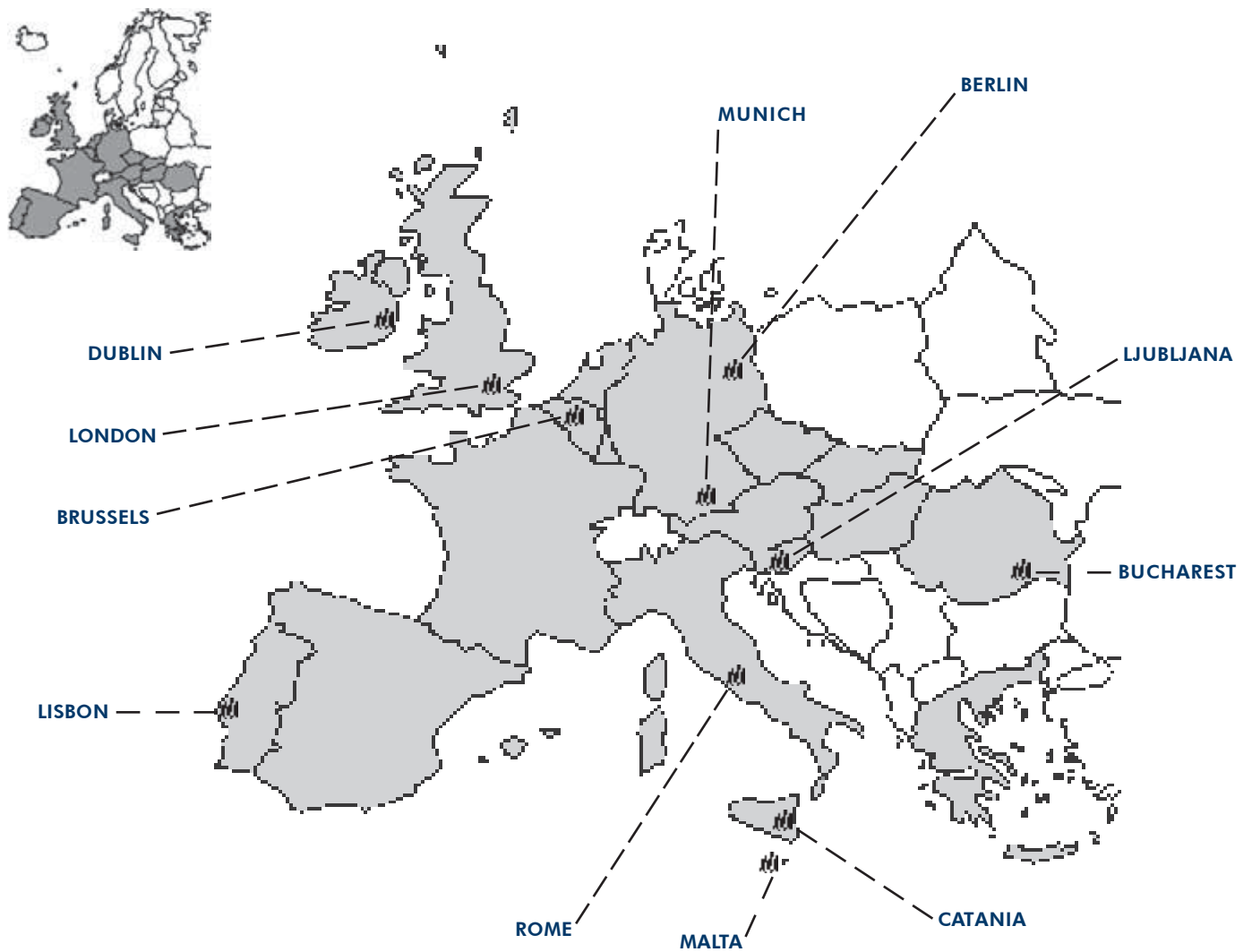
Amaya Valcarcel/JRS

India



Mark Raper SJ/JRS

EUROPE



Cultural events to promote refugee integration on World Refugee Day, Brussels, Belgium



Marc Pellizzer/JRS



Public expressions of xenophobia and racism against migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, in particular against Muslims, were common in Europe in 2004; and the church agencies' battle to promote harmony, integration and understanding was an uphill one. The political significance of immigration- and asylum-related issues within the European Union (EU) continued to rise. In May 2004, the EU expanded from 15 to 25 member states, thus increasing the workload of all the European Institutions in Brussels. Consequently, the European Commission explicitly asked NGOs for assistance in monitoring the implementation of EU migration- and asylum-related legislation and regulations.

This has placed JRS in a good strategic position as it is one of the few refugee/migrant agencies that already has offices and contact persons in many of the new EU Member States. There are also JRS offices in two EU candidate countries, Croatia and Romania, and one will be opened in the Ukraine in 2005. Moreover, contact persons in 14 other countries – Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Hungary, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden – make a valuable contribution to JRS Europe's work. Many are linked to the Jesuit Order and engage in pastoral assistance to forced migrants, awareness-raising of refugee related issues in the Church and fundraising for JRS projects, as well as visiting detainees.

The lines are becoming increasingly blurred between the different groups of "people on the move" – irregular migrants and refugees. The main focus of JRS work remained the care of refugees and asylum seekers, but invariably others knocked on our door in significant numbers. For this reason, in the last few years, JRS Europe has turned its attention to the many people without travel documents and to those migrants, who despite not having committed a criminal offence, were placed in detention.

The number of people fleeing conflict, persecution or extreme poverty to northern Europe has decreased. This, however, has failed to lead to more receptive attitudes towards those seeking to regularise their residency or to improve the conditions of the communal centres in which they live. In contrast to the North, in southern Europe, especially during the summer, ships full of migrants from Africa arrived; however, no workable solutions were proposed to deal with the situation.

"Managed migration" is one of the most pressing issues facing the world today. Unfortunately, refugees are often the victims in the modern tug of war between the forces of globalisation that push people to leave their countries of origin and the security policies designed to protect post-September 11th nation states from what many see as threatening uncontrolled migration. Once again, JRS in Europe tried to give a voice to the forgotten refugees to protect their needs and rights.

Jan Stuyt SJ, JRS Europe Director

BELGIUM – GERMANY

In **Belgium**, 2003 was marred by hunger strikes of unsuccessful asylum seekers protesting the secrecy of the information used to assess their applications, as well as the undue length of the procedure. Worryingly, many found themselves in limbo as irregular migrants that could not be forcibly deported. In May 2004 legislation on guardianship for the increasing number of separated children seeking asylum, 599 in 2004, was implemented. Extreme rightwing political parties also continued to grow.

In **Germany**, a new Immigration Act was passed and will come into force in January 2005. The Act focuses mainly on security issues designed to combat terrorism. However, it did classify persecution, on the basis of gender and, by non-state actors as grounds for which refugee status should be recognised. It also allows the establishment by regional governments of Committees on Hardship Cases. During the year the Government floated the idea of establishing EU reception centres in North Africa but this was met with a lot of criticism.



JRS Belgium Director
Christophe Renders SJ
JRS Germany Director
Dieter Müller SJ

JRS projects in Belgium

Accompaniment of asylum seekers and migrants detained in closed centres and advocacy for their rights remained JRS Belgium's first priority. This meant: listening, giving moral support, legal counselling and making contact with the "outside" (lawyers, family, etc.). In 2004 JRS Belgium joined other NGOs in condemning degrading practices in detention: some persons were being held for more than 12 months without adequate accommodation and food. Physical and psychological violence was frequently employed to effect deportations and JRS Belgium tried to get some of these police abuse cases investigated by public bodies.

JRS Belgium is a member of the NGO platform '*Mineurs en Exil*' that works on policies and practices relating to separated children and is a guardian to 3 separated children. JRS is also actively involved in the national coalition '*Forum Asile et Migrations*'. The Forum advocates the regularisation of asylum seekers who have waited excessive periods of time without receiving a definitive response to their asylum applications. On World Refugee Day 2004, JRS joined other NGOs in organising a festival to highlight the cultural richness and courage of refugees.

*networking/
advocacy*

JRS projects in Germany

In June 2004, the Catholic coalition '*Life in Illegality*' was officially founded "to develop effective concepts of avoiding illegality". JRS provided direct legal assistance to a number of detainees and co-operated closely in another 30-40 cases. It lobbied intensely against the deportation of child detainees and had its first talks with the Home Office, in order to organise a regular free legal advice service for the detainees in Eisenhüttenstadt. In September a nation-wide conference on detention was held at the Jesuit School of Philosophy in Munich.

JRS set up a network of organisations dealing with migrants who are denied any social assistance and are simply left to live on the street. In 2004, JRS engaged with the media to raise awareness and lobby on issues concerning undocumented migrants.

advocacy/legal



JRS Ireland Director
Frank Sammon SJ
JRS Malta Director
Pierre Grech SJ

IRELAND – MALTA

In **Ireland**, following a Supreme Court judgment in early 2003 which withdrew the right to Irish residency from non-national parents of Irish children, a government sponsored referendum in June 2004 removed the automatic right to Irish citizenship from everybody born on the island. Subsequently, the number of asylum applications per month fell from over 1,000 in 2002 to 355 in 2004. Some 17,000 immigrants whose residency applications predated the 2003 judgment, continued to live in limbo.

Between April and October some 1,400 undocumented migrants, most en route from Libya to Italy, arrived in **Malta**. The Government continued to detain indiscriminately all asylum seekers, who arrived irregularly, in overcrowded centres which lacked basic services. In December, it began to release those in detention for over 18 months. No formal attempts were made to facilitate the integration of those released. Hostility and mistrust of immigrants was exacerbated by their negative portrayal as a burden and threat.

JRS projects in Ireland

awareness-raising/ networking

Staff working in JRS' Community Links project, initiated in 2002 to promote the integration of refugees, participated in several events organised by the Reception and Integration Agency of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. This helped shape thinking on how integration in an Irish context can best be promoted. JRS also strengthened its ties with a number of important refugee NGOs: the Irish Refugee Council, Integrating Ireland, and the Church Asylum Network. By reporting on its experience in the Irish Jesuit Province's monthly newsletter, 'Update', and through a series in the 'Messenger' (with a circulation of more than 100,000) it also helped to raise awareness of the issues facing refugees and asylum-seekers coming to Ireland.

JRS projects in Malta

legal/ social assistance

JRS Malta continued to focus on the needs of asylum seekers in detention. It offered legal assistance, set up a social work service and gave moral support to detainees.

advocacy

JRS continued to lobby for a change in the government policy of mandatory and long-term detention of asylum seekers and prepared several reports for submission to various national authorities and international institutions. It also began challenging the legality of detention in individual cases, by instituting proceedings before local courts.

training/ awareness-raising

Additionally, JRS organised a number of formal and informal training initiatives targeting law students, members of the legal profession, as well as other JRS volunteers. In November 2004, it began national awareness-raising activities aimed at combating discrimination on the grounds of race and disability. As part of this programme, JRS will organise outreach activities in local secondary schools, a seminar on the implementation of the EU race directive and an immigrants' parliament.

PORTUGAL – ROMANIA

In **Portugal**, the growth in immigration received much media attention in 2004. In March a decree was passed regulating the Immigration Act 2003, which greatly restricted immigration. So far only three people have been granted work visas under this Act. It also provided for an extraordinary registration process of undocumented migrants living in Portugal, which took place from May to June 2004. Around 53,000 migrants registered, of whom only around 8,000 were found to have met all the requirements.

Romania moved towards becoming a destination rather than a transit country for migrants. Many legislative changes were passed in 2004 – the monthly food contribution for asylum seekers increased from •16 to •24, the capacity and quality of conditions at the reception centres improved, an accelerated procedure for acquiring state protection was put in place, and in May 2004, a new law was passed, officially granting those with Humanitarian Protection status the same social, economic, education and health rights as Romanian citizens enjoy.



JRS Portugal Director
Rosário Farmhouse
JRS Romania Director
Luc Duquenne SJ

JRS projects in Portugal

JRS Portugal managed several programmes promoting the integration of migrants and refugees living in Portugal. Over 1 60 immigrants participated in Portuguese as a Foreign Language courses. The social aid office dealt with homeless migrants, providing support for voluntary repatriations, translation at court trials, visits to imprisoned and hospitalised migrants, and the identification of children at risk and their referral to the relevant authorities. In total, 1 78 cases were supported. The food aid programme, in partnership with 'Banco Alimentar contra a Fome', continued to help vulnerable migrants to find accommodation, as well as providing medical and psychological support. In the job-search department, volunteers acted as intermediaries between employers and unemployed migrants. They conducted around 3,200 interviews. Two lawyers also provided legal assistance to nearly 500 migrants. JRS continued to assist migrant doctors obtain recognition of their academic/professional qualifications. By the end of 2004, 73 were already officially practicing medicine. A similar project was launched for migrant nurses in September 2004.

general assistance

JRS projects in Romania

Initiated in November 2003, JRS continued to provide psychosocial support to detained migrants. The Social Accommodation Project, initiated in 2002, provided a dormitory for single men and two apartments for families and women. It is the only accommodation service offered to unsuccessful asylum seekers, known as 'tolerated people', and Romanian returnees. Otherwise they end up living on the streets. Language courses and computer classes continued.

JRS also provided a programme for refugee women offering vocational counselling and opportunities for professional development and employment. Cultural activities in the Pedro Arrupe Centre and reception centres, as well as visits to museums and trips to places of historical interest outside Bucharest, were offered as part of the education programme. In addition, JRS assisted refugees to obtain university scholarships.

integration/training



JRS Slovenia Director
Marijan Šef SJ
JRS UK Director
Louise Zanré

SLOVENIA – UK

In **Slovenia**, the fear provoked by the Yugoslav wars continued to heighten intolerance towards certain ethnic and religious groups. In the recent past, Slovenia was primarily a transit country for refugees and migrants; however this is changing. In 2004, Slovenia joined the EU and is now subject to a growing body of asylum law. Consequently, asylum applications are expected to increase.

In the **UK**, attitudes towards asylum seekers continued to harden. The Asylum and Immigration Act 2004 created new criminal offences for not having identity documents and for failure to cooperate during the deportation process. It also allows for electronic monitoring of individuals via voice recognition, tagging and global satellite positioning software. Further, it granted the Secretary of State the power to determine asylum claims from particular areas as unfounded. Free hospital healthcare was withdrawn from unsuccessful asylum seekers and limitations placed on public funding for legal aid in asylum cases.

JRS projects in Slovenia

integration/training

In 2004, 13 volunteers completed a volunteer training programme and a further 16 joined it. Four seminars were organised for volunteers who, shortly afterwards began working with asylum seekers in the accommodation centre in Ljubljana and the Aliens Centre in Postojna. Activities for those in the accommodation centre included: computer courses, vacations for families, creative workshops for women, educational assistance, the exchange of gifts, sharing groups, a Christmas concert and theatre.

JRS Slovenia volunteers visited the Aliens Centre twice a week and organised a Concert of Life: a short cultural programme, and a picnic for 25 detainees and staff, as well as a Christmas concert and an exchange of gifts. Ten Bosnian refugees participated in an 11-day summer camp and pilgrimage.

awareness-raising

Awareness raising activities included a national poster competition on the integration of Bosnian refugees in Slovenia, and a regular radio show on refugee and migrant issues in Slovenia. Additionally, three seminars were organised for staff at the Aliens Centre in Postojna (police, medical and social workers).

JRS projects in the UK

detention

JRS outreach to asylum seekers in detention increased in 2004. At the end of the year, there was a lay outreach worker, a voluntary assistant chaplain and a small team of volunteer detention visitors who regularly attended to detainees in the Colnbrook and Harmondsworth Centres.

accompaniment

A number of destitute asylum seekers, whose asylum applications had been definitively rejected, visited the central London office. JRS continued to offer them support and friendship, a safe and warm place to meet, as well as weekly bus passes so that they could get to the drop-in and immigration centres.

awareness-raising/ advocacy

The JRS UK staff gave talks and led workshops for church and secular groups in order to raise awareness about the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. JRS UK also made formal submissions to the Government on legislative changes.

ITALY

In comparison with other EU States, Italy continued to recognise few refugees. By December 2004, there were 23,000 refugees in Italy from over 40 countries mainly the Horn of Africa, the Balkans and the Near East. Some 13,000 were refugees as defined by the Geneva Convention and more than 10,000 had been granted temporary "humanitarian protection". In the absence of centrally planned integration policies, state assistance to refugees varied greatly between regions and municipalities.

The Immigration Law Implementation Act (the so-called Bossi-Fini law) came into effect in late December 2004 and is expected to affect refugee recognition procedures as it fails to protect asylum seekers' rights. The institutional attempts to discourage migrants coming to Italy resulted in some uncertain, discretionary procedures. Public debate often concentrated almost exclusively on the number of expulsions, repatriations and the struggle against 'illegal' immigration. The authorities continued to be surprisingly vague when questioned about how many refugees there were in Italy, where they were and what they were doing.



JRS Italy Director

Francesco De Luccia SJ (until August)
Giovanni La Manna SJ

JRS projects in Italy

ROME Around 300 individuals were offered meals and use of the shower facilities six days a week. Some 180 asylum seekers and refugees were provided with accommodation in the three reception centres (one for men, one for women and separated children, and one for families).

ROME Nearly 100 refugees and immigrants with the right to work in Italy participated in a job orientation course. It provided them with information on the public administration (regional, provincial, municipal) and the labour market in Italy. It also provided information on the opportunities for professional training available in the Lazio (Rome) region. At the end of 2004, over 130 students were attending an Italian language course offered by JRS Italy.

CATANIA, ROME An outreach programme provided legal and social counselling to around 2,000 people.

The *Finestre – Storie di Rifugiati* Project, developed to raise public awareness in schools on the right to asylum and the challenges faced by asylum seekers and refugees in Italy, expanded to 20 different cities. During 2004 an inter-religious dialogue project was developed and disseminated as a guide on the most common religions.

In partnership with the Ministry for Cultural Affairs, JRS established *La lettura non va in esilio* Project which provided an opportunity to refugees and other migrants to share their personal experiences, and to discuss the challenges faced by people in exile, with students from over 50 different schools in Milan, Padua, Naples, Rome, Brindisi and Palermo. It also gave students an opportunity to deepen their understanding of human rights and asylum/migration-related issues. The students met other students, refugees, and writers and will publish a report at the end of the project.

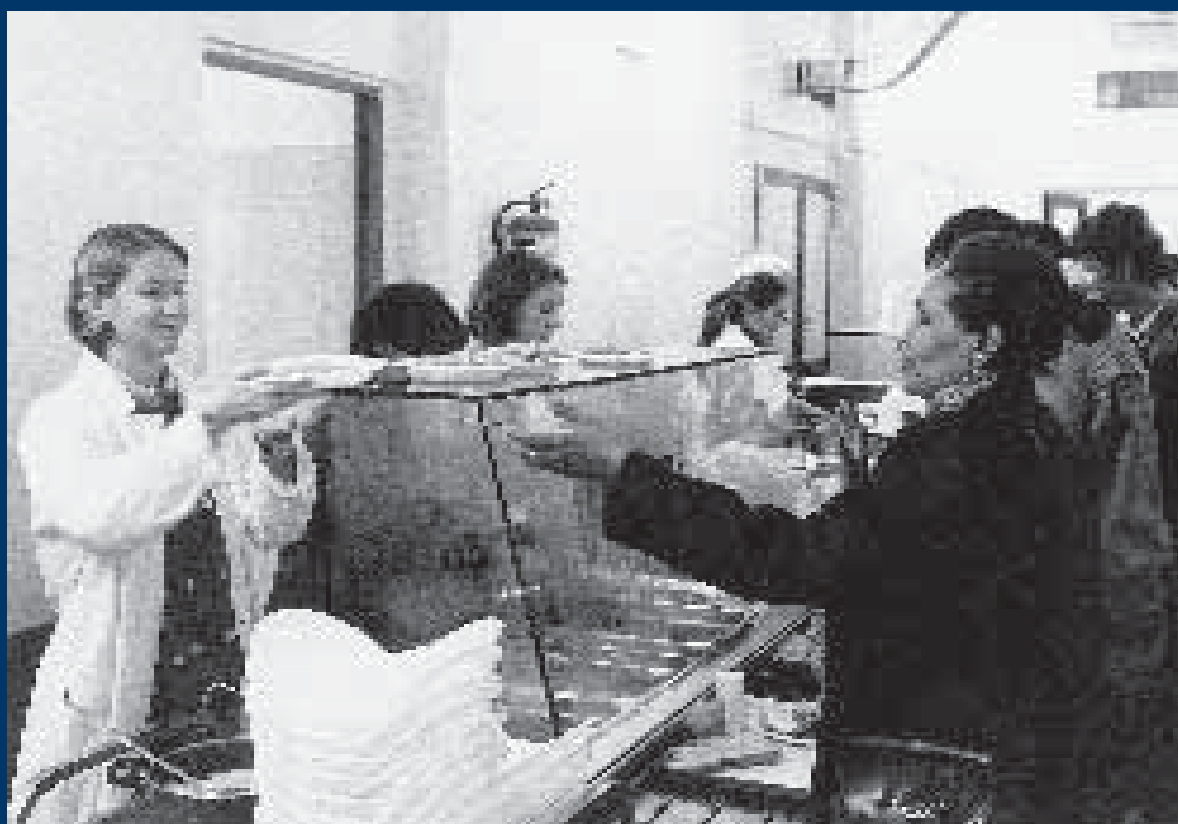
JRS Italy, in collaboration with various NGOs and the Berlin, Rome and London local municipalities, co-produced a report, 'Europe: Land of Asylum', on reception and integration practices for asylum seekers and refugees in the three respective cities. It was the first time such data on Rome had been published. An observatory on asylum seekers' reception and integration conditions was also established.

emergency
assistance

integration

legal/social assistance

information/
awareness-raising



JRS Italy

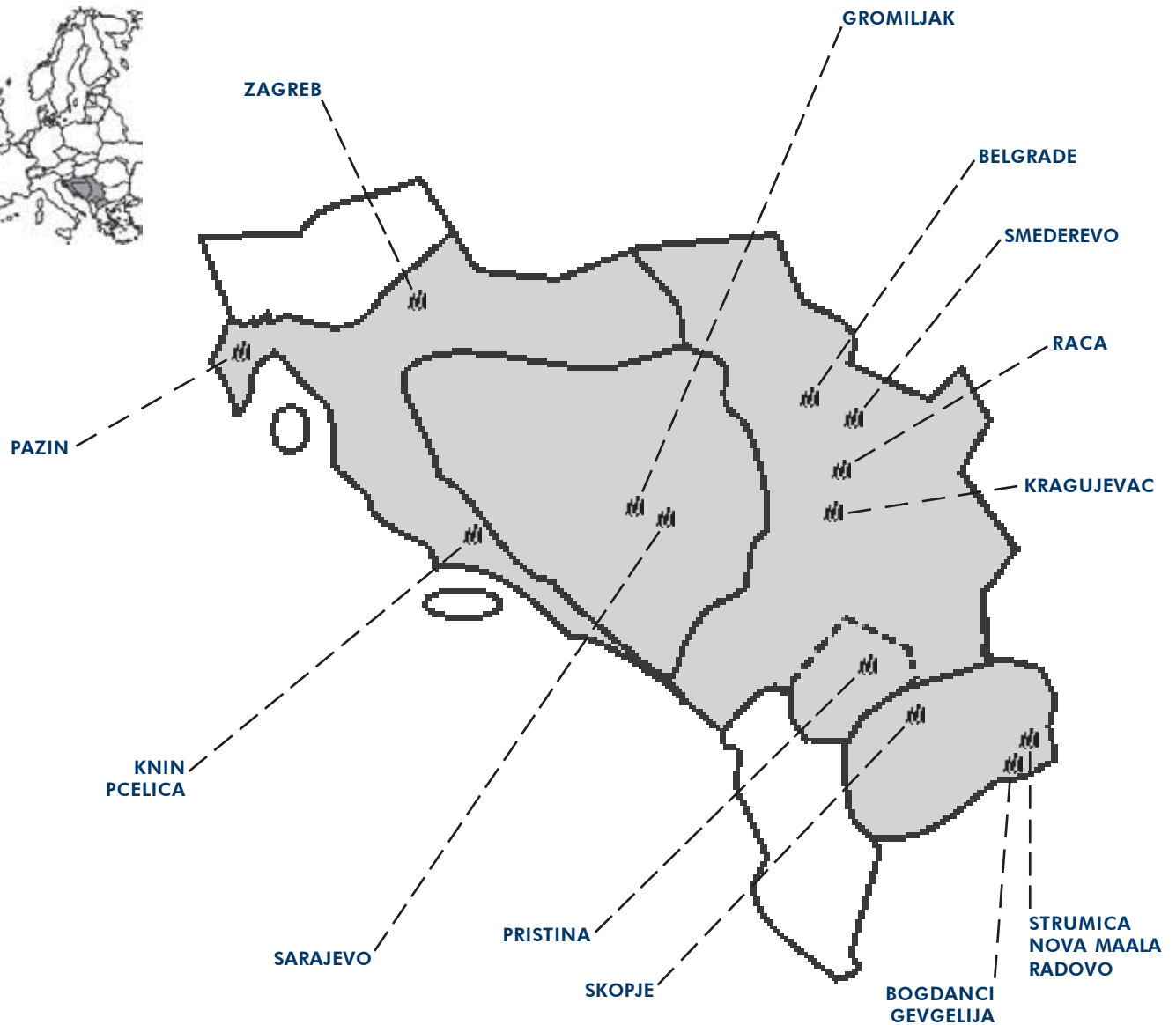
Italy

Human rights training with detention
centre staff, Postojna, Slovenia



JRS Slovenia


SOUTHEAST EUROPE



Bosnia



Don Dol SURJUS



In the last few years there have been notable developments in the former Yugoslavia: the restoration of regional stability, the improvement in regional security, the establishment of democratically-elected governments, and the injection of massive reconstruction aid, as well as increased economic growth, trade and a substantial reduction in inflation. Importantly some progress has been made in assisting the return of refugees and displaced persons, and there have been signs of enhanced regional cooperation.

However, at the end of 2004, there was still much to be improved, such as the need to: strengthen the weak democratic and institutional structures and the rule of law, uphold human and minority rights, facilitate judicial reform and better manage the staggered return of refugees and displaced persons. Moreover, unequal income distribution, widespread poverty and high unemployment, poorly functioning market economies and over-dependence on foreign aid were major causes of concern.

The displacement of ethnic minorities during the region's wars has been exacerbated by the failure of international and domestic policies to promote the return of refugees and displaced persons. The Balkan experience offers an important lesson for other post-conflict situations. If displacement and "ethnic cleansing" are to be prevented as a permanent outcome of war, comprehensive and multi-faceted return strategies – with resolute implementation and enforcement mechanisms – must be an early priority for peace building efforts.

It has taken years for the security situation to become conducive to minority return. Some areas, notably Kosovo, have remained unsafe. Those who wish to return have frequently found their homes occupied, yet administrative bodies and courts have often either failed or been slow to evict temporary occupants. The limited government funds available for the reconstruction have mainly benefited members of the majority ethnic group. Discrimination has also played a role in discouraging returns and local public enterprises have often failed to employ returning minorities. Experience has shown that when leaders make efforts to facilitate return, the situation on the ground improves. For example, the largest number of returns to mixed communities in Kosovo was in the Gnjilane municipality, where ethnic Albanian officials have distinguished themselves by unequivocally condemning anti-Serb violence and encouraging dialogue between local Albanians and prospective Serb returnees.

JRS Southeast Europe will continue to operate in 2005, although expensive projects, such as assistance for landmine survivors and the return of refugees and displaced, had to be closed in Bosnia and Serbia. However JRS Southeast Europe's work in Kosovo will continue. In line with its strategic plan, JRS Southeast Europe created two NGOs in Croatia, which will take over the administration of its projects there. Strategic planning to merge the two European JRS regions, expected to happen in July 2006, also began.

Stjepan Kušan SJ, JRS Southeast Europe Director

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

In Bosnia-Herzegovina more than two million people fled their homes during the war. Over 500,000 Bosnian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), particularly Muslims, have returned to areas in which they constituted an ethnic minority. Difficulties related to the failure to reconstruct damaged infrastructure and housing, inadequate education and healthcare services and poor employment prospects did not improve in 2004. In addition, at the end of 2004, there were still some 327,000 persons registered as displaced within Bosnia-Herzegovina.

This figure included 2,000 IDPs who continued to live in squalid conditions in communal centres. JRS was informed of individuals who, due to poor economic prospects in their area of origin, returned to their place of displacement. Physical security continued to be a problem despite the presence of NATO/SFOR troops, the European Union Police

Mission and the reformed Bosnian police force. In many areas, interethnic relations remained tense and some observers described the country as a “powder keg”.



JRS Bosnia-Herzegovina Director
Zdesla Sucur SJ

JRS projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina

SARAJEVO In 2004, this programme, initiated in 1996, provided medical, material, educational, social and familial assistance to child landmine survivors throughout the country. Some 145 children benefited from medical support. As donor support has dried up, quality control in some prosthetic centres has deteriorated. Consequently, JRS prioritised the identification of quality prostheses. Ten families received monthly food parcels during the winter months, and 16 children were provided with specific educational support. JRS field teams also visited some 360 families, and Slovenian Scouts helped JRS to organise a summer camp for 25 children on the Adriatic Coast.

SARAJEVO Living conditions for displaced persons and minority returnees are generally precarious and many face serious problems reconstructing their war-damaged properties. In 2004, JRS assisted 28 returnee families acquire materials and paid for the reconstruction of their properties.

SARAJEVO In the absence of a state welfare system, in 1996, soon after the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, JRS began providing elderly returnees and IDPs with medical, psychosocial, material and financial home care. Despite the introduction of a modest pension system, many are still unable to leave their homes due to illness or immobility. In 2004, 78 persons were assisted.

SARAJEVO, GROMILJAK Initiated in 2002, JRS provided computer classes to 46 students during 2004.

SARAJEVO Since the end of the war in 1996, 1,507 people have been injured in landmine incidents, approximately 30% fatally. Survivors face difficult circumstances coping with a disability. In 2004, JRS provided 150 elderly landmine survivors with medical, legal, psychosocial and referral services. Staff concentrated on increasing the quality of the prostheses and reducing the service charges. They also provided relevant information to survivors on their rights, and helped them to access state assistance programmes.

*child landmine
survivors*

returnees

elderly home care

education

*elderly landmine
survivors*



JRS Serbia Director
Viktor Glavina

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

Although the number of refugees in post-conflict Serbia continued to fall from more than 700,000 in 1995 to some 276,000 refugees and 207,000 IDPs in 2004, the Government has consistently failed to protect ethnic minorities, in particular in the Vojvodina region in northern Serbia. In March, following reports from Kosovo of widespread rioting and attacks on ethnic Serbs, mobs burnt down mosques in Belgrade and Nis. The Serbian Interior Ministry said that the police force would not be used on its own people, giving the green light to further attacks. No progress was made on improving educational opportunities for Roma children. Most Roma children drop out of school early or are channelled into the schools for students with mental disabilities. Thousands of Roma families – many of them displaced from Kosovo – continued to live in makeshift settlements, without access to basic health, sanitation or education services. The living standards continued to fall and unemployment levels equalled employment levels at 40%.

JRS projects in Serbia & Montenegro

education

BELGRADE, SMEDEREVO camp Initiated in 2000, following an assessment of the refugee population's needs in Belgrade, the computer training programme was later extended to Smederevo camp. Its objective is to equip young refugees with the necessary skills either to continue their education or obtain employment. In 2004, 110 students in Belgrade and 240 students in Smederevo camp were provided with computer classes at various levels.

BELGRADE Among IDPs, Roma and those living in communal centres are among the worst-off. Faced by discrimination and often lacking formal education and official documentation, many Roma live in unofficial makeshift settlements with poor sanitation facilities and basic services. The IDPs accommodated in communal centres – some 10,000 people – also live in squalid conditions. JRS provided the most vulnerable with basic sanitary and heating materials. In addition, JRS and its partners also supported five *kindergartens* for 369 IDP children. It provided monies for educational materials, buildings, rent, heating, salaries for four persons, hygiene items and food.

material assistance

KRAGUJEVAC, RACA Since 2000 JRS has provided refugees in 65 communal centres with basic material assistance such as food and hygiene items and assistance carrying out basic repairs to the centre facilities, as well as psychosocial support and counselling. In 2004, 485 individuals in Raca and 600 in Kragujevac received basic personal hygiene items.

Roma Serb
IDP woman
and child



Paolo Cereda/JRS

KOSOVO – MACEDONIA

Kosovo, following the NATO-Yugoslavia war, became a UN-administered province within Serbia and Montenegro, with a mid-2005 deadline set for talks on final status. In 2004, sections of the ethnic Albanian community started to advocate for the province's unconditional independence, if necessary by force. Clashes between Albanians and ethnic Serbs in March 2004 left 19 people dead. Kosovo's economy, began to slow down and many Albanian youth, feeling increasingly trapped and hopeless, joined this outburst against the ethnic Serbs.

In August 2004, the **Macedonian** Parliament approved controversial legislation redrawing local boundaries and giving ethnic Albanians greater local autonomy. This move sparked protests by thousands of Macedonian nationalists who forced a referendum. However, a low-turn out invalidated the poll. Over 95% of IDPs have been able to return home. This achievement conceals the persistent ethnic division and the failure of returnees to reintegrate socially and economically.



JRS Kosovo – Macedonia Director
Mato Jakovic

JRS projects in Kosovo

PRISTINA In 2004 there were fewer landmine incidents than in previous years. However, many landmines were still hidden in unmarked Kosovan fields. Through its medical, material, psychosocial and legal assistance, JRS continued to provide survivors with the self-confidence to reintegrate into society. JRS delivered food parcels to families of child landmine survivors and organised a 10-day summer camp for 21 children. The opportunity to share common experiences has helped the children to overcome the trauma caused by the landmine accidents. The programme directly benefited 78 people and indirectly benefited some 70 families.

landmine survivors

JRS projects in Macedonia

SKOPJE, STRUMICA, BOGDANCI, NOVA MAALA, RADOVO, GEVGELIJA Initially working with Kosovan refugees, later JRS also started to work with Macedonian IDPs. In collaboration with local Catholic and Orthodox Parishes and Institutions, and the Michiko Inukai Foundation, JRS provided computer classes to 216 participants and language classes to 200 participants in six Macedonian towns in 2004.

education



JRS summer camp, Kosovo



JRS Croatia Director
Boja Gajica

CROATIA

In June 2004 Croatia became an official candidate for EU entry. However, at the end of 2004, there were more internally displaced Croats than ethnic Serbs, as only about one third of the Croatian Serb refugees had returned by August 2004. Property and other housing issues, as well as legal, administrative and psychological obstacles, continued to constitute bulwarks to their return and reintegration. However, progress was made in 2004. Despite years of government obstacles, the authorities returned 1,800 houses to their owners in the first seven months of 2004, with only 1,700 occupied houses still to be vacated. For the second year the reconstruction of damaged or destroyed Serb homes in Croatia continued at a reasonable rate. Other obstacles to return included the presence of landmines and unexploded ordinance (UXO) in what would otherwise be good quality agricultural land. In 2004, over 6,000 square kilometres in Croatia were still considered to be landmine and UXO-contaminated. Returnees continued to be disproportionately affected by landmine incidents.

JRS projects in Croatia

social/pastoral

PAZIN, ZAGREB Established to train lay people involved in social, community and church work, in particular, to train local leaders in transitional Croatia. In 2004, two seminars for 31 participants in Zagreb and 16 participants in Pazin were held. A seminar was also given to 12 people from the Croatian Landmine Victims Association and the Conference of Catholic Schools and Youth in Jordanovac Parish, Zagreb. These seminars sought to provide participants with the appropriate skills to undertake social action and to reflect, such as: listening skills, social analysis, and strategic project planning and design.

elderly home care

ZAGREB In collaboration with Recobot, JRS assisted elderly people living alone, who had remained in or returned to their homes after the war. They provided them with electronic devices, which enabled them to keep in regular contact with carers. Zagreb city state hospitals and staff also provided significant support to this project. Since it began, the project has assisted 380 persons on a 24 hours basis. Some 20 workers: two employees and 18 students, as well as civil servants and volunteers were trained and participated in the project. Operators have received 3,960 requests from beneficiaries seeking assistance, including psychosocial support. Some 130 calls requested medical assistance.

reconciliation

PCELICA, Knin For returnees rebuilding their lives in Croatia, it is not enough to remove legal, political and economical obstacles. Due to the wounds inflicted during the war and in exile there is also a great need to create opportunities for people to meet, plan and do something together for the common good. One means of fostering tolerance and mutual respect is to work with the next generation. Through their participation in a JRS multi-ethnic and multi-religious *kindergarten* Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian children learn to socialise, live, play and be creative together. Every effort is made to involve the parents in the education process. In 2004, 55 children were enrolled in the school.

JRS-supported landmine survivor, Bosnia



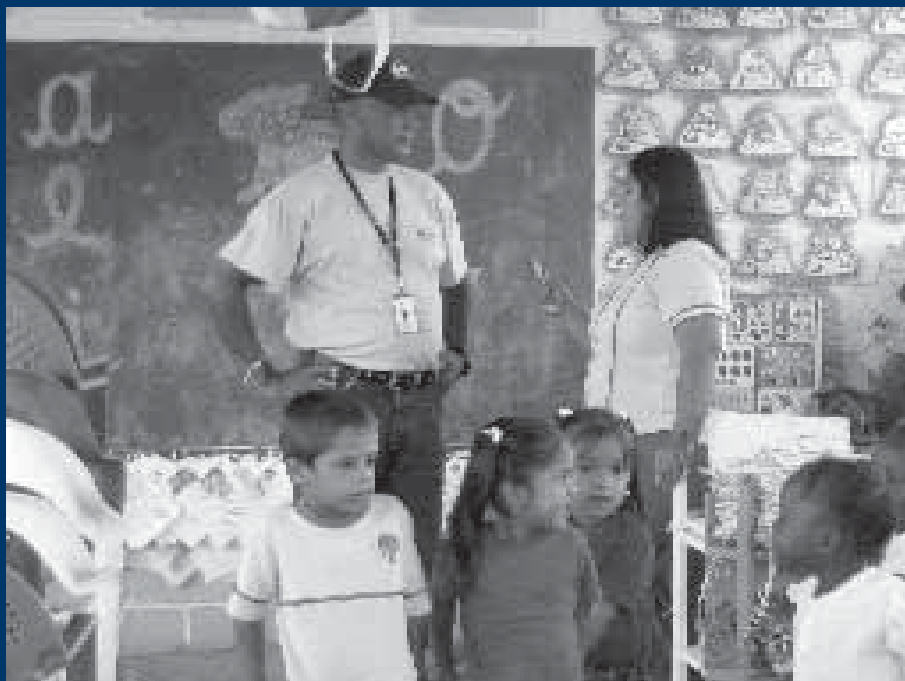
Don Doll SJ/JRS



LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



Psychosocial support to Colombian refugees, El Nula, Venezuela



Judith Rodriguez/JRS

In 2004, there were changes of government in a number of countries in the region. In the Dominican Republic (DR) and Panama, there were democratic elections, while in Haiti a transitional government took office after an armed *coup d'état* ended former President Aristide's mandate.

Increased numbers of Haitians and Colombians were internally displaced within their own borders, and many others were forced to flee to neighbouring countries. Whilst most sought refuge in the border areas of neighbouring states, an increasing number of refugees began to seek protection in larger urban areas, such as in Caracas, Venezuela and Quito, Ecuador. This large movement to capital cities, and its subsequent pressure upon urban resources and job availability has aggravated the xenophobic sentiments of the local populations. Similarly, the majority of Colombians who have fled to Europe, especially to Spain and Italy, despite often having escaped persecution and other serious human rights violations, were not accorded refugee status and must eke out a precarious existence as irregular migrants.

The absence of legally defined statuses for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), principally due to a lack of political will in their countries of asylum, has left them in a precarious limbo. In Colombia, the national plan for displaced persons, although finalised, has yet to be approved, while in the DR, the National Refugee Commission continued to receive asylum applications, though rarely processed them. Denied refugee or IDP status, they are unable to access the rights to which they are entitled. Consequently, they often find themselves subjected to illicit practices, racism, marginalisation and discrimination.

According to UNHCR, in Venezuela, there are over 200,000 people who meet the minimum requirements to be recognised as refugees. However, the Venezuelan National Refugee Commission has only recognised 170 people as refugees since its establishment in August 2003.

The US Government's migration policies continued to negatively impact Latin American countries' policies towards refugees and IDPs. In 2004, new more restrictive migration legislation was implemented in both Colombia and the DR. Even though the new legislation in the DR modernised the 1939 legislation it replaced, it does not represent any significant advances for forced migrants.

In 2004, JRS Latin America and the Caribbean decided a much more strategic approach to advocacy was needed. Continuous research, awareness-raising and the ongoing monitoring of human rights abuses are being emphasised to convey accurately the seriousness of the situation in which forced migrants live and to ensure that governments respect their international commitments.

José Núñez SJ, JRS Latin America and the Caribbean Director

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – HAITI

In 2004, both Dominican Republic (DR) and Haiti changed their government, the former at the ballot box and the latter by armed force.

The political crisis in Haiti brought it to the international community's attention, allowing the intervention of a peacekeeping force to restore order. Despite their arrival, much of the country remains under the control of irregular armed groups. In the DR, the subsequent arrival of Haitian migrants impacted negatively on refugees and asylum seekers.

Lack of political will in the DR to process asylum applications, economic inequalities and high inflation made survival even more difficult for the Haitian refugees, as well as the continued human rights abuses, including forced repatriations. Even with new migration and child protection legislation, asylum seekers, the mainly Haitian migrants and children of Haitian origin continued to be subjected to legal and administrative obstacles. In both countries more than 3,000 people were badly affected by flooding and many had to be accommodated in hostels.



JRS Dominican Republic – Haiti Director
José Núñez SJ

JRS projects in the Dominican Republic – Haiti

WANAMENT, Haiti; DAJABÓN, Dominican Republic JRS continued to provide support and assistance to individuals and communities on both sides of the Dominican-Haitian border, such as psychosocial support, and human rights and skills training, empowering them to access their rights and benefits. JRS also raised awareness of refugee issues and campaigned on behalf of asylum seekers, immigrant children and grassroots organisations in the north of the island. Human rights, community development and direct assistance to refugees are essential elements of the project.

SANTO DOMINGO, DAJABÓN, WANAMENT JRS provided financial assistance to 225 individuals to undertake formal and informal training: technical courses, refugee law, trafficking of migrants, multiculturalism, languages and conflict resolution. Four workshops were held with children to elaborate a proposal for an anti-racist education programme. The teams also provided workshops to other refugee associations: assisting them to write their statutes, informing them about their duties and rights. They also provided media training on preparing press conferences and writing public statements.

SANTO DOMINGO JRS provided legal assistance and advice to asylum seekers, in particular to those affected by indiscriminate attempts of repatriation. The team assisted Haitian parents of Dominican children to obtain their birth certificates and raised issues of the abuse and ill-treatment of migrants and refugees with the Dominican authorities. In cooperation with other NGOs and networks, JRS also carried out a number of awareness-raising activities, such as organising press conferences, national roundtables on migration and anti-racism and other cultural events to promote respect for refugees and migrants. The team engaged with the media on issues of public policy, such as the conclusions of JRS research on racism in the DR, and submitted policy proposals to the Government.

SANTO DOMINGO JRS provided vulnerable refugees and migrants, in particular children, single parent families and the elderly with medicines and financial support for medical treatment. On arrival, refugees and vulnerable persons were provided with emergency financial assistance and psychosocial support. In 2004, over 1,500 families were assisted of which nearly 1,100 were refugees. In order to promote economic self sufficiency among refugees, in 2004 JRS provided 86 families with financial assistance to start their own income-generating projects.

FONDS VERETTE, Haiti; JIMANÍ, Dominican Republic In May, flooding destroyed over 3,200 houses and displaced over 3,000 people in both the DR and Haiti. In collaboration with Haitian and Dominican authorities and NGOs, JRS provided assistance to the worst effected areas in the DR and Haiti. Fifteen communities were provided with home utensils, materials to reconstruct their homes, food, agricultural and health assistance. They also ensured that education services were provided.

border solidarity

networks/training

legal/advocacy

general assistance

emergency assistance



JRS Colombia Director

Ledis Bohórquez (until September)
Hugo Alexis Moreno Rojas SJ

COLOMBIA

Colombians in 2004, as in previous years, continued to live through a humanitarian crisis, aggravated by their Government's "Democratic Security" policy and by the consequent escalation of the military's fight against terrorism. Displacement is no longer a temporary phenomenon but has become a permanent reality. Despite this, the Government continued to shirk its responsibility towards IDPs. Even though there is specific national legislation to meet displaced persons' needs and prevent their displacement, access to these sacred rights, normally limited, was further impeded by a reduction in state financing and activities. During the year, the government's main worries were President Alvaro Uribe's re-election and its project to demobilise paramilitary organisations. Meanwhile as economic, social and political rights deteriorated, the Government continued to ignore the UN recommendations on human rights. In these difficult circumstances JRS continued to develop activities that enable forced migrants to become, insofar as possible, active citizens so that they could continue to access their rights.

JRS projects in Colombia

Throughout 2004 JRS Colombia lobbied on IDP protection issues of national importance and continued to work closely with other NGOs and governmental institutions in order to bring about change to displaced people's lives.

education/ prevention

BARRANCABERMEJA, TIERRALTA The project in Barrancabermeja was designed to prevent displaced children from being recruited into armed groups and in 2004 worked with local women community leaders from the Colombian Welfare Institute (ICBF) and local teachers from communities most at risk. In cooperation with a local NGO, the Corporation for Social Development (CORSOC), JRS began a similar child prevention project in Tierralta. To assist the process of awareness raising, JRS also published documents on the rights of children and of displaced persons.

training

CENTRO DEL VALLE, TIERRALTA In the Centro Del Valle region, JRS provided training in human rights legislation, organisational and conflict resolution skills to 344 community leaders from seven municipal areas. Some 5,540 families indirectly benefited from this training. Support was provided to community organisations dealing with the relevant state institutions and workshops were held to promote networking, information sharing and public policy analysis. Four associations in Tierralta were also supported to provide psychological and spiritual assistance to 225 families.

general assistance

CENTRO DEL VALLE, BARRANCABERMEJA, SUR DE BOLÍVAR In 2004, JRS continued to provide advice and assistance on a number of legal, psychological, and spiritual issues, particularly important was legal advice, and assistance accessing legal rights. It also gave financial and material support to those in need, in particular recently displaced and returned families. This was done through visits to the displaced persons' homes and needs assessments. In Centro Del Valle, 57 returned and 40 resettled families were provided with financial and material support, 36 families received post-emergency financial assistance, while 34 displaced families received psychological and spiritual assistance. In Sur de Bolívar 250 families, under constant threat of attack from paramilitary groups, were also given psychological and spiritual assistance, while 115 families in Barrancabermeja and 147 families in Sur de Bolívar received emergency financial and material assistance. In order to enhance the families' capacities to be financially self-sufficient, JRS provided financial and technical assistance to 22 families in Centro Del Valle and 10 families in Barrancabermeja to elaborate, develop and manage urban and rural income-generating projects.

VENEZUELA



Since the National Refugee Commission (CNR) was established in 2003, it has only recognised 170 out of 200,000 people as refugees. This situation is explained by the excessive discretion accorded to those charged with interpreting the Refugee and Asylum Act (LORA), its overly bureaucratic decision-making procedure, the disproportionate importance given to issues of national security versus protection and human rights and the absence of humanitarian provision by the State to refugees. In February 2004, Venezuela began using a newly-established asylum application process and in June began providing identification documents to recognised refugees to enable them to exercise their rights. However, it was not fully implemented, particularly putting asylum seekers at risk of arbitrary detention and deportation. This year some asylum seekers benefited from the State's regularisation of approximately 2 million migrants. JRS continued to provide pastoral and psychological support, legal representation, humanitarian assistance and education services.

JRS Venezuela Director
Alfredo Infante SJ (until September)
Jesús Machado SJ

JRS projects in Venezuela

During 2004, JRS worked with five schools in the area, representing approximately 3,200 children. Approximately 600 families directly benefit from these programmes.

ALTO APURE Thanks to an agreement between San Camila Lelis Parish and UNICEF, following the establishment of the State Ombudsman for Children, including refugee children, JRS started a psychosocial support programme. In particular cases, JRS referred refugee children to the Children's Ombudsman, which then provided them with tailor-made psychological assistance. In cooperation with the Society of Jesus' Pastoral Youth and the local radio station *Fe y Alegría*, JRS started a socio-pastoral training programme for young refugees and the local population to encourage local integration of the refugees.

ALTO APURE JRS, in partnership with UNHCR, provided asylum seekers with a home-starters kit to settle into the area and with financial assistance to cover their basic food and accommodation expenses for three months. Assistance was also provided to particularly vulnerable families for longer periods. The JRS team also provided health assistance to refugees and asylum seekers, including the payment of medicines and medical consultations, and the provision of financial support for the construction, furnishing and management of rural health centres in the area. JRS supplied the indigenous rural communities in areas with large refugee and asylum-seeking populations with construction materials. Assistance was provided for the construction of, and the supply of materials for, rural schools, as well as uniforms for refugee children.

ALTO APURE In order to promote self-sufficiency among the asylum-seeking population JRS provided financial assistance to refugees to begin businesses or assistance to find employment.

ALTO APURE Awareness-raising activities on conflict and on life for Colombian refugees in Venezuela were organised for the local population. These activities focused on human rights, in particular refugee rights and how Venezuela respects its international obligations. JRS also provides legal advice and assistance to asylum seekers throughout the refugee determination procedure.

*pastoral/
psychosocial
assistance*

*humanitarian
assistance*

income-generating

*advocacy/
awareness-raising*



JRS Ecuador Director
Luis Túpac-Yupanqui SJ
JRS Brazil Director
Tranquilo Fiametti SJ

ECUADOR – BRAZIL

As of 30 November 2004, the **Ecuadorian** Foreign Ministry reported 7,610 applications for refugee status, of which 3,393 were denied, 1,713 granted, and the remainder were pending. During the year, 99% of the refugee applicants were Colombians; according to UNHCR, the majority of displaced Colombians were impoverished peasants fleeing fighting, but some were adolescents escaping forced recruitment by illegal armed groups. Not entitled to seek employment, a few asylum seekers were deported for working without authorisation. In May, the Government began requiring Colombian refugees to present judicial and police records upon entering the country, which prevented many refugees fleeing persecution from claiming asylum.

In 2004, JRS began working with refugees resettled by UNHCR to **Brazil**. The project is managed in partnership with the Antonio Vieira Association, UNHCR and the Federal Government. The project work is carried out in five cities in southern Brazil; of which JRS works in three.

JRS projects in Ecuador

social services/legal

IBARRA, QUITO In 2004, JRS provided psychosocial support to 130 vulnerable refugees. It assisted 28 young people to establish a youth group and supported 60 Colombian refugees to organise social events to benefit the local and refugee population. JRS also provided legal assistance to 210 Ecuadorians looking to regularise their residency status. In Quito, the team carried out 68 home visits to vulnerable refugees providing psychosocial support, and advice and assistance on legal, health, employment and housing issues.

income-generating

IBARRA In 2004, JRS, in collaboration with a network of local organisations provided financial and technical assistance to 42 Colombian refugee and Ecuadorian women, who did not have access to land, to plant seed and cultivate food. It supported the Credit and Saving Community Institute to provide assistance to 75 refugee and Ecuadorian women and offered 16 workshops on computers, basic electrical training, weaving, strategic planning etc., to 220 individuals.

awareness-raising

IBARRA Refugees in Ecuador are often excluded from debate, ignored or vilified by the media and marginalised in society. In 2004, to raise awareness of refugee issues, JRS organised four events for 800 individuals, regularly produced thousands of copies of different material and a video which was broadcast nationally.

QUITO In 2004, JRS organised eight cultural events in five districts in Quito for 197 individuals to promote refugee integration and provided 21 workshops – on legal rights and obligations of refugees, the asylum process and cultural issues – to individuals working for the local authorities and refugee-related NGOs. Information and advice on accessing legal and social services and psychosocial support was also provided. A total of 556 individuals benefited from the workshops and direct assistance. Field visits, training workshops, and cultural events offered JRS staff in Quito an opportunity to strengthen their knowledge of the difficulties faced by the Colombian refugees.

JRS projects in Brazil

integration

During 2004, JRS supported 16 persons to integrate into Brazilian society. They were provided with basic education and training, including language, housing, and health support, as well as assistance seeking employment and loans to start small businesses. JRS received support from the authorities of the cities where the project is being implemented and also from NGOs, universities and volunteers. In December, another 19 individuals arrived and were admitted to the project.

PANAMA – MEXICO

Although the arrival of a new **Panamanian** Government created expectations of policy changes, little changed. The number of Colombians in receipt of temporary protection varied little in 2004, with their situation continuing to be precarious. Despite official Colombian reports to the contrary, CODHES, a human rights NGO, reported an increase in the refugee population.



JRS Panama Director
Marianella Martinelli
JRS Mexico Director
Pedro Arriaga SJ

The cancellation of the International Committee of the Red Cross programmes left the displaced **Mexican** Chiapas communities once again neglected. The government's low intensity war continued, and no concrete steps were made to implement the SanAndrés agreements. In many autonomous areas of Chiapas, the standard of living is particularly low and there is a real need for humanitarian assistance. In Alto Chiapas, 5,545 displaced persons were registered, of whom over 90% live in San Pedro Polhó. This situation reinforces the need to continue taking a participative approach to ensure sustainable and just development.

JRS projects in Panama

In 2004, six NGOs, including JRS, came together to create what is called the National Platform on Refugees and Migrants to coordinate activities and encourage the sharing of information. Throughout the year, JRS participated in a number of awareness-raising events and conferences to promote refugee rights.

advocacy

JRS also carried out research on the socio-economic situation of the refugee population in Jacqué and a comparative analysis between draft refugee legislation in Panama and the existing legislation. The latter's recommendations were used to propose amendments to the draft legislation. In August the Government agreed to introduce a new migration and refugee law that guarantees legal advice and assistance to applicants.

JRS projects in Mexico

CHIAPAS Some 4,313, indigenous and mixed race, internally displaced persons in Polhó, Chiapas, indirectly benefit from JRS Mexico programmes. JRS provided training to 40 catechists in 20 camps to spiritually accompany the communities. Workshops were held on a monthly basis to reflect on issues of faith and how it relates to their everyday life. JRS, in collaboration with a representative community group, provided essential training and encouraged the establishment of alternative health and production community cooperatives.

*training/
general assistance*

CHIAPAS In 2004, JRS promoted alternative health practices among the displaced population and provided two capacity building workshops for community members involved in the promotion of alternative health practices. Two workshops were also provided on the production of alternative homeopathic medicines and the community has been able to meet about 60% of its pharmaceutical needs. Approximately 50% of the community, who share their cultivatable land, received two workshops on organic farming and the use of organic compost. They were also provided with 12 Spanish courses. In 2004, JRS also started providing assistance to the Sacred Heart of Jesus cooperative which buys and sells corn. In 2005 JRS plans to support other agencies to provide legal assistance to the IDPs.



JRS Ecuador

JRS-supported income-generating activity, Ibarra, Ecuador

Refugees receiving material assistance and advice, Dominican Republic



JRS Dominican Republic

USA – CANADA



Armando Borja/JRS

US Detention centre

Anti-terrorism and anti-refugee rhetoric dominated much of the political scene during 2004. The US Government seemed ready to apply exclusionary policies regardless of the circumstances. Haitians were intercepted on the high seas; Colombians, both those resident in the US and those recommended for resettlement by UNHCR, were denied protection in the country. The resettlement programme for Iraqis remained suspended, also affecting those whose cases were approved prior to 11 September 2001.

The US-Canada Safe Third Country Agreement was signed, as part of a package of initiatives designed to exert stronger control over the US-Canada land border. Asylum seekers, who pass through the US on the way to Canada, or vice-versa, must apply for asylum in the first country in which they arrive. Although there are exceptions, an estimated 11,000 people per year will be prevented from seeking asylum in Canada.

Pending immigration legislation in 2005 is expected to reduce the prospect of refugees being recognised in the US. Decisions this year by the US Supreme Court regarding the detention and deportation of non-US citizens had positive and negative implications. Denied the possibility of detaining non-US citizens indefinitely, the Court authorised their deportation back to countries that lack functioning governments.

On a positive note, nearly 53,000 refugees were resettled in the US in 2004. However, the programme faces funding shortfalls which may hinder further programme expansion.

Ken Gavin SJ, JRS USA Director



JRS USA Director

Ken Gavin SJ

JRS Canada Contact Persons

Jack Costello SJ, Louis-Joseph Goulet SJ

USA – CANADA

In 2004, **US** political reaction to terrorist threats often had anti-refugee and anti-immigrant overtones. The ramifications of this situation for refugees and asylum seekers have been many and far reaching. The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiated more rigorous surveillance of the US-Mexico border so as to reduce the South-North flow of undocumented migrants. Seemingly in parallel, new anti-terrorist legislation was introduced that will authorise the expansion of the detention facilities currently managed by the DHS. In July, JRS and Church World Services were awarded the contract by the US Government to provide spiritual care in eight detention centres in the US.

Canada continued indiscriminate interception of individuals with inadequate or no documentation, including many presumptive refugees, attempting to enter the State. This year 7,500 people were prevented from boarding planes to Canada. In spite of its international obligations to the contrary, this vastly reduced the number of refugee claimants reaching Canada.

JRS projects in the USA

detainees, pastoral

The primary goal of chaplaincy projects is to enhance the overall quality of religious programmes in eight detention centres throughout the country by providing detainees with ongoing access to religious services provided by clergy of their own faiths, as well as by providing on-site chaplains to help address the spiritual needs of those detained. Each programme team consists of two chaplains, an administrative assistant, and a set of volunteers.

The chaplaincy programmes directly touched the lives of more than 40,000 detainees and made an indirect impact on the policies and procedures affecting their confinement. The chaplaincy team at each site also coordinated visits of professionally trained, volunteer spiritual caregivers who provided faith-oriented support sorely needed by the men and women detained in these centres.

advocacy

- In the area of advocacy, JRS worked to forge new bonds with advocacy staff in other regions, so that issues of mutual concern could be identified and jointly pursued, such as the resettlement needs of the Chin Burmese in Malaysia.
- JRS USA also continued its advocacy work in cooperation with and as members of US-based NGOs, such as Refugee Council and InterAction, to promote fair asylum and refugee policies.

research

JRS USA continued to partner Fairfield University in sponsoring a symposium, "Migration Studies and Jesuit Identity: Forging a Path Forward," which will be held in June 2005.

fundraising

- In response to the tragedy of Southeast Asia's tsunami, JRS USA initiated an urgent appeal for financial aid for emergency and post-emergency work.
- In addition to organising the transport of a container of children's books to Liberia, JRS also raised funds for educational projects in Liberia and Chad.
- 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.

JRS projects in Canada

advocacy

JRS continued to work with other refugee groups, and as a member of the Sanctuary Coalition, on behalf of refugee claimants who had been refused a fast or fair asylum determination decision or who were being unfairly threatened by government officials with detention and deportation.

assistance

JRS also continued to fund refugee resettlements to Canada and to provide emergency funds to refugees in need.



Armando Borja/JRS

Pastoral assistance, USA

Pastoral assistance, USA



Armando Borja/JRS

JRS publications

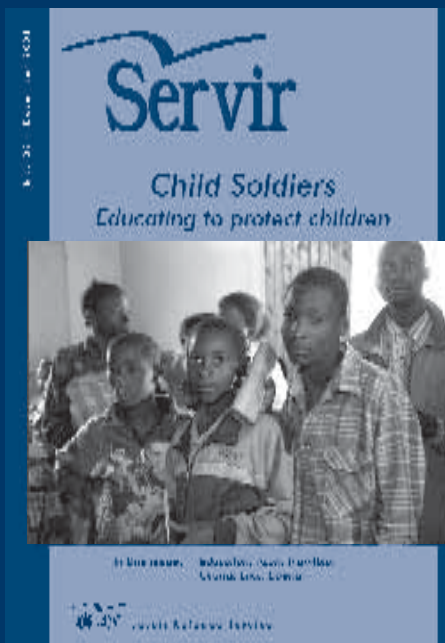
<http://www.jrs.net> The JRS Web Site

Visit <http://www.jrs.net> – JRS's web site – for 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.



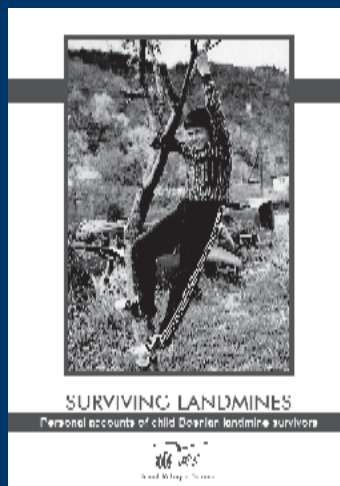
Servir

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.



Surviving landmines

Many thousands of children were injured and killed by landmine explosions in the war that tore Bosnia apart between 1992 and 1995. This collection of stories is a testimony to the landmine survivors with whom JRS works and was published firstly as a tribute to them, and to their pain, courage, weakness and strength. Now many have finished secondary school and have got on with their lives. They provide the reader with an insight to how landmines affect thousands of people around the world and why they should be banned.



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.

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

JRS finances 2004

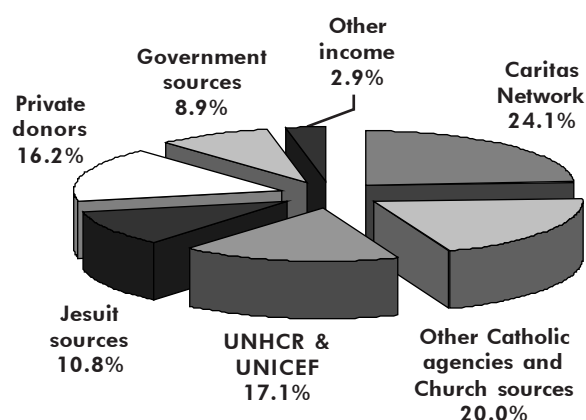
Some explanatory notes

1. Information extracted from the financial reports (income and 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.

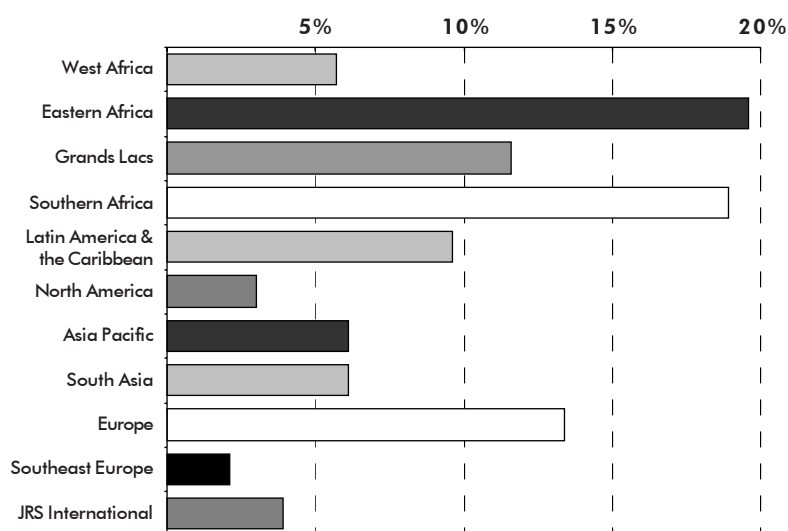
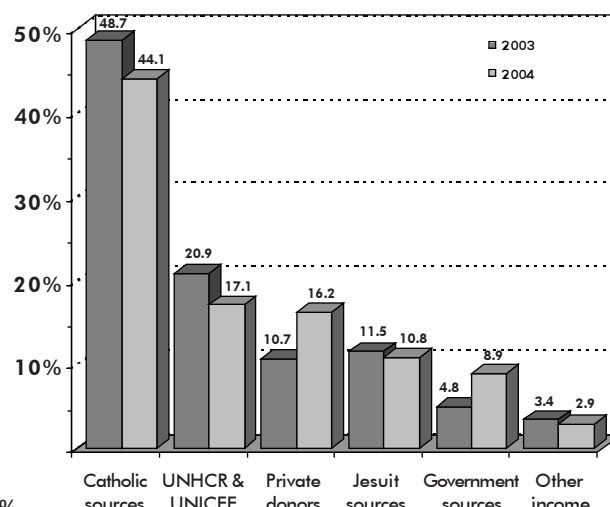
SOURCES OF FUNDING JRS WORLD-WIDE (in US dollars)

Sources of funding	Amount
Caritas Network	5,679,673
Other Catholic agencies and Church sources	4,712,640
UNHCR and UNICEF	4,035,281
Jesuit sources	2,539,786
Private donors	3,813,481
Government sources	2,088,800
Other income	696,902
Grand Total	23,566,563

SOURCES OF FUNDING BY PERCENTAGE

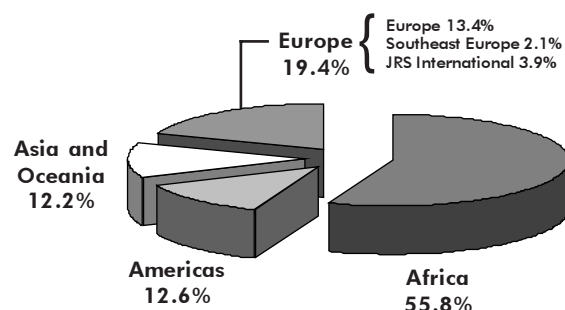


SOURCES OF FUNDING: COMPARISON 2003-2004



PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE BY REGION

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE BY CONTINENT



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SUPPORT OUR WORK WITH REFUGEES

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

I want to support the work of JRS

Please find enclosed a donation of

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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: IT 86 Y 05696 03212 000003410X05
- for US dollars: VAR 3410/05
IBAN: IT 97 O 05696 03212 VARUS0003410

Post-tsunami disaster, Aceh, Indonesia





<http://www.jrs.net>

