

# Annual Report

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## Jesuit Refugee Service



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 **2005 Report** is published in English, Spanish, Italian and French.

**Cover photo:**

Colombian refugee child, Venezuela.

Photo by Carlos De Castro.

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

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

To receive *Dispatches* and *Servir*, free of charge, subscribe through the JRS web site  
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JRS-supported income-generating programme for tsunami survivors in Banda Aceh, Indonesia



JRS Indonesia

## MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

Last year, JRS directly witnessed the joy of refugees returning home, as well as the pain of people fleeing their villages and cities in fear of their lives. JRS staff were also there when girls started attending school for the first time and when mothers were arrested for collecting firewood outside their camps.

On 26 December 2004, a tsunami struck Southeast Asia, particularly affecting India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. At least a quarter of a million people lost their lives, one and a half million were displaced and many more lost their property and livelihoods. In response, people and governments throughout the world donated huge amounts of resources for the survivors. JRS teams worked closely with the survivors, building houses, clinics and schools, helping to re-build lives. Despite inclusive approaches like JRS', too many organisations ignored the views of the local populations; and consequently, too little was achieved.

After the tsunami, a window of opportunity for peace opened in Sri Lanka. However, subsequent tit-for-tat political violence ended all hope for an accord in 2005. Fortunately, the prospect of peace was grasped in Aceh, Indonesia, and after almost 30 years of bloody conflict, a peace agreement was signed. Elsewhere, peace processes in Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Sudan advanced slowly but positively. However, the lack of food, physical insecurity and absence of any real infrastructure mean that refugees and internally displaced persons have been hesitant to return.

For those who wish to go home but are unable to do so, JRS will demand that the international community ensure them a return with respect and dignity. And of course, a

solution will have to be found for those for whom home may never be safe. For JRS, it is vital that the international community be fully involved in the reconstruction of post-conflict societies.

JRS programmes, in over 50 countries, touched the lives of over a half a million people. Our staff have accompanied those who have been violently displaced, empowering people to access their rights, and providing them with skills training, education, health and pastoral services, and psychological support. By being there and asking forcibly displaced persons what they need, we are able to provide them with the services they want and together set JRS' advocacy priorities.

**"...the prospect of peace was grasped in Aceh... after almost 30 years of bloody conflict..."**

Other countries took steps backwards in 2005. In the Darfur region of western Sudan, horrendous violence and the forced displacement of more than two million people caused immense suffering. In the West, governments, particularly the US, continued to implement even more restrictive policies towards refugees and asylum seekers. Too frequently, these governments cited national security concerns to the exclusion of individual human rights.

On 14 November 2005, JRS marked 25 years of serving and learning from refugees. These 25 years of history are a work of love. Despite being kept in the shadow of injustice and evil, refugees are a witness to the light of God, revealing an unaccomplished task. Yet, none of our achievements would have been possible without our staff, volunteers and friends. For this I thank you and look forward to your support in 2006.

*Lluís Magriñà SJ*

Reconstruction in southern Sudan to prepare for the return of internally displaced persons and refugees from southern Sudan

Don Doll SJ



## JRS AND ADVOCACY

During 2005, JRS continued the process of strengthening the capacity of its offices around the world to carry out advocacy work. This process focused on assisting its internal network of advocacy officers; thus, ensuring the defence of the human rights of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons is core to all JRS work. To further this aim, in 2005, JRS organised three internal advocacy meetings for its key staff – an international meeting in Rome, a regional Latin American and Caribbean meeting in Bogotá, and a regional Eastern African meeting in Nairobi.

In the development of its advocacy work, JRS did not lose sight of its fundamental principles – defending the rights of the most forgotten and the most vulnerable. Thus, in 2005, a significant amount of JRS advocacy resources went into working for the rights of administrative detainees – people who are locked up, sometimes for indefinite periods of time, simply because of their immigration status or their lack of documents. Together with other leading human rights NGOs, JRS was involved in establishing an international coalition on the detention of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. Its goal is to focus the world's attention on the plight of these forgotten detainees. JRS did not only focus on those forgotten people held in detention centres in Europe or the US, but also on those held throughout Africa and Asia. Many of these refugees are in detention solely for having breached administrative rules restricting their movement. All too often refugees are compelled to leave the camps in search of food and firewood. They are frequently held in life-threatening detention conditions, and are almost invisible to the rest of the world. To JRS, helping them is a priority.

**“Many...refugees are in detention solely for having breached administrative rules..”**

JRS also worked to defend the rights of forcibly displaced persons in some of the most forgotten situations. For example, while JRS worked with the survivors of the tsunami in Aceh in Indonesia, it also worked for the rights of forgotten people whose lives have been affected by the recently ended conflict in the Indonesian Moluccas islands. JRS also remained committed to finding solutions for those whose displacement had become protracted over years – such as the Bhutanese refugees exiled in camps in eastern Nepal for the last 15 years, and internally displaced persons suffering the brutal effects of 20 years of conflict in northern Uganda and more than 40 years of civil war in Colombia. For JRS, defending the rights of these populations is vital because of the lack of attention they receive from the international community. JRS staff around the

world advocate for improved living conditions for these populations while they are forced to wait in camps or in situations of extreme poverty in urban centres; they also campaign for durable solutions to their plights.

As new crises arise, and donor fatigue sets in because problems seem insoluble, the world's attention gets drawn to new crisis situations. Of course, new emergencies require urgent responses, but JRS will continue to advocate for those people whose lives are still being left in limbo because of unresolved crises the world seems to have forgotten.

*Melanie Teff  
Advocacy and Policy Coordinator*

Detention centre, Berlin

Nicolas Weiser/JRS





## LEARNING FROM THE PAST

After 25 years of learning with refugees and other forcibly displaced persons, it is a good moment to reflect on how the world has changed and how JRS has responded to these changes. JRS was born in a different era. It was established in 1980 in Asia Pacific as a response to the Vietnamese refugee crisis. Jesuits in places as diverse as Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia provided emergency assistance to the 'boat people' fleeing Vietnam. Since then, both JRS and the world have changed in many ways.

In 1980, there were 16 million refugees worldwide; today there are nearly 40 million forcibly displaced persons, and more than 200 million people on the move, many fleeing poverty and environmental degradation. Conflicts are taking place within countries, but rarely between nations. Individual states are now both the persecutors and protectors of their citizens, making it more complex to ensure their safety.

JRS has responded to these evolving crises as its beneficiaries have also changed. Twenty-five years ago JRS worked primarily with refugees in Asia; today JRS employs over 1,000 staff and works in more than 50 countries, principally in Africa, and increasingly with internally displaced persons. Despite the changes, JRS has concentrated on providing elements of education and training throughout all its programmes.

Crucial to its beneficiaries, JRS advocacy has progressed dramatically. Initially, staff focused almost exclusively on raising individual cases of concern locally. Now, they also raise public awareness of human rights abuses and lobby for sustainable change nationally, regionally and internationally. Over the years, JRS has sought international alli-

ances to campaign against landmines and child soldiers, and last year it was a key player in establishing an international coalition on the detention of forced migrants. It is only together that we can challenge human rights abuses.

To remember these 25 years, JRS International published three books last year (see pages 58 and 59). *Horizons of Learning* examines the organisation's *modus operandi* by giving the reader a snapshot of the education activities it offers to refugees. *God in Exile* explores what JRS staff have learned from accompanying refugees and how their spirituality has been enriched. Finally, *The Wound of the Border* is a witness to the growth of JRS, the challenges faced and the signs of hope.

**"JRS must serve  
the most forgotten  
and vulnerable  
forced migrants."**

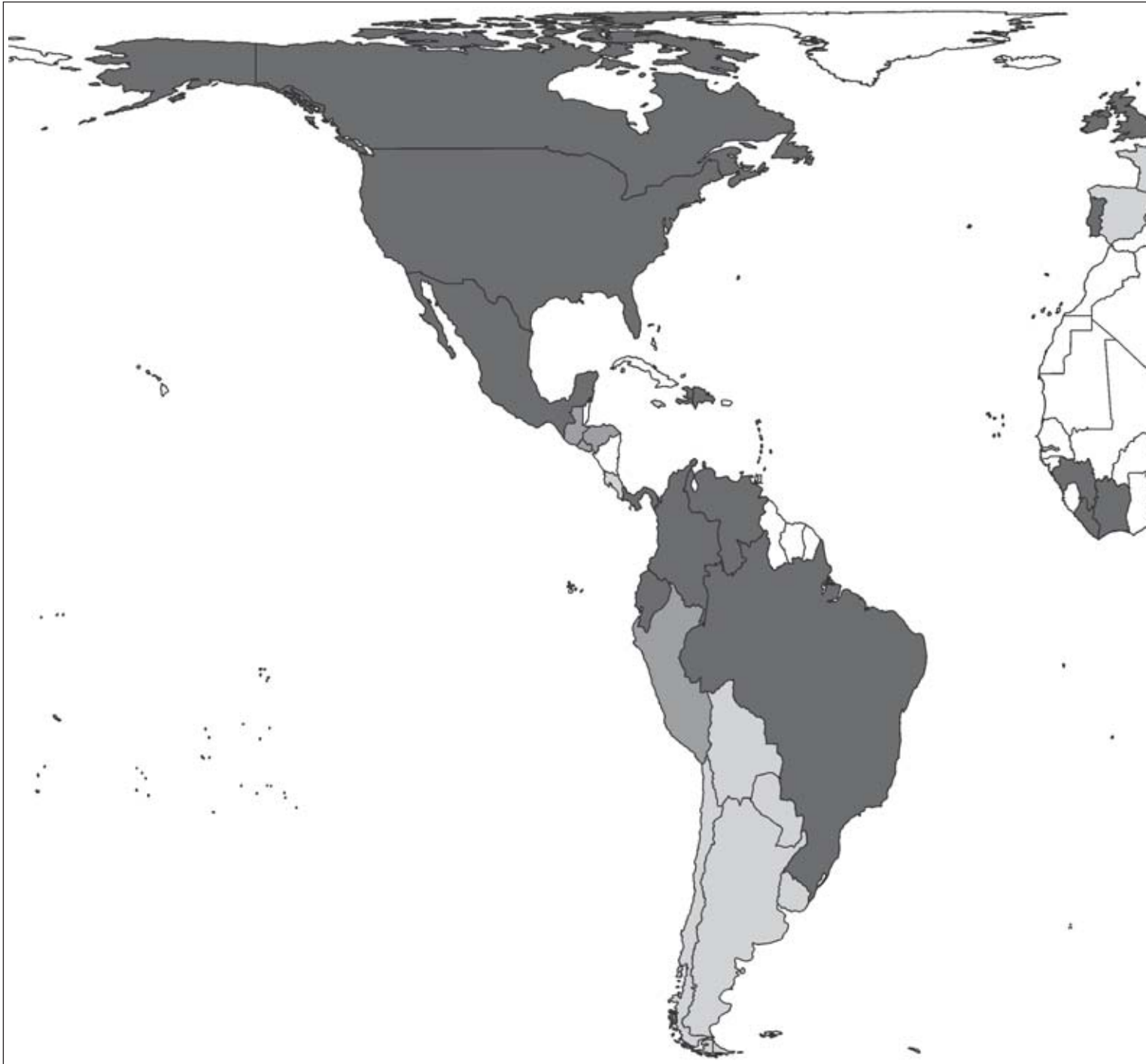
Looking to the future, JRS began work on a worldwide strategic plan to analyse the environment in which it works and adapt its methods. Its teams worry that lack of funding, particularly for food provision, may force refugees and internally displaced persons to return home prematurely and risk the long-term stability of these regions. This is why it is important that JRS remains faithful to the ideals of its founder, Fr Arrupe. JRS must serve the most forgotten and vulnerable forced migrants.

To do so, JRS structures must ensure the organisation is always on the move. The biblical tradition is very rich. In Exodus, people were on the move, fleeing slavery in search of the Promised Land. Responding to the needs of refugees should never be impeded by overly bureaucratic structures. Consequently, JRS must invest in training refugees and all the people who work with them. Generosity and ideals are requisites, but so is the acquisition of the necessary professional skills.

**JRS expands its traditional education programmes to provide adult literacy classes for Somali refugees, South Africa**

Lolín Menéndez RSCJ

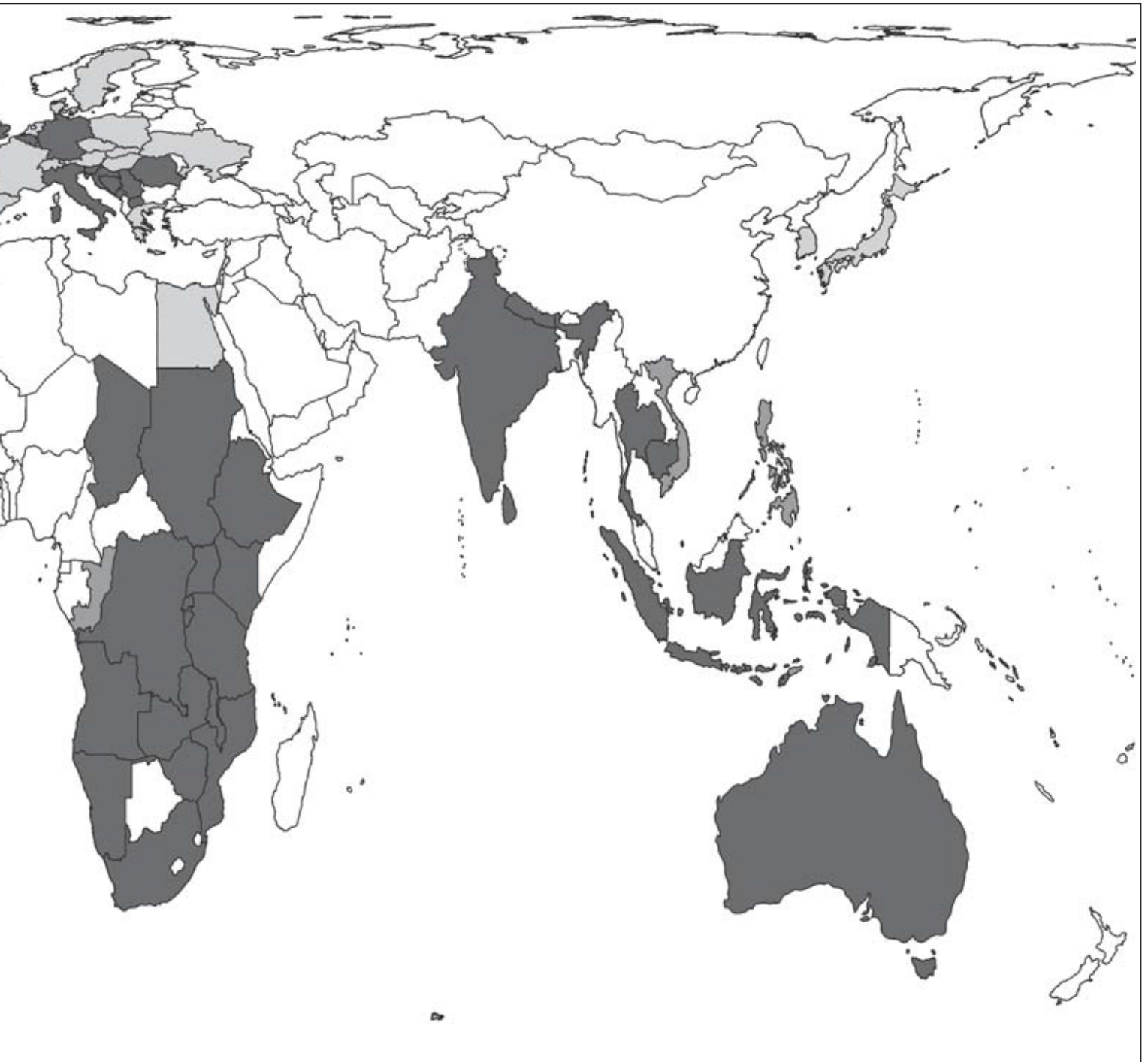







The Hobo-Dyer Equal Area Projection.  
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## WIDE 1980–2005



-  Countries in which JRS currently provides services to forcibly displaced persons
-  Countries in which JRS previously provided services to forcibly displaced persons
-  Countries in which JRS has appointed a contact person but does not directly provide services to forcibly displaced persons

## AFRICA EDUCATION

JRS believes education is a core priority: restoring normality to those affected by conflict, and providing a sign and source of hope for the future. Its programmes seek to develop the capacities of local people and refugees, enabling them to build a more just and peaceful society, and to ensure JRS education programmes for forcibly displaced persons across Africa are of the highest quality.

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. It provides educational expertise and resources to JRS field personnel, who directly accompany, serve and advocate on behalf of those who are forcibly displaced, usually in the most difficult and isolated circumstances, in 18 African countries. The project office and resource base for refugee education is in Nairobi, Kenya, but the scope and outreach of the project includes JRS education personnel and projects throughout Africa.

In 2005, over 200,000 refugee adults and children benefited from JRS education programmes in Africa. The JRS

Education Resource Person for Africa visited 15 education projects throughout the continent. Two extensive needs assessments and four external evaluations of the projects were carried out and expert advice was given to the JRS staff working in those projects. The resource person provided informal training to JRS staff on a wide variety of new educational materials and best practice for education services in emergencies, including guidelines on minimum standards for education in emergencies, chronic crises and early reconstruction.

The education resource centre published a monthly newsletter and other documentation informing JRS and other refugee education staff of new materials to improve their work.

The resource person also participated in regular meetings with NGOs, such as the Girl Child Network, the Forum for African Women in Education, the NGO Committee on UNICEF Working Group on Girls, and the Africa Faith and Justice Network, to help promote the best practice relating to refugee education.

**“...over 200,000...  
benefited from  
JRS education  
programmes  
in Africa.”**

**[www.jrsafricaeducation.org](http://www.jrsafricaeducation.org)**

Education,  
in particular  
for girls,  
is the core  
of JRS' work  
in Nimule,  
southern  
Sudan

Don Doll SJ



## JRS projects in Chad

**education / community services**

### **KOUNOUNGOU & FARCHANA camps**

In 2005, JRS continued to support SECADEV, the local Caritas, to manage education and community services in two camps in eastern Chad which host over 33,000 refugees from the Darfur region of western Sudan. JRS assisted the local Caritas staff in managing the primary schools and providing teacher training in the two camps, as well as building 65 new classrooms. In Kounoungou camp, kindergarten and adult literacy classes were also organised. JRS' agreement with SECADEV ended in late July. Plans for further assistance were under consideration at the end of 2005.



**CHAD**

Prolonged conflicts in the Grands Lacs region, Sudan and northern Uganda have generated millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. The two interlocking conflicts in southern Sudan and northern Uganda alone, have led to the loss of millions of lives and the displacement of two to four million people. There was increased international focus on the death and destruction caused by the continued presence of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) across swathes of northern Uganda and southern Sudan in 2005. This resulted in a change of tactics by LRA rebels, creating more disruption and displacement on both sides of the border, and slowed down the process of refugee repatriation to Sudan, particularly those living in northern Uganda. Consequently, implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for southern Sudan (CPA), signed in January 2005, was slower than expected.

Delays in the signing of tripartite repatriation agreements between Sudan, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) and the surrounding host countries, along with corresponding delays in establishing sufficient 'halfway houses', and transportation and security arrangements, all delayed the commencement of the official repatriation process. Moreover, many refugees were not convinced that social service provision in southern Sudan was sufficient to facilitate their return. The downward spiral of conditions in Darfur and the escalation of hostilities between government forces and rebels in eastern Sudan have sown seeds of doubt in the minds of many regarding the true commitment of the Sudanese government to the CPA.

That said, most refugees long to go home, and much is being done by local and international NGOs, civil society groups and local authorities to develop basic infrastructure in the region, including de-mining and road construction. Juba was designated the capital of southern Sudan, with important government ministries, other agencies and authorities rapidly establishing themselves. Trade routes between Uganda and Sudan, previously very restricted, opened up and efforts to integrate smaller rebel groups into the ranks of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to form a regional police force were underway.

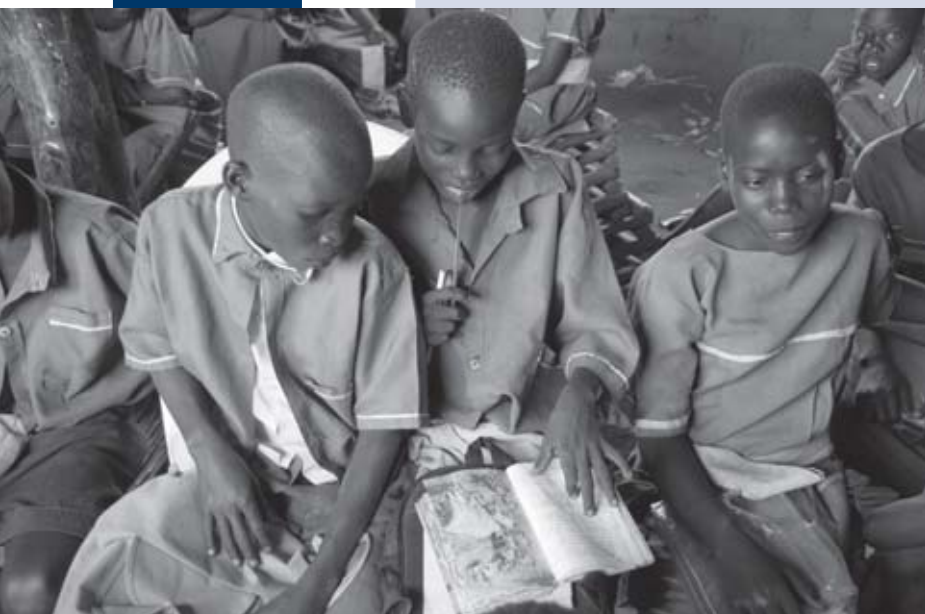
"...thousands of Rwandans fleeing local Gagaca court prosecutions..."

Elsewhere, elections in Burundi, as well as the slow but steady preparations for elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2006, have paved the way for the repatriation of refugees from the Grands Lacs region – most of whom live in camps along the western Tanzanian border. Official repatriation, which was taking place at a rate of 300 to 400 people per week from some of the camps, slowed down towards the end of the year.

During the year, Burundians moved northwards into Rwanda mainly due to severe food shortages. Meanwhile, thousands of Rwandans fleeing local Gagaca court prosecutions

moved into Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. Increased violence, in particular in the South and North Kivu Provinces of the DRC, led to the further displacement of hundreds of thousands. Efforts continued in a bid to find a lasting solution to this problem, upon which the future stability of the Grands Lacs region hinges, and thus a resolution of the refugee problem in eastern Africa.

John Guiney SJ,  
JRS Eastern Africa Director



Don Doll SJ



## KENYA

### JRS projects in Kenya

#### advocacy

JRS lodged appeals, on behalf of eight unsuccessful asylum seekers, to UNHCR. In December 2005, four had already received decisions granting them refugee status. JRS also referred eight refugees to be resettled in third countries. All eight were accepted and were in the process of being resettled.

#### scholarships

**NAIROBI** In 2005, this project offered 40 refugees an opportunity to acquire skills to become economically independent. Consequently, five university students completed their studies and graduated. One student is working as an engineer in Sudan while two others are working with financial firms in Kenya. Eleven higher level students completed various vocational certificate and diploma courses, including teaching and business administration, and five of the primary school teachers are back in Sudan. Following JRS intervention, institutions, like the Kenyan co-operative college, agreed that JRS-assisted students should pay the same fees as Kenyan students, and a co-operative bank also agreed to recognise the students' travel documents so that they could open bank accounts.

**KAKUMA camp** In 2005, JRS assisted 216 refugees to access primary, secondary and tertiary education. The 62 new primary and secondary students achieved very high results. Activities to promote environmental awareness among the students were carried out. One Sudanese refugee with a disability enrolled in a third level distance learning course and performed well; thus, encouraging other refugees with disabilities to do the same. Over 70 percent of the parents/guardians attended meetings with teachers to discuss their role in their children's education. An improved interest and commitment of the parents and guardians was observed.

#### parish outreach

**NAIROBI** In 2005, JRS directly assisted 463 asylum seekers and indirectly assisted 734 by providing emergency financial, food, material and medical assistance on a monthly and bi-monthly basis. Four health clinics and a hospital assisted some 145 asylum seekers per month.

#### income-generating

**NAIROBI** In 2005, JRS assisted 100 refugees to become economically independent. Seventy-seven refugees sold their products in the JRS craft shop and the rest were provided with small loans and training to establish their own businesses. JRS ensured the authorities did not harass the refugees, in particular, by issuing them with receipts for their goods and equipment.

#### social services

**KAKUMA** In 2005, JRS provided 2,084 vulnerable refugees with counselling and practical training, and tried to ensure their protection needs were met, including access to basic services. A 6-day workshop on the technical and financial aspects of poultry farming was conducted for an elderly farmer and 30 single mothers. Fourteen Sudanese women survivors of gender and sexual-based violence (GSBV) participated in a public seminar on refugee repatriation where they explored their fears about returning home. JRS also referred survivors of GSBV with material and protection needs to partner organisations. A workshop was organised for 242 refugees on mental health issues to promote awareness of the challenges faced by refugees with mental difficulties.

Income-generating project in Kakuma refugee camp, northern Kenya



Hugh Delaney/JRS



## JRS projects in Sudan

### education

**NIMULE, LABONE, KAJO KEJI, YEI** JRS provided education and pastoral support to 11,358 returnees, the local population and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nimule, 9,020 in Labone, 7,364 in Kajo Keji, and 9,013 in Yei.

In Nimule, collaborating with county authorities, JRS recruited, trained and monitored the work of its teachers. The team supplied school meals, stationery and sports equipment to over 7,000 students, and constructed 16 schools. Financial support was given to 147 students, of whom 142 took the Ugandan state exams. To combat absenteeism among, and to increase retention rates of, school girls, JRS provided financial and other support to 1,150 girls. Improved school retention rates were noted.

In Labone, for the first time, JRS financially assisted students to take primary leaving exams and state secondary school exams in Uganda. The pupil-textbook ratio dropped and school retention rates of girls increased. Community involvement in education improved substantially, e.g. the construction and maintenance of school facilities, e.g. latrines, classrooms etc. JRS provided education to 3,274 pre-school students and continuing training to 50 teachers. The team also employed an instructor, who was provided with training, to teach adult education classes to 575 individuals.

In Kajo Keji, JRS provided school material for over 6,330 students and 242 teachers. Subsequently, there was a 25 percent increase in student enrolment and registration to take Ugandan state exams, and a 60 percent decrease in the drop-out rate of senior secondary students. There was also an increase of girls taking final primary exams, from 19 to 41 percent, and secondary exams, from 7 to 12 percent, as well as an increase in secondary school girls' academic performance and enrolment rates from 19 to 32 percent. JRS also provided ongoing academic and administrative training to teachers, and helped them to establish a teachers' association, as well as financially supporting 17 teachers to undertake formal college-based training.

In Yei, JRS provided school materials for students in 17 schools, resulting in an improved textbook-pupil ratio. Teachers not attending college-based or in-service training received on-the-job training. JRS ran awareness-raising education workshops for parents and teachers involved in the management of the schools. JRS encouraged communities to contribute to maintenance and construction activities in the schools, and supported the construction of classrooms, an office and a storeroom. The team also informed parents of the school meals project, which was available at some local schools. Leadership training was provided to girls, with nominated teachers as mentors. Subsequently, a reduction in drop-out rates was observed.

### peace education

**NIMULE, LABONE, KAJO KEJI, YEI** JRS provided peace education to 26,946 returnees, local people and IDPs. In Labone and Nimule, JRS provided workshops to 91 community leaders on leadership skills, repatriation, good governance and reconciliation. The team also promoted 28 extracurricular activities, such as debate, drama and discussion, on issues like peace building, human rights, HIV/AIDS, conflict management and good governance. Subsequently, improved relationships between the target groups were reported.

### emergency education and psychosocial support

**EL FASHER** JRS provided emergency education and psychosocial support to 92 teaching and administrative staff along with more than 2,500 of the most vulnerable IDP children. This included teacher training being given to 35 school teachers and 50 adult literacy teachers, and the recruitment of adult literacy and teacher trainer co-ordinators.



# SUDAN



## ETHIOPIA

### JRS projects in Ethiopia

#### **community centre**

**ADDIS ABABA** Some 500 refugees were offered access to education services, and information about recreational services, including workshops on HIV/AIDS and sports activities to promote integration. Some 135 refugees participated in French, English and Amharic language courses and 28 refugees accessed JRS Internet services daily, primarily to stay in contact with family members.

#### **emergency assistance**

**ADDIS ABABA** JRS provided 5,095 of the most vulnerable asylum seekers, particularly new arrivals, with emergency assistance. Nearly 890 refugees received direct subsistence support, 120 blankets, 213 financial assistance and 270 transport assistance to go to refugee camps. Nearly 1,780 individuals were referred to a health clinic and another 97 referred elsewhere for further treatment. Weekly solidarity meetings were organised where material and emotional support was provided.



## TANZANIA

### JRS projects in Tanzania

#### **education**

JRS provided pre-school and special needs education in refugee camps to 4,342 children. Home visits were made to parents and food assistance was offered to encourage children to attend, with over 75 percent of students attending. Between 75 and 95 percent of parents participated in school meetings, including the election of a parents committee of whose membership 40 percent were women. Teachers were regularly given feedback and offered skills training. Parents contributed to school fees and took responsibility for repairs, a gardening project, and a peace and health education programme.

#### **Radio Kwizera**

JRS broadcast a range of programmes to 200,000 refugees and five million others in parts of Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Some of the station's most successful programmes included a bi-weekly 'soap' dealing with repatriation issues facing Burundian refugees returning home, and a UNHCR-sponsored programme on children's rights and HIV/AIDS, which involved the direct participation of 5,000 students. Fifteen staff also received training on incorporating advocacy issues into their broadcasts. Additionally, the team published a bi-monthly magazine on issues affecting refugees in camps, e.g. food distribution, host government policies and developments in their countries of origin.

#### **psychosocial / pastoral**

**NGARA, KIBONDO** JRS provided psychosocial services to 5,735 refugees, including material and psychosocial support to detained refugees, as well as assistance to access legal representation. The team also engaged with UNHCR to resolve security-related issues in the camps, and to raise concerns about refugee rations and access to medical treatment. Refugee women were provided with a range of vocational training courses, e.g. baking and sewing, to assist them to establish small businesses. JRS also offered pastoral services to 3,293 Catholic refugees, leadership training to 647 community leaders, and 80 catechists received ongoing training. Sunday masses were celebrated, including 440 baptisms, 539 first holy communions, 33 confirmations and 46 marriages.



## JRS projects in Uganda

### emergency assistance

**KAMPALA** JRS provided emergency assistance to 4,250 asylum seekers and refugees, including food to 280 asylum-seeking families, emergency accommodation and rent assistance to 37 households, and medical assistance to 33 critically ill individuals, mainly women and children. The team also provided legal assistance to 1,300 asylum seekers, intervening directly for particularly vulnerable persons, such as victims of sexual and gender based violence, and carried out follow-up evaluations, including home visits. Staff also organised awareness-raising campaigns for parishes where refugees live in order to promote understanding of refugee-related issues.

### pastoral

**ADJUMANI, PALORINYA** JRS provided spiritual and pastoral assistance to 15,000 refugees. The team assisted the refugees to celebrate the Eucharist regularly, organised retreats, and assisted 750 young people to organise social activities. Sixty community leaders were given workshops on leadership skills, and monthly meetings of youth groups across 50 communities were held. Catechists were trained to administer funeral rites in the local Bari language and capacity building training was given to eight catechists who were actively involved in community groups.

### education

**ADJUMANI** JRS provided quality pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary education for 31,056 individuals. JRS also financially assisted 15,851 primary students, including 1,134 to take the national primary leaving exams. The team regularly monitored teaching standards and provided ongoing teacher training for 42 pre-school, 31 primary and five secondary schools, and supported the renovation of 45 classrooms. Financial assistance was also provided to 728 secondary students to take the Ugandan state exams and to 719 individuals to attend teacher training colleges.

**RHINO camp** JRS provided functional adult literacy (FAL) and skills training to 8,391 refugees. At 30 functional adult literacy centres, 1,099 students received literacy training, and 12 new instructors were trained to replace refugee instructors who had returned home. As a result of the hygiene and sanitation awareness work in FAL classes, an 11 percent increase in the construction of latrines, bath shelters and refuse pits was reported. Forty-four refugee women completed a five month tailoring course, which included a component on marketing, and planned to establish a small business to produce school uniforms. Sixty-Six potential young leaders received a workshop on leadership, self-reliance and creative liturgy while 800 attended eight masses in the camp. Twenty-four young people were helped to establish 12 small businesses, e.g. hairdressing. Over 650 young people received their confirmation, 420 children were baptised and 350 children were prepared for first holy communion by local catechists.

### peace education

**ADJUMANI, MOYO** JRS provided 37,251 refugees with peace education training; reduced tensions between refugees and the local population over sharing local resources were reported. An increased interest in and awareness of human rights issues was also recorded. Local communities, using peace groups, were better able to resolve small family and community disputes. Over 900 community leaders received workshops on leadership skills, repatriation, good governance and reconciliation.

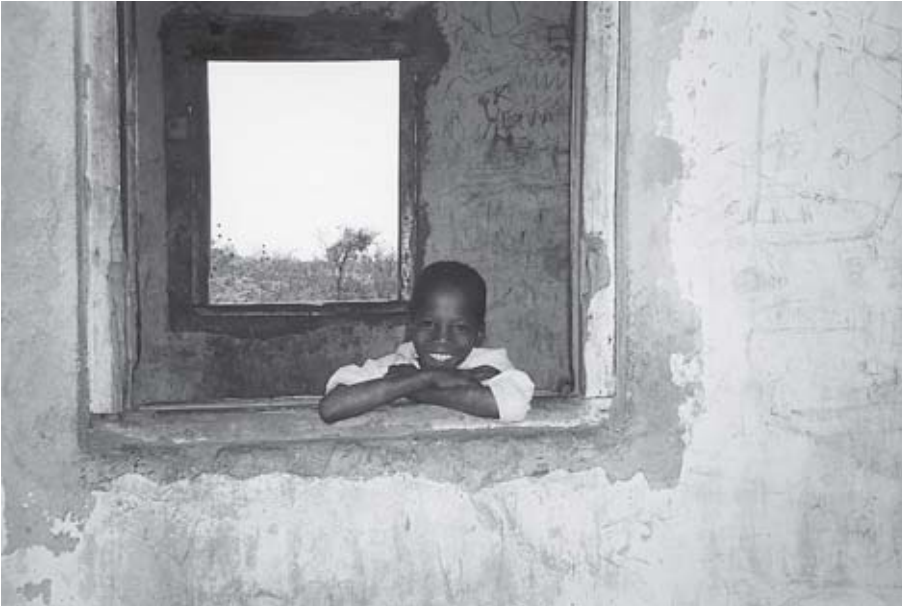


# UGANDA

James Stapleton



JRS-supported school, Adjumani, northern Uganda



Mark Raper SJ/IRS

Rwandan refugee, western Tanzania



Don Doll SJ

Camp for internally displaced persons, northern Uganda

Teacher training course, Yei, southern Sudan



Don Doll SJ

# GRANDS LACS

JRS-assisted workshop specialising in the production and sale of mats, Buterere, Burundi

Of the three countries which form JRS Grands Lacs, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) spent 2005 as apprentices, learning democracy through elections. On four different occasions, the Burundians went to the polls to vote. With the blessing of international observers, who arrived from the four corners of the world, the electoral process was a success. A government led by the CNDD FDD party was formed and Pierre Nikuronziz was named President of Burundi. Until two years ago, he was the leader of FDD, the country's largest armed rebel movement. In 2005, with the support of the population expressed at the ballot box, he became the leader of a country heading towards peace.

The DRC should have followed an electoral scenario very similar to Burundi's. Unfortunately, it did not manage to keep to the proposed calendar. It was no easy feat to carry out an

electoral census in this enormous country where the means of communication and the infrastructure are so inadequate. However, international assistance was supplied, as well as sufficient equipment and human resources to facilitate the census. The Congolese did not waste any time before they went and registered to vote. Some registered out of political

"...armed groups...continued to deliberately kill, rape, and abduct civilians... in eastern Congo."

conviction, while the others out of a conviction of another type: the electoral card would also serve as an identity card! Whatever the reasons, on 18 December the referendum on the new constitution took place, paving the way for national elections in 2006.

Despite these positive events in Burundi and the DRC, there are many hurdles yet to be overcome. In the DRC, combatants from armed groups, as well as government soldiers, continued to deliberately kill, rape, and abduct civilians, looting their property, particularly in eastern Congo. A feeble justice system was unable to end impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the previous two wars. In Burundi, with the return of over 50,000 refugees from Tanzania in 2005, totalling 230,000 since 2002, the potential for conflict between locals and returnees over land ownership issues intensified. Unfortunately, at the end of 2005, the promised land commissions, envisaged to resolve conflicting claims, were still not fully operational.

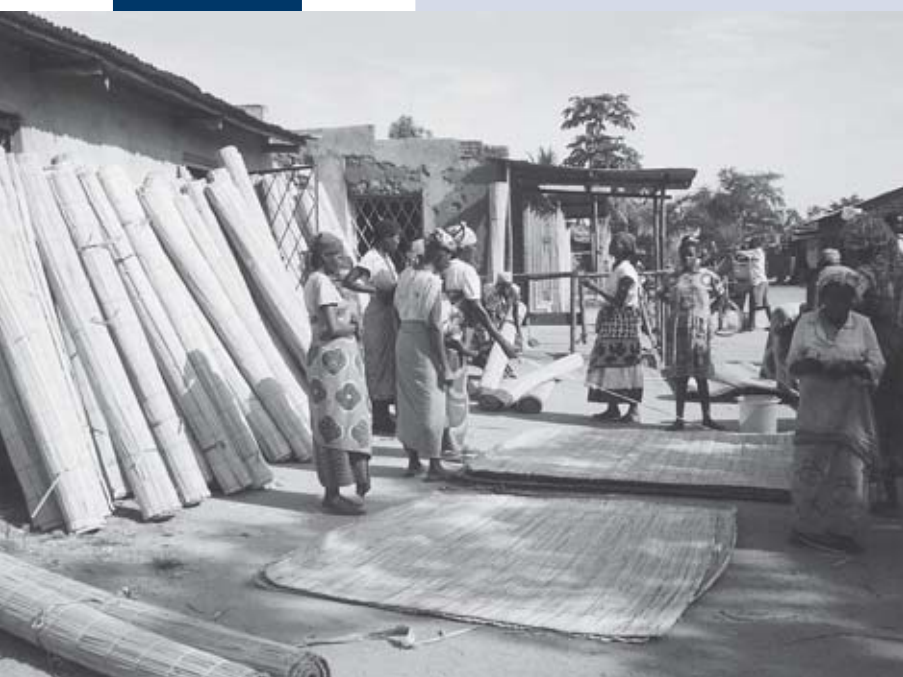
In Rwanda, elections belong to the recent past. They took place in 2004, but in a different way from those in the DRC and Burundi. Rwanda decidedly follows a path of its own. Moreover, in 2005, the Rwandan authorities continued their campaign against 'divisionism and genocidal' ideology, which at times were equated with opposition to government policies or the governing party.

"In Rwanda, elections belong to the recent past."

Meanwhile, for JRS Grands Lacs, it was a year of strategic planning. After months of work, meetings and evaluations, a 78-page document *Strategic Planning, JRS Grands Lacs, 2006 – 2008* was completed. In all, more than one hundred members of the region actively participated in its production. They left the meeting with a greater understanding of our service to refugees, a greater feeling of belonging to JRS Grands Lacs and more aware of our mission and values.

Joaquin Ciervide SJ,  
JRS Grands Lacs Director

Sylvie Clement





## BURUNDI

### JRS projects in Burundi

#### income-generating / training

**KIYANGE** The projects in Kiyange were established to assist persons displaced by the war. JRS established a production and training centre, not only to provide them with skills but also to offer them a chance to earn a living. In 2005, JRS provided technical skills training to 53 displaced persons and assisted 54 to manage agricultural, sewing, tannery, carpentry, restaurant and bakery co-operatives.

**BUTERERE** JRS organised practical skills training for 318 individuals in a variety of activities, such as weaving, tailoring, embroidery and farming to start their own small businesses.

**BUJUMBURA** Initiated in 2005, JRS assisted 40 urban Congolese refugees to start small businesses. Two hundred Congolese students were provided with remedial classes and 22 young people benefited from skills training in activities such as sewing, welding and information technology.

#### education

**KIYANGE** In 2005, JRS continued to support pre-school school education for 252 children. In addition, the team financially supported the construction of 24 houses and eight latrines, as well as regularly organised sports and cultural activities.

**MUYINGA** This project began in September 2005. JRS initiated the reconstruction of five primary schools. It also started the necessary planning to provide training for teachers and started remedial classes for the students, many of whom had missed out on their education due to the war.

**BUTERERE** In 2005, JRS provided remedial classes for 116 primary school students, because many needed additional classes to make up for what they had missed as a result of the war. Adult literacy classes were also provided to 34 students, and sports and cultural activities were regularly organised.

#### health / general assistance

**BUJUMBURA** Initiated in 2002, in collaboration with the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), this JRS project continued to serve approximately 8,000 urban Congolese refugees living in the Bujumbura area. The health centre provided medical assistance to some 35 refugees per day. Follow-up assistance was provided to cases requiring hospitalisation or other assistance. JRS also provided assistance to 80 Congolese HIV/AIDS sufferers, as well as accommodation and financial support to 53 refugee students attending a nearby Congolese secondary school. Initiated in 2000, JRS continued its HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment projects. In collaboration with local parishes, a mobile team co-ordinated the activities of 20 shift teams to create awareness of HIV/AIDS. In 2005, the teams reached more than 100,000 people. They also provided psychosocial support to persons taking HIV tests and provided medical and food assistance, as well as organising social events for 1,994 HIV positive individuals.

**KIYANGE** In 2005, the JRS health centre provided treatment to approximately 100 patients per day. The team in Kiyange also supplied humanitarian assistance to 108 of the most vulnerable displaced persons.

**BUTERERE** In 2005, JRS provided psychological support to 110 patients, and offered regular assistance to 104 vulnerable, war-affected individuals. The JRS Buterere team also provided food and psychosocial support to prisoners held in Bujumbura and Romonge.

Burundi



JRS Grands Lacs



## JRS projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo

### health

**BARINGA, LUBUMBASHI** In 2005, after having reconstructed the hospital destroyed during the war and trained its personnel, JRS support to the hospital ended. In 2005, the team supported the monthly provision of medical services, including the provision of hospital services to 196 persons, doctors' visits to 2,350, 38 operations and 18 childbirth deliveries.

**LUBUMBASHI** The project focuses on the most vulnerable (the sick, malnourished children, elderly, pregnant women and orphans) and those in need of medical care. In the health clinic, assistance was made available to more than 1,500 persons.

### education

**LUBUMBASHI, KISANGANI, KONGOLO, MANONO** Both the Kisangani and KongoLO projects, initiated in 2003 and 2004 respectively, promoted primary education in 14 schools for 5,220 children in 2005. The team carried out maintenance and reconstruction of war-damaged schools, provided school materials and salaries to teachers, evaluated children's academic performance and conducted teacher-training sessions. The teams also organised remedial classes for war-affected students. In September 2005, JRS began planning to open a new similar project with five primary schools. In Lubumbashi, JRS provided education from pre-school to secondary level. The new school year began with 77 pre-school, 343 primary, and 112 secondary level students.

### general assistance / income-generating

**KINSHASA** JRS financially assisted vulnerable displaced individuals in three camps near Kinshasa to meet their basic needs and cultivate the land. Last year, JRS, with the support of UN Development Programme, assisted 1,431 persons to return home. The remaining 1,539 were financially assisted to integrate into life in the capital. Health and education assistance was also made available.

**LUBUMBASHI** In 2004, the displaced families began returning to their regions of origin. Of the 1,539 individuals who were there at the start of 2005, 549 returned home and the rest received assistance from JRS to integrate into life in the city. JRS also provided psychosocial, financial and other support to 400 vulnerable individuals to meet basic needs and cultivate the land.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

## JRS projects in Rwanda

### education

**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 over 30,000 ethnic Tutsi Congolese who fled in 1996 and have lived in the two UNHCR camps ever since. In 2005, JRS managed schools offering pre-pre-school, primary and the first three years of secondary education to 11,145 refugee children. JRS also sponsored 314 refugee children to finish their secondary education in schools outside the camps.

### vocational education

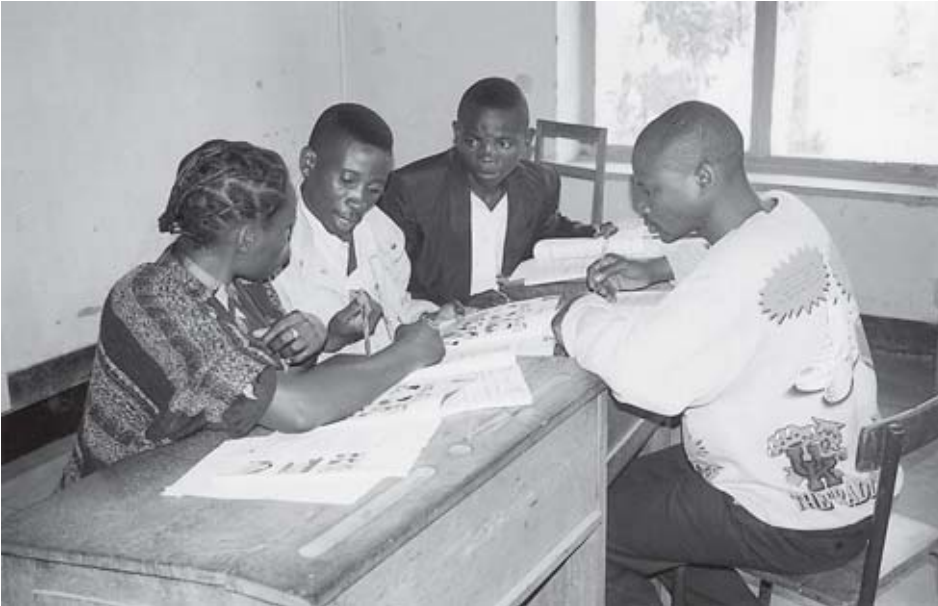
**KIZIBA, GIHEMBE** In 2005, JRS provided 365 refugees with skills training in a variety of trades, such as tailoring, sewing and carpentry, and literacy classes for 279 students.

### assistance / cultural

**KIZIBA, GIHEMBE** These projects provided medical, food and other assistance to 1,055 vulnerable refugees, including the elderly, the sick, people with disabilities and orphans. JRS continued to provide pastoral care to the Christian communities, as well as socio-cultural activities for the refugees, in both camps.



RWANDA



JRS Grands Laes

Primary school teachers in receipt of on-the-job training, Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo



Alberto Plaza SJ/JRS

Construction of JRS-financed co-operatives, Bujumbura, Burundi

Kiziba camp, Kibuye, Rwanda



Lolín Menéndez RSCJ



# SOUTHERN AFRICA

Malawi

Widespread drought throughout southern Africa in 2005 contributed to continuing food scarcity, hunger and economic deterioration felt in most countries of the region. Affordable social services, access to education, and the availability of safe and secure housing continued to lie beyond the reach of most people. Government policies generally failed to address these needs and consequently, in South Africa and Zimbabwe, they led to civic unrest and the displacement of large numbers of people. Pandemic HIV/AIDS rates of more than 30 percent aggravated the effects of such inaction.

Throughout the region, hostility towards refugees grew. Host country governments and officials of the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) increased pressure on Rwandans and remaining Angolans to return home. Local integration of those unwilling to return home was not being offered. Moreover, many asylum seekers continued to experience long delays, some for years, in refugee determination procedures. In South Africa, where xenophobia has been rising, sentiments exploded when locals rioted against foreigners and killed five Zimbabweans.

On a positive note, ceasefire agreements and the subsequent demobilisation of opposition forces in 2002 have paved the way for peace and the return home of more than 300,000 Angolan refugees. In 2005, more than 23,000 Angolan refugees were assisted to return home, and more returned unassisted. However, many stayed as the country struggled to restore destroyed infrastructure and to provide even minimal services. There were no schools in many areas and standards were quite low. Nevertheless, road reconstruction, though erratic, was taking place, de-mining continued and a plan for national education reform was underway.

However, the repatriation of Angolans, assisted by UNHCR, slowed down towards the end of 2005. Nearly 570 Angolan refugees returned home from Namibia and 17,000 from Zambia, leaving approximately 5,000 in camps in Namibia and 26,000 in camps and settlements in Zambia. Although UNHCR-assisted repatriation to Angola ended in December, the UN agency continued to support the re-integration of returnees and internally displaced persons.

Improvements in the humanitarian situation in parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and in Burundi were such that UNHCR and governments in the region began drawing up plans to facilitate the repatriation of Congolese and Burundian refugees in 2006. In fact, the flow of refugees into the region substantially decreased in 2005. At the end of 2005, less than 20,000 refugees, mainly from the Grands Lacs region, were living in Namibia and Malawi. However, conflict and unrest continued in eastern DRC and renewed violence could lead to new refugee flows.

“...conflict...in eastern DRC...could lead to new refugee flows.”

The trafficking of young girls and women is a growing concern in the region. While engaged in an exercise to determine the number of unaccompanied children within a refugee camp, JRS Malawi discovered some of the refugee girls were being sold into Zambia and beyond. This and the exploitation of young workers have emerged as issues requiring serious attention by JRS. Other regional advocacy priorities were freedom of movement, local integration, education, voluntary repatriation and food security.

Joanne Whitaker RSM,  
JRS Southern Africa Director



Dana Vaughn-Mgunda/JRS



## ANGOLA

### JRS projects in Angola

#### education

##### **LUANDA, CALAI, CAZOMBO, LUAO, LUENA, LUMBALA N'GUIMBO, NEGAGE**

Teacher training and supervision continued to be important components of JRS projects. In 2005, JRS organised more than 40 meetings and seminars for teachers, and regularly visited 16 schools to supervise and monitor the performance of the teachers and students. More than 10,000 children and 80 teachers received school materials. More than 50 teachers were hired and trained to provide Portuguese language and literacy classes to over 12,000 children and adults. The local communities, i.e. beneficiaries, helped to build 22 classrooms. In 2005, in Calia, on the Angolan side of the border with Namibia, JRS opened a new type of collaborative project. JRS staff from Angola and Namibia worked together to provide Portuguese language classes, as well as literacy and numeracy courses to 1,773 children and adult returnees, and members of the local population. The teams also supplied training to JRS teachers and school materials to the teachers and students.

#### peace education / advocacy

**LUANDA, CAZOMBO, LUAO, LUMBALA N'GUIMBO, NEGAGE** JRS negotiated with the local government in the capital, Luanda, to allocate land to internally displaced persons (IDPs) who had been living there for over ten years in sub-standard conditions. More than 20 seminars were offered in conflict resolution, human rights and citizenship. In Cazombo, peace education seminars were held for 50 representatives from 12 churches, the army, members of local administrations, women's associations and the youth section of the ruling political party, the MPLA. A weekly peace programme was also organised for young people and children. In Luao, 17 communities, and more than 120 community and religious leaders, received training on conflict resolution, human rights, national legislation on land, the re-integration of displaced persons and domestic violence. In Negage, 220 community leaders attended peace education seminars and 50 newly recruited teachers received training on human rights. JRS also broadcast weekly radio programmes on human rights issues.

#### general assistance / community development / income-generating

**CAZOMBO, LUAO, LUENA** In Cazombo, 121 beneficiaries received training in horticulture and animal husbandry and 50 beneficiaries participated in a micro-credit project. Ten convoys of returnees were received, and 53 of the most vulnerable returnees were identified and assisted. Twenty vulnerable beneficiaries received houses. In Luao, 95 beneficiaries participated in a micro-credit project. In Luena, 64 landmine survivors received food items, as well as medicine and JRS carried out follow-up home visits to each survivor. Fifty-seven landmine survivors were placed in vocational training courses, of whom 47 received training in carpentry or shoe-making and 10 in business skills training. At the end of the courses, the carpentry and shoe-making graduates received kits and tools to begin work.

Angola



JRS Southern Africa

## JRS projects in Namibia

### education

**OSIRE & KASAVA camps** In 2005, 1,751 primary and 549 secondary students attended school at Osire. JRS recruited 71 primary and secondary teachers from the refugee community and provided them with teacher training programmes. Nearly 1,600 young people participated in activities such as the Boys' and Girls' Clubs which encourage them, particularly the girls, to remain in school and to adopt healthier lifestyles. About 4,000 members of the Osire community made use of the library to carry out school and cultural activities. The primary school at Kasava closed in July when the camp closed following the repatriation of the refugees.

### protection / advocacy

**OSIRE** JRS lobbied the government to process applications for refugee status more rapidly. In 2005, the national refugee committee processed 731 applications. This was a significant improvement compared to the period from 2001 to 2004 when only 209 applications were reviewed.



# NAMIBIA

## JRS projects in Malawi

### education

**DZALEKA & LUWANI camps** As the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) implementing partner for refugee education since 2002, JRS particularly focused on girls' and women's education to promote independence and self-reliance. In 2005, JRS assisted 1,923 pre- and primary school students and 58 secondary students. Following the provision of training to teachers, they developed and introduced a new pre-primary curriculum. All 34 of the students who took the primary leaving certificate exam passed and 31 received placements in secondary schools. Following the introduction of weekly visits and intensive teacher training by the school headmaster and JRS staff, the quality of teaching, particularly lesson planning, improved. The JRS Africa Education Resource Person conducted an evaluation of the education programmes in both camps and JRS began implementing the recommendations in the report. In Luwani, JRS worked with the local Catholic Church to provide food for pre-school students.

**DZALEKA** JRS employed a social counsellor to visit refugee families at home. This targeted intervention, in co-operation with the teachers, led to a reduction in the student absentee rate. In 2005, collaboration continued with the World University of Canada and 13 students received language tuition to help them prepare for international English exams. The Technical, Entrepreneurial Vocational Education and Training Authority (TEVET) continued to supervise the vocational training. Sixty-two students attended the newly introduced bricklaying classes. Thirty-one students received a TEVET certificate in bricklaying and 15 in carpentry. JRS provided 20 students with computer classes and 199 with literacy classes. JRS began a campaign to identify separated and vulnerable school children. Those identified were referred to UNHCR and the Red Cross.



# MALAWI



## ZAMBIA

### JRS projects in Zambia

#### *protection / advocacy*

**NANGWESHI & MWANGE camps, LUSAKA** The JRS policy unit continued to raise awareness of refugee issues, directly benefiting 971 refugees. The activities included the organisation of a national school essay competition for Zambian children, the production of eight radio programmes and the presentation of five workshops attended by parliamentarians, religious and community leaders and local communities near the refugee camps. JRS staff continued to visit detained refugees. In 2005, the team assisted 165 detainees and its intervention resulted in the release of 93 refugees from prison. Last year, JRS withdrew from Nangweshi camp as the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) prepared to close the camp.

#### *pastoral / social services*

**MWANGE, LUSAKA** In Mwange camp in northern Zambia, JRS works closely with local NGOs and UNHCR. In 2005, the team provided pastoral services to 7,300 refugees and organised social and sports activities for 2,400 adults and young refugees. In Lusaka, the JRS Peace Centre served as a meeting place for urban refugees and a centre for pastoral activities.

#### *health / general assistance*

**NANGWESHI** JRS accompanied refugees with physical disabilities home to Angola. More than 2,800 refugees were provided with food and non-food items and medical certificates enabling them access to healthcare in Angola. JRS also provided more than 2,300 refugees with disabilities with physiotherapy services and prostheses, as well as repairing damaged prostheses.

#### *income-generating / vocational training*

**NANGWESHI, LUSAKA** JRS assisted 145 beneficiaries to become self-reliant by providing them with the training and support necessary to start businesses. The training provided included tailoring, radio repair and carpentry, as well as classes in marketing, basic business studies, French and English.



## SOUTH AFRICA

### JRS projects in South Africa

#### *education*

**JOHANNESBURG, PRETORIA** In 2005, JRS advocated on behalf of, and financially assisted, 440 pre-school, primary and secondary children, including children with special needs, to attend school, and obtained school fee exemptions for 200 students. JRS and the Department of Education also provided workshops to refugee parents concerning their role in the education of their children.

#### *emergency assistance*

**JOHANNESBURG, PRETORIA** In 2005, JRS provided 2,343 new arrivals and vulnerable refugees with short-term accommodation, and food and non-food assistance. The beneficiaries were also offered psychosocial assessments and, where necessary, were referred to a trauma clinic. The unaccompanied children were placed in care, and guardians were selected and provided with training.

#### *income-generating / community development*

**JOHANNESBURG, PRETORIA** JRS offered business training and small loans to 41 refugees, enabling them to establish small businesses. The team also provided managerial and other support to 10 refugee-run organisations.

#### *health*

**JOHANNESBURG, PRETORIA** JRS assisted 321 refugees to access medical care, including the purchase of medicines and other related expenses. JRS also advocated on behalf of 60 refugee families for reduced fees at government hospitals.



## JRS projects in Zimbabwe

### material & food assistance

**TONGOGARA camp, HARARE Transit Centre, EPWORTH** JRS distributed basic food items to 13,000 refugees and clothing to more than 800. JRS also provided blankets, food and transport assistance to Zimbabweans displaced by the government Operation Restore Order programme.

### education / health

**CHECHECHE, HARARE, MUTARE, TONGOGARA** JRS provided financial assistance and school uniforms to 31 primary and secondary students, as well as seeds to grow food for their families. Forty-eight refugees were also given vocational scholarships in Mutare and Harare and sewing classes in Tongogara. In Harare, JRS provided medicine to 21 refugees and supplementary food to 37 refugees on special diets.

### income-generating / social services / community development

**TONGOGARA** JRS provided loans to 17 refugees to start small businesses. The repayment rate on the loans was impressive. JRS also negotiated an agreement with the National Art Gallery in Harare to provide a market for the refugees' craft work. JRS continued to make the library available to the refugees in this rural camp, and financially supported six refugees to help keep the camp clean.



## JRS projects in Mozambique

### pastoral / advocacy

**MAPUTO, NAMPULA** In 2005, JRS continued to build the capacity of the Mozambican Bishop's Conference (CEMIRDE) to undertake refugee-related advocacy work. Pastoral outreach initiatives continued to operate in 15 parishes, benefiting 760 refugees in Maputo. Individuals working in four parishes in Maputo received training on refugee-related issues. Consequently, the creation of local refugee committees was proposed. Advocacy work, benefiting 5,250 refugees in Maratane camp in Nampula and 760 refugees in Maputo, also began. Staff worked on providing documentation and other assistance to 90 refugees, as well as successfully assisting undocumented Ethiopian migrants living in camps. A database of refugees was created and the project helped to promote co-operation between UNHCR, the Mozambican Institute for Refugees in Nampula and CEMIRDE. JRS gradually handed over responsibility for the work to CEMIRDE, and left Mozambique at the end of November.



Lolín Menéndez RSCJ/JRS



Braille course,  
Nangweshi, Zambia



Jenny Cafiso/JRS

Zambia



Umudzi Katubza  
primary school,  
Dzaleka refugee  
camp, Malawi

Johannesburg, South Africa



Mark Raper S.J./JRS



While momentous progress was made in achieving stable transition in Liberia in 2005, economic decline and political instability reigned in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.

"...the peaceful democratic election of the first woman president in Africa..."

Over 200,000 displaced Liberians returned home last year. By the year's end 40,000 refugees remained in Guinea, though the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) expected the rate of their repatriation to increase in the coming months.

They informed JRS Guinea that next year's

partner contracts would only be funded until July 2006, a clear statement of their intent to leave. The most significant event, however, was the peaceful democratic election of the first woman president in Africa, Ellen Sirleaf-Johnson, as President of Liberia. Given her depth of experience, much is expected of her presidency. The issues needing redress are vast. For instance, teachers, when they are paid, receive circa \$20 per month, the price of a 50kg bag of rice. After 14 years of war and emigration of the country's best and brightest, it is critical to the development and stability of Liberia that quality education is established. The continued involvement of the international community will also play an essential role in the reconstruction effort. Although Liberia remained the recipient of the world's largest UN peacekeeping force of around 16,000, reductions are expected next year.

The poor health of Guinean President, Lansana Conté, added to concerns over a non-peaceful transfer of power. December's municipal elections had promised to deliver credibility to the government. However, despite agreement to thoroughly revise the electoral list, open the airwaves to the opposition, and establish a truly independent electoral commission, little was achieved. Consequently, the results meant little, and concern over the transfer of political power remained a destabilising factor. Further, the social, economic and political situation continued to deteriorate to a point where Guinea risks becoming Africa's next failed state.

In N'Zérékoré, base for JRS Guinea's projects, electricity, water and even the mobile phone network were largely inoperative. Its unrelenting economic decline was compounded by a devaluation of Guinea's currency of over 50 percent.

"...Guinea risks becoming Africa's next failed state..."

However, Côte d'Ivoire is the country of greatest disappointment. Over 10,000 UN and French peacekeeping forces continued to police the zone running across the country, dividing the government-controlled south and the rebel-held north. Despite repeated international mediation, largely from South Africa, elections scheduled for 30 October were not held. The UN extended the mandate of President Laurent Gbagbo for another year. He was charged with the appointment of an interim government of national unity to oversee the disarmament of government-backed militias and the rebels, and future elections. The flight of over 7,000 French nationals,

attacked for their perceived support for the rebels, exacerbated an already sharp economic decline. This situation was worse in the north, which experienced sporadic blackouts and water shortages. Interestingly, the government has provided these services free since 2002. Moreover, public dissent in Côte d'Ivoire's armed forces and an increased presence of heavy military in the country's economic capital, Abidjan, caused concerns over security and dampened hopes for the future.

Mateo Aguirre SJ,  
JRS West Africa Director



Josep Sugranyes SJ/JRS



## JRS projects in Côte d'Ivoire

### education

**MAN** The inability of families to pay for schooling, the flight of teachers, the lack of education infrastructure and general insecurity all contributed to a difficult situation for children in rebel-held territory. In response, JRS provided school supplies to 550 students in five schools, of whom 35 received scholarships. JRS also established vocational training and general education projects for 150 vulnerable adolescent girls and young mothers, many of whom were assaulted by soldiers.

### health

**BOUAKÉ** JRS continued to provide health services to the rural areas surrounding the de facto rebel capital. A reprise in hostilities for three months last year led to a suspension of the project. Once restarted, JRS carried out nearly 9,300 medical consultations from its four centres.

**MAN** Thanks to the re-opening of some clinics in the Man area, JRS withdrew from four of its eight centres over the course of 2005. Despite this reduction, over 44,600kg of rice were distributed and more than 4,000 medical consultations were carried out.

**BOUAKÉ** The number of AIDS cases increased during the war, mainly in the rebel-held territory. Consequently, the team, in close collaboration with members of the Muslim community, undertook an AIDS awareness campaign reaching nearly 2,500 individuals in schools, parishes and mosques. Staff carried out nearly 600 HIV tests, nearly 800 medical consultations and over 120 home visits to those living with HIV. An integrated AIDS prevention, training and assistance project was also established for 300 vulnerable women.



## JRS projects in Guinea

### education / training

**LAINÉ camp, KOUANKAN II camp** JRS organised vocational training courses, such as carpentry and in computers, for 750 refugees. The non-formal education project provided training, including Braille and sign language, to around 100 refugees with disabilities. Also, a training and personal skills project targeted 250 refugee adolescents-at-risk. In Kouankan II camp, JRS provided vocational training courses to 250 Ivorian adolescents, such as sewing, carpentry and hair-dressing.

### social / cultural services

**LAINÉ** In 2005, hundreds of Liberian refugees returned home, reducing the camp population to less than 23,000. From the JRS-managed departure centre, refugees were helped with the paper work and logistical details of their repatriation, and vulnerable returnees were offered counselling. Additionally, JRS offered pastoral and material support to nearly 1,750 vulnerable refugees, and pre-school services and lunches to 150 mothers of young children. Approximately a quarter of the camp population also benefited from sports and cultural activities, such as films and drama performances, for young and vulnerable refugees.

### income-generating

**LAINÉ** After graduating from the vocational training courses, JRS provided 100 business start-up kits to refugee alumni and nearly 200 loans.

### community development

**KOLOUMA** To help stabilise market prices, JRS operated four 'seed banks', buying rice seeds on the international market and selling them back to 3,000 farming families in 23 villages. The bank proceeds helped support a vocational training centre for 20 young single mothers.

## JRS projects in Liberia

### community development / education

**MONSERRADO & BONG COUNTIES** Education projects are increasingly important as Liberians rebuild their lives. In early 2005, 57 JRS teachers working in IDP camps in Monserrado county gave literacy classes to 923 adults, 48 teachers instructed 2,875 primary school students, and 60 teachers ran vocational training courses for 1,303 displaced persons. In Bong county's camp for internally displaced persons (IDP), a staff of 38 gave literacy classes to 592 adults, 280 teachers provided primary education to 13,500 students, and 790 IDPs undertook vocational training. In mid-2005, JRS closed its education projects as over 200,000 people returned to their home counties. Despite the closure of IDP camps, many chose not to return home. Consequently, JRS supported school reconstruction in both Monserrado (10 schools) and Bong (10 schools) counties. This programme benefited 218 teachers and 8,217 students, representing 20 percent of the student population in both districts.

**LOFA & NIMBA COUNTIES** JRS accompanied the returnees to Lofa and Nimba counties to offer assistance in two reconstruction projects. In Lofa county, JRS monitored the World Food Programme (WFP) school meals programme in 46 schools for nearly 17,000 students and began rebuilding a school for 700 students. It also established a pilot school farms project in two schools to supplement nearly 1,100 students' diets and act as a source of income for school maintenance. In Nimba county, JRS assisted the local community to rebuild three schools for 1,400 students and 43 teachers. Moreover, 60 vulnerable returnee families benefited from new shelters, and 450 families were assisted re-establishing 16 agricultural community-based organisations.

### training / income-generating

**SACLEPEA camp** JRS provided vocational training and support for income-generating activities for 150 Ivorian refugees.



# LIBERIA

Renaud de Villaine/JRS



Camp for internally displaced persons, Salala, Liberia



Mark Harrington/JRS

Vocational training course, Lainé, Guinea



Robert Boedeker/JRS

JRS mobile  
health clinic,  
Bouaké,  
northern  
Côte d'Ivoire

JRS school reconstruction project, Tappita, Liberia



Renaud de Villaine/JRS



Throughout the region, the thrust of government policy was to reduce the number of refugees living in their territories.

In Australia, the spontaneous arrival of asylum seekers decreased partly due to increased border control, meanwhile the number of refugees resettled from third countries remained fairly constant at 13,500. Serious shortcomings in Australia's immigration policy materialised as two Australian citizens, presumed irregular migrants, were wrongly deported and detained respectively. These and similar cases led to demands for changes to the migration act. The government complied and accelerated the issuance of temporary protection visas, barred the detention of children in all but exceptional cases, and obliged regular reporting to an ombudsman of those detained for more than two years. However, core policy concerns persisted: the mandatory detention of offshore asylum and temporary protection applicants and employment prohibitions for certain visa holders. The privatisation of aspects of the refugee resettlement programme raised concerns from refugee advocates.

In Cambodia, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) signed a controversial tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Cambodian and Vietnamese governments to intensify efforts to find durable solutions for Montagnards in Cambodia's temporary camps. All parties agreed to expedite the resettlement of refugees to third countries and forcibly or voluntarily to repatriate those unwilling to be resettled and those not in need of international protection back to Vietnam. Human rights groups voiced the concerns of refugees being forcibly deported. Returnees reported being subjected to violence by the Vietnamese authorities and described the UNHCR monitoring visits as inadequate. Excessive force used to deport 94 Vietnamese and seven Cambodians was also strongly condemned by human rights groups and the media. A promised review of the MOU in 2005 did not materialise.

In Indonesia, the signing of a peace treaty in August 2005 between the Indonesian Government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) ended almost 30 years of bloody conflict. The death of some 200,000, disappearance of nearly 130,000 and displacement of over 415,000 caused by the tsunami left the government and NGOs with a huge reconstruction task. Nevertheless, gradual advances were being realised. Then in March, a big earthquake struck the island of Nias, causing further damage to the islands' infrastructure and economy. In post-conflict Moluccas, due to the improved climate of peace and changes in government policy, many displaced persons returned to their homes assisted by the government and NGOs. JRS ended its operation in the Moluccas in December 2005.

In Thailand, Burmese UNHCR-recognised refugees living in urban areas were required to report to camps in March. Later, the Thai government initiated measures to recognise previously unregistered refugees, making them eligible for protection and resettlement, while steps to resettle Burmese refugees were hastened. There were no signs that the political, economic and social situation in Burma would improve. The Thai government affirmed the right of all children to receive an education regardless of their legal status; and despite prohibiting camp refugees from working, it asked NGOs to provide increased vocational training for them. JRS urban refugee caseloads, largely Laotian, Nepalese and Cambodian, increased significantly.

"In Indonesia...a peace treaty...ended almost 30 years of bloody conflict."

Bernard Arputhasamy SJ,  
JRS Asia Pacific Director



JRS Indonesia



## JRS projects in Australia

### **advocacy / public awareness**

JRS continued to monitor Australia's refugee and asylum programme. In particular, JRS began research on complementary protection for those who do not qualify for refugee status, aspects of detention policy and border policies. The team also implemented projects in schools and parishes to raise awareness of refugee and asylum issues locally.

### **accompaniment / assistance**

JRS provided pastoral and practical assistance to detained asylum seekers in Sydney and Melbourne. It offered accommodation and other assistance to 12 vulnerable and destitute asylum seekers, and identified refugee children and helped to place them in schools providing scholarships.

### **overseas assistance**

Eight volunteers were recruited and provided with pre-departure training for work in JRS projects in eastern Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America. The volunteers received financial assistance and a debriefing session upon return. Particular financial support was given to JRS Indonesia for tsunami-related projects. Joint awareness-raising and fundraising activities were undertaken to support JRS Indonesia.



## JRS projects in Cambodia

### **social / legal assistance**

**PHNOM PENH** JRS provided social and legal assistance to 105 refugees and asylum seekers from various Asian and African countries. JRS monitored the UNHCR refugee status determination procedure and represented asylum seekers at appeal stage. JRS also provided social assistance to 900 Montagnard Vietnamese refugees. JRS volunteers provided them with psychosocial and education assistance and also acted as legal interpreters.

### **advocacy**

JRS acted as the lead agency for the Cambodian campaign to ban landmines and produced the Cambodian landmine monitor report, and participated in various international fora to ban landmines while increasing funding provided to survivors. It also participated in meetings on the proposed international tribunal on the Khmer Rouge, and offered its Banteay Prieb centre to the survivors of the genocide during the trial period. JRS publicly condemned the aggressive deportation of unsuccessful Montagnard asylum seekers, and was subsequently excluded from working in the Montagnard refugee sites.

Thailand  
teacher  
training



Maureen Lohrey RSM



## JRS projects in Thailand

### detention / medical

Although overcrowded, the population of the immigration detention centres (IDC) dropped significantly in 2005, with fewer immigrants being held for more than a year. In consultation with the Thai government, a NGO project in the IDC led to the opening of an exercise yard in the Suan Phlu IDC, as well as a small shop. A JRS-supported full-time nurse and a part-time doctor received 15,938 detainee patient visits. JRS assisted 457 detainees, providing tickets for those without resources, to return home.



# THAILAND

### education / accompaniment

**MAE HONG SON camps** JRS continued to build the capacity of the Karenni Education Department (KnED) and assisted the KnED to manage primary and secondary schools, a special education programme, a school-based vocational training programme and a 2-year teacher training course. In 2005, following a non-formal vocational training needs assessment, JRS decided to support a new home school liaison programme for potential early school leavers and their families. In total, JRS assisted 7,100 children and 400 teachers. After 20 years, many Burmese Karenni refugees were offered an opportunity to resettle to third countries. Departures will begin in 2006. JRS continued to support pastoral activities for over 6,700 Catholics, such as the new family friendship groups to increase the sense of community in the camps. Through close contact with refugees, vulnerable individuals were identified and assisted.

**RANONG** In 2005, the Thai government publicly reaffirmed the right of all children, regardless of their legal status, to receive an education. JRS continued to assist Burmese children, mainly Mon Burmese, who wished to attend Thai schools. Last year, 900 children and 17 teachers were assisted.

### social assistance / income-generating

**THAI-BURMA BORDER** JRS continued to provide emergency and material assistance to Burmese Shan refugees, as well as support for their community-based schools. Significant improvements were made to two houses for unaccompanied children. Following government restrictions on employment, JRS expanded its income-generating activities. In 2005, over 2,000 refugees were assisted.

### urban programme / advocacy

**BANGKOK** Substantial changes took place last year. UNHCR-recognised urban Burmese refugees were required to report to border camps or lose their right to resettlement, UNHCR subsistence allowances to refugees were reduced by 30 percent and strict new guidelines on further aid were imposed. The number of JRS-assisted asylum seekers and Burmese refugees increased to 6,200, including 1,800 children.

JRS Thailand acted as the co-ordinator for the Thai and international campaign to ban landmines. As such, JRS participated in a number of international conferences and worked closely with the Thai government to implement the UN treaty to ban landmines. JRS also organised workshops to promote awareness on landmines to 24 Shan refugees, including healthcare and camp officials, and teachers.



## JRS projects in Indonesia

### *emergency / general assistance*

**ACEH/SUMATRA, NIAS, MOLUCCAS ISLANDS** In Aceh, in the aftermath of the tsunami, JRS distributed 1,500 body bags and basic necessities to 7,120 internally displaced persons (IDPs). Over 350 permanent and temporary buildings, including houses and businesses, were built, another 53 were in progress. JRS supplied 35 boats, fishing tools for 117 individuals, and small loans to 100 IDPs to establish small businesses. JRS also assisted pre-tsunami IDPs, with relocation allowances, affordable education and scholarships for 216 pre-school students. It also supported medical treatment for 5,146 persons, as well as supplementary food assistance to 1,809 children and pregnant women. In the aftermath of the Nias earthquake, 10,530 families received basic necessities. In Moluccas Islands, JRS assisted 30 returnees to obtain houses, and provided 1,110 returnee and IDP families with accommodation, transportation and basic necessities.

### *healthcare / education*

**ACEH/SUMATRA, MOLUCCAS** In Aceh, JRS referred 68 patients to hospitals and provided 18,244 with medical treatment. Supplementary food aid and personal hygiene information was given to 5,642 children, as was trauma counselling to 178 teachers. In Nias, 16,169 persons received healthcare services. JRS gave school packs to 17,476 students, employed 179 assistant teachers and provided 427 scholarships. In Moluccas islands, medical assistance was provided to vulnerable refugees, while 844 children also received monthly supplementary food aid. Public latrines and drinking water facilities were installed for 185 families. Healthcare education was provided to 1,500 IDPs and trauma counselling was given to 120 IDPs. Nearly 830 children were provided with formal education classes, while another 480 children were given additional lessons. Nearly 370 books were made available to 458 students, 12 tutors and nine teachers. Financial assistance was given to nine students, whereas school materials were provided to all students. Workshops to promote self-employment were also provided to 50 IDP women.

### *support to local NGOs / advocacy*

**ACEH/SUMATRA, MOLUCCAS** In Aceh, JRS provided financial support and training on writing project proposals and evaluations to eight local NGOs. It facilitated the flow of information between local and international NGOs and participated in NGO/UN co-ordination meetings. It continued to raise issues of concern in the media, regularly updated its website and published its newsletter, Refugee. Additionally, JRS began work on producing a film on tsunami survivors and their struggle to rebuild their lives. In the Moluccas, JRS launched a book and a documentary on education and women. In co-operation with several international development NGOs, JRS organised a number of awareness-raising events. It also published regular information updates and newsletters.

### *peace building / income-generating activities / social services*

**MOLUCCAS** JRS facilitated reconciliation meetings between host communities and IDPs prior to their return. It supported activities, including peace-building workshops and traditional reception ceremonies for returnees. By mid-June, nearly 8,000 IDPs families had returned home. JRS provided workshops to 70 IDP and returnee families on establishing small businesses, while 153 returnee and IDP families received start-up capital. It helped 1,500 IDPs obtain transportation assistance, housing materials and food items from the local government, in addition to providing sports equipment to host communities.

## JRS projects in Singapore

### *fundraising / awareness-raising*

Twenty volunteers, 19 lay and one Jesuit, undertook fundraising activities for JRS projects in Asia Pacific and South Asia, as well as awareness-raising activities in Singapore. They organised a visit to northwestern Thailand for church and JRS staff, undertook fundraising activities to support income-generating activities and funded 10 scholarships for Shan Burmese refugees. To mark World Refugee Day, the team organised a Eucharistic celebration to raise awareness among local church members on refugee issues, as well as to raise funds for JRS projects. In collaboration with the Order of Malta, JRS Singapore financially assisted JRS Indonesia to rebuild 300 houses, and to provide 47 fishing and transport boats for tsunami survivors. Another house building project was in progress. Beyond the Asia Pacific region, JRS Singapore provided financial assistance to Bhutanese refugees living in camps in eastern Nepal. JRS assisted a pre-school for children between 3 and 6 years old, which fostered the children's socialisation skills. It also provided the refugee children with education and healthcare services, as well as support to their parents. In addition, JRS financially supported a training centre for counsellors and students to finish their last two years of secondary school.



SINGAPORE

JRS Indonesia



After the tsunami JRS provided financial assistance to fishing families to buy boats, Kruang Raya Aceh, Indonesia



Lluís Magriñà SJ/JRS

Aceh, Indonesia



Cambodia

Karen refugee, Thailand



JRS Thailand



# SOUTH ASIA

Internally  
displaced  
children,  
Mannar,  
Sri Lanka

In general, 2005 was a tragic year for many in South Asia with the tsunami in December 2004 leaving an indelible mark on the region. In India and Sri Lanka more than 35,000 people died in the disaster and thousands of others were rendered homeless. Political violence and human rights abuses continued to plague both Nepal and Sri Lanka with terrible consequences for forcibly displaced Bhutanese people in Nepal and Sri Lankans at home and in India.

However, there were rays of hope as India and Pakistan continued peace talks over disputed Kashmir. In April, the governments launched a bus service between Indian- and Pakistani-held Kashmir allowing separated families to meet. After a devastating earthquake in October 2005, killing tens of thousands in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, India sent relief materials and offered other assistance. Moreover, peace efforts contributed to a noticeable decline in violence. India withdrew some troops from Indian-administered Kashmir and promised more demilitarisation if violence was controlled. Yet violence continued and accountability remained a serious problem.

The human rights situation in Nepal worsened significantly in 2005. On 1 February, King Gyanendra dismissed the civilian government, allegedly to tackle the nine-year Maoist insurgency. Despite the king's pledge to resolve the conflict, it continued unabated until September 2005, when Maoist rebels declared a unilateral ceasefire. Consequently, negotiations between the Bhutanese and Nepalese governments over the repatriation of Bhutanese refugees stagnated, causing more frustration in the refugee community.

"In Sri Lanka, killings reached an alarming rate...by June 2005."

In Sri Lanka, killings reached an alarming rate of one per day by June 2005. This included the assassination of former Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar in August. Torture and mistreatment continued to be a problem. Presidential elections were held on 17 November with Mahinda Rajapakse, of the ruling party, winning by a narrow margin. There was a low voter turnout at the polls in the north and the east after the LTTE rebels called on Tamils to boycott the vote. Rajapakse's candidacy was backed by hard-line Sinhala nationalist parties.

Subsequently, the LTTE and the government forces openly started violating the ceasefire agreement. In December, in the northeast of Sri Lanka, a spate of bomb attacks on the government forces were followed by arrests and accusations of mistreatment and the killing of ordinary Tamils.

The destruction caused by the tsunami and the increased ensuing violence at best delayed the hope of early return for the 54,000 Sri Lankan refugees living in 103

refugee camps in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Many lost loved ones and were unable to obtain information about their property back home. As the situation in Sri Lanka worsened, the security forces in India tightened their grip on the Sri Lankan refugee population to prevent the entry of militants and the flow of fresh refugees. The situation can improve only if LTTE and the government of Sri Lanka agree to resume peace talks.

PS Amalraj SJ,  
JRS South Asia Director

Don Doll SJ





## INDIA

### JRS projects in India

#### education

Since 1990, JRS has supported the education needs of Sri Lankan refugees in state schools throughout Tamil Nadu. JRS provided tutoring programmes in 99 tuition centres for 7,595 students with 258 teachers. They conducted six 1-day and one 6-day teacher training workshops for 222 teachers from local schools and the JRS tuition centres, in addition to funding a 5-day summer study camp for 1,320 students.

#### vocational training

JRS assisted 125 students to enrol in community colleges and technical institutes to study courses in nursing, mechanics and computer sciences, among others. JRS also provided a 6-month residential life skills course for 90 early-school-leaver girls in three centres. The students also took practical courses, including leadership skills, health and nutrition, and handcrafts.

#### social services / community development

Focused on developing the leadership skills of students and refugee camp leaders, JRS established 120 secondary school associations with over 7,000 members to undertake cultural and civic activities in their camps. JRS then conducted seven 1-day training programmes for 350 student leaders, and assisted the students to publish and distribute over 2,500 copies of a monthly magazine, *Manavar Vidiyal*. Spread out across 22 districts from 103 camps, JRS liaised with the 293 committee members and local authorities. In 2005, the committee members were provided with training on leadership skills and human rights. JRS co-ordinators continued to visit vulnerable refugees in their homes, generally providing pastoral care and psychosocial support. However, last year, they also provided financial support for 79 persons with health problems and around 100 vulnerable families.



## NEPAL

### JRS projects in Nepal

#### education

JRS continued to assist Caritas Nepal, the UN refugee agency's implementing partner, in the management and administration of 42 schools, employing 997 refugee staff and serving 35,145 students in seven camps in eastern Nepal. Over 65 percent of the students taking Nepalese state examinations passed. Workshops and seminars were provided regularly to teaching staff. Twenty-five support teachers provided additional assistance to 549 students with special needs. Over 4,240 students were supported financially to continue their higher secondary education outside the camps. In 2005, pre-school centres, employing 32 facilitators, catering for over 4,000 children, opened in all seven camps. Before the centres opened, a 5-day workshop on management skills was organised for the facilitators.

#### disability / vocational training / pastoral

JRS established seven 'opportunity centres' providing pre-vocational education to 3,333 older and underperforming students with disabilities. Two care centres for 30 people were also opened to provide respite to carers of children with severe cerebral palsy. Sign language and speech therapy classes for adults, referrals to rehabilitation centres and music therapy were provided to refugees with disabilities. Home visits to the most vulnerable were also carried out. Nine vocational training courses of between six to nine months were provided to 409 early school leavers, refugees and locals, including students with disabilities. JRS continued to extend pastoral care to the most vulnerable refugees through regular visits and the provision of financial assistance.

#### advocacy

Regular field information was provided to JRS offices worldwide to raise awareness of the Bhutanese refugee crisis. Visits from the JRS USA and Singapore staff were facilitated to raise awareness of South Asian refugee issues in their regions.

## JRS projects in Sri Lanka

### education

JRS managed nearly 380 schools and evening tuition centres employing more than 635 teachers and catering for 25,800 students. JRS support included providing school materials to 8,415 children. It gave scholarships to over 2,930 war- and tsunami-affected students to study for their immediate secondary school examinations. It also managed six orphanages catering for 102 children. Staff assisted the students to publish and distribute approximately 4,000 copies of a monthly student magazine, *Manavar Vidiyal*, and established a library for 10 villages. Some 17 displaced persons were trained to provide psychosocial counselling to 459 war- and tsunami-affected children. Over 760 teachers were provided with teacher training and 1,221 students were given career guidance support. Every two months, parent-teacher meetings were held and over 1,180 students were given leadership training at 46 centres.

### vocational training

Early school leavers, particularly girls, are offered opportunities to learn a trade which enables them to be independent. Life skills courses, including public speaking, leadership skills and some vocational courses, were facilitated by 10 teachers to 242 trainees. Nearly 500 other individuals, mainly women, were also provided with vocational training in tailoring, embroidery, carpentry etc. in 18 centres.

### income-generating

In 2005, several small income-generating projects, i.e. development units, were assisted, in particular for those employed in the agriculture and fishing sectors. Each development unit offers savings and credit facilities for their communities. Some 34 village development units offered credit to 1,645 farmers, 13 fisheries development units offered financial assistance to 515 fishermen to buy 530 boats and nets, 11 widows' development units offered small loans to 275 families and three development units offered small business loans to 243 persons with disabilities, most of whom were victims of war or landmines. JRS assisted 120 girls, who completed life skills and vocational training courses, to establish and manage 12 small businesses producing clothes for local schools and companies.

### human rights and peace awareness

Young people, teachers and parents were provided with training on human rights and peace building. Subsequently, over 4,040 participants decided to work to promote human rights and peace in their community.

### tsunami emergency relief

Some 45 volunteers, trained in psychosocial counselling, visited more than 10,460 persons in relief camps. School materials and uniforms were provided to 53,650 students. Food and non-food items were provided to over 20,000 persons. In addition, 289 wells were cleaned and 594 bicycles were given to teachers to enable them to get to work. JRS built 456 temporary and permanent houses and 48 temporary schools and training centres. It plans to build 1,500 permanent housing units. Nearly 1,260 of these returnees were financially assisted to meet their emergency needs. JRS assisted local village women to establish 23 self-help groups with 400 members.



SRI LANKA

Don Doll SJ



JRS-supported  
post-tsunami  
school  
reconstruction,  
Sri Lanka



Don Doll SJ

Post-tsunami JRS education project



Ken Gavin SJ/JRS

Children's  
play centre,  
eastern Nepal

Sri Lankan refugee, Indian state of Tamil Nadu



JRS India



# EUROPE

Germany

Three trends continued to shape the political environment in Europe throughout 2005: rising racial tensions in large cities, continuing irregular migration and declining numbers of new asylum applications (by almost 20 percent as compared to 2004).

The rejection of the EU constitutional treaty by France and the Netherlands did not halt co-operation among EU states and with third countries on asylum-related issues. The EU Council approved its action plan 2005-2009 on freedom, security and justice. In this context the EU Council adopted a directive on minimum standards on asylum procedures. JRS was relieved that a common list of so-called 'safe countries' was not established;

"...asylum seekers...risk being returned...without their protection needs being considered."

however, the possibility that states establish their own lists remained a concern. It is also a worry that the paragraph on detention is so vague that it is left to individual EU states to determine whether applicants should be allowed to remain in the country of asylum while their appeal is pending. Within the framework of the action plan, the EU Commission presented a proposal for

a directive on common standards and procedures in EU states for returning illegally resident third-country nationals, incorporating JRS' basic concerns on detention. Outside EU borders, the Commission announced plans to develop regional protection programmes to strengthen protection capacities in regions of origin. Although this approach is to be welcomed, asylum seekers passing through countries operating these programmes risk being returned to them without their protection needs being considered.

In Western Europe, the bomb attacks in London marked the beginning of the summer and the riots in several French cities marked autumn. On the southern borders of Europe, events were no less dramatic: migrants trying to reach the EU regularly drowned in the Mediterranean Sea and Africans in Morocco trying to enter the Spanish territories of Ceuta and Melilla were shot at by border guards. For the first time since the fall of the Berlin Wall, unarmed people were shot dead at an EU border.

In the face of these challenges, JRS Europe continued to work in 10 countries, focusing specifically on asylum seekers and irregular migrants held in administrative detention. JRS contact persons in Spain, Austria, France, Poland and Luxemburg carried out a number of functions, including monitoring, advocacy and fundraising. The regional office in Brussels supported and co-ordinated the work of its national offices and worked to raise public awareness with journalists and students. For instance, it implemented, in co-operation with 15 Jesuit provinces, its annual

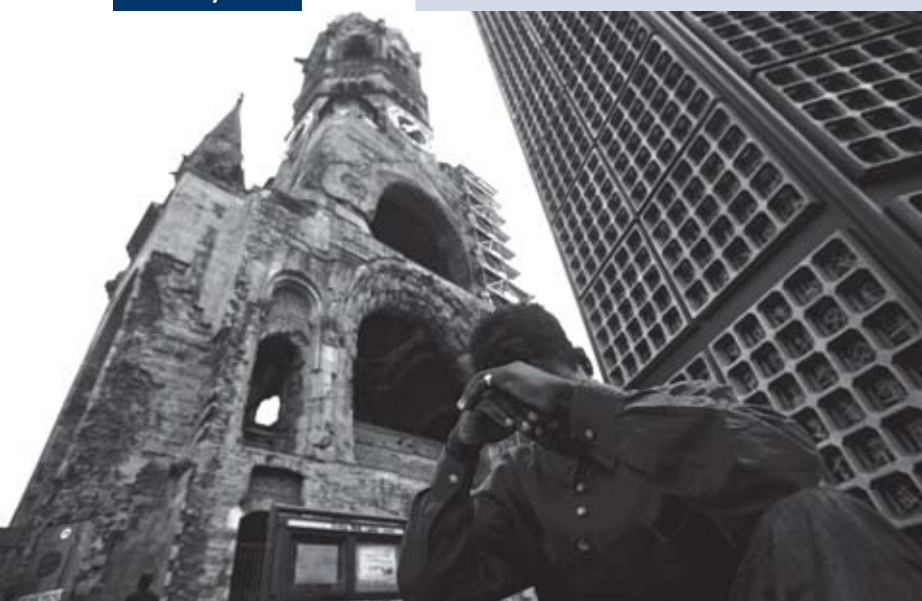
"migrants...regularly drowned in the Mediterranean Sea."

Pedro Arrupe Award for students of Jesuit schools in Europe. As a leading agency on administrative detention in Europe, JRS undertook advocacy with key politicians and research on detention policy in Europe.

According to many experts, Europe needs migrants, but it is closing its external borders to people struggling to get in from the East and from across the Mediterranean Sea. In this context, JRS defends the dignity and human rights of forced migrants coming to Europe and argues for access to fair and efficient asylum procedures.

Jan Stuyt SJ,  
JRS Europe Director

Nina Ruecker





## BELGIUM

### JRS projects in Belgium

#### **detention / advocacy**

In 2005, four JRS staff regularly visited migrant detainees in the five detention centres countrywide, providing psychosocial support and legal advice, as well as assisting them to contact their family, friends, lawyers etc. The team also co-organised, with JRS Europe, a 2-day workshop on the detention of migrants for 26 individuals working with forced migrants. In co-operation with other NGOs, JRS produced reports on the health difficulties and violence experienced by migrant detainees before or during forced deportations. In particular, JRS, in coalition with other NGOs, advocated against the detention of migrant children. The coalition issued a public statement calling for the total prohibition of their detention and organised a visit to a detention centre for 12 national politicians. On International Children's Day, drawings by children in detention were published in national newspapers. Consequently, a law imposing severe restrictions on the detention of children was proposed.

#### **separated children**

As a member of the NGO coalition '*Mineurs en Exil*', JRS continued to monitor policies and practices relating to separated children and to issue recommendations to the government. A team member also worked as a guardian for a number of separated children.

#### **awareness-raising**

On World Refugee Day, JRS co-organised with other NGOs a social event on refugee courage and cultural richness for over 1,000 participants and launched a website, [www.20june.org](http://www.20june.org), to raise awareness of refugee-related issues. It also co-organised, with Christian organisations, a 2-day retreat on *Welcoming the Foreigner* for 30 participants.



## GERMANY

### JRS projects in Germany

#### **detention**

As a member of a coalition that founded a legal aid fund in 2005, JRS provided legal assistance to 30 detainee migrants. It also distributed clothes to 170 detainees, a task later taken up by prison social workers benefiting more detainee migrants.

#### **advocacy / awareness-raising**

JRS encouraged regional state assemblies and other politicians to monitor detention centre conditions of migrants. In addition, to mark JRS' 25th anniversary, JRS Germany co-organised a public conference focusing on detention law and practice. The event attracted media coverage, in particular harsh criticism of detention by a federal court judge. The team also monitored and published reports on the implementation of the new immigration act, participated in discussions with various groups on the act, issued public statements on the Berlin authorities' denial of social assistance to forced migrants and lodged court appeals on their behalf. Further, JRS raised awareness, even on national television, of the predicament of undocumented migrants. Particularly the obligation placed on teachers in the state of Bonn to report the presence of undocumented children in schools to the authorities.

## JRS projects in Ireland

### integration

JRS Community Links Integration Project in inner city Dublin seeks to lessen the isolation of asylum seekers, refugees and other forced migrants, and facilitate interaction between them and local Irish families. Its main features include informal learning initiatives for refugee women, a summer project of social outings and a schools initiative. This latter initiative raises awareness of asylum-related issues, provides translation services for migrant parents and provides information and support to teachers. The project also offers legal advice to asylum seekers.

### detention

In 2005, JRS initiated an outreach support service to migrant women detainees. In co-operation with the JRS regional office, it arranged a visit of four members of the European parliament to the immigration detention centre. The visit coincided with the publication of the JRS Europe report, *Detention in Europe*, and as such received extensive national media coverage.

### advocacy

In partnership with the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, JRS made policy submissions to the Irish authorities on aspects of asylum and migration law and also published asylum-related articles in the Jesuit Centre journal, which was circulated to politicians, government officials, academics and church and asylum-related organisations.



IRELAND

## JRS projects in Italy

### emergency assistance

**CATANIA, PALERMO, ROME** Around 300 individuals were offered meals and use of shower facilities six days a week, and some 180 asylum seekers and refugees were provided with accommodation in the five reception centres for men, women and families.

### integration / vocational training

**PALERMO, ROME** JRS opened a centre in Rome for children's activities where refugee, Roma and Italian children are able to play and learn together in a multicultural environment. A multi-religious scout group was also set up, with encouraging results. In addition, JRS Italy offered a 5-month social work course to 29 asylum seekers and refugees, followed by an internship in a refugee-assisting organisation. English classes were organised for 150 refugees and asylum seekers in Rome and Palermo, and computer classes were provided for 10 asylum seekers and refugees in Rome.

### legal / social assistance

**CATANIA, PALERMO, ROME** JRS, with four other NGOs, established a legal advice centre in Rome allowing asylum legal case workers to co-ordinate their activities and collect meaningful data. In total, nearly 8,000 individuals were provided with legal and social counselling in the three cities and a JRS health centre assisted nearly 2,400 individuals.

### awareness-raising

Two awareness-raising projects were implemented in high schools throughout Italy: one on asylum and integration, *Finestre – Storie di Rifugiati*, the other, *Incontri*, on understanding different faiths and inter-religious dialogue. Educational material for the two projects was fully revised in 2005. Two training courses were also organised for JRS volunteers. The first was on politics, culture, and conflicts in, and testimonies from, Africa, and the second on the detention of migrants in Europe.



ITALY



## JRS projects in Malta

### *detention*

JRS offered social, psychosocial and legal assistance to detained migrants. Volunteers regularly visited the detainees distributing non-food items, teaching English and offering a library service.

### *anti-racism*

As a member of the EU-funded Diversity Strengthens programme, JRS was involved in a number of activities, such as seminars, art exhibitions and a school outreach project, to combat discrimination on the grounds of race. The school outreach project, Bridging Cultures, was so successful it will be continued and expanded to other target groups.

### *advocacy / media*

Following a national conference in early 2005, JRS was invited to participate in a taskforce on migration to formulate national policy on asylum and migration. JRS was also frequently contacted by national and international media to discuss migration across the Mediterranean and conditions in Maltese detention centres, where the media is not permitted to enter.



## JRS projects in Portugal

### *general assistance*

JRS assisted 244 migrants experiencing homelessness and health problems. It also distributed clothes and assisted migrants to find accommodation. On behalf of employers, JRS volunteers conducted nearly 2,200 interviews of job-seeking migrants, and also provided legal and general assistance to over 1,700 migrants. JRS Portugal signed a contract with the government to open a shelter for migrants after the only shelter for undocumented migrants in Lisbon closed. A team of JRS volunteers, including specialist doctors and a dentist, offered a range of medical services to nearly 80 migrants. Non-specialist volunteers also accompanied vulnerable refugees and migrants to medical appointments. Over 100 migrant doctors successfully participated in the JRS recognition of qualifications for doctors' project which ended in December. A similar project was launched for 45 migrant nurses whose qualifications were recognised in 2005.

### *awareness-raising / micro-credit*

JRS participated in several awareness-raising events, such as debates, conferences and interviews with the media, and distributed a quarterly newsletter to about 1,700 people. It also collaborated with teachers to provide 60 workshops, Footsteps of All Colours, on migration to nearly 2,900 students. JRS reached an agreement with a Portuguese state bank to establish a micro-credit project to assist migrants setting up small businesses.



## JRS projects in Romania

### *social support services*

The enlarged Pedro Arrupe Centre continued to offer temporary accommodation, for up to six months, to 71 vulnerable migrants, e.g. unsuccessful asylum applicants. The migrants were also provided with food, clothing, access to telephones to contact their families and support to prepare them to live independently. Separate accommodation was provided to another 49 migrants, made up of families and single women. Psychosocial support and counselling were made available to asylum seekers in detention and reception centres.

### *education*

JRS offered Romanian and English language courses to 680 migrants, as well as computer courses to 125. The team provided university scholarships to five refugees and sponsorships to two others to hold an art exhibition, and organised a social event for 100 participants to mark World Refugee Day.



## JRS projects in Slovenia

### outreach

The local JRS team made weekly visits to some 40 migrants held in the detention centre in Postojna and organised social events for both the detainees and the centre staff. The team also regularly visited asylum seekers living in an open reception centre. Workshops for families and women, as well as a short vacation for 20 women and children living in the centre, were also organised.

### awareness-raising

JRS Slovenia organised four seminars for 20 volunteers who worked in a reception centre for asylum seekers and in a detention centre. Twice a month, on the national Catholic radio station, JRS broadcast a programme, *Building a more Open Society*, on refugee and migration issues.

### training

Thirty-five individuals participated in two JRS seminars on stress management and interpersonal communication. Local JRS staff also co-organised, with the JRS regional office, a 2-day seminar for 20 individuals on human rights law and standards relating to the detention of asylum seekers and refugees. Special emphasis was placed on the identification of, and response to, the psychological concerns of the detainees and intercultural issues. To encourage their integration into the local community, JRS organised three computer courses for 20 refugees.



SLOVENIA

## JRS projects in UK

### detention

In 2005, JRS increased its support to detained asylum seekers with increased visits and post and telephone contact. The local JRS team also co-organised with JRS Europe a workshop on detention for 65 people.

### social assistance

Over 960 refugees and asylum seekers received psychosocial and material support from JRS. Support to asylum seekers enabled them to report to immigration offices, attend medical appointments and visit drop-in centres for hot meals.

### advocacy

JRS regularly participated in meetings with the UK government and the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) to discuss international and EU refugee protection issues. In addition, JRS UK participated in a House of Lords inquiry into common EU procedures for returning irregular migrants, and produced a short briefing document on the UK immigration and asylum bill. JRS also participated in the South London Citizens' inquiry into the facilities and practices in the asylum division of the UK Home Office.

### outreach

In 2005, JRS gave more talks and led more workshops for church and secular groups in order to raise awareness about the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. They also co-organised a 1-day conference on refugees and the environment.



UNITED KINGDOM



Francesco Cavaliere

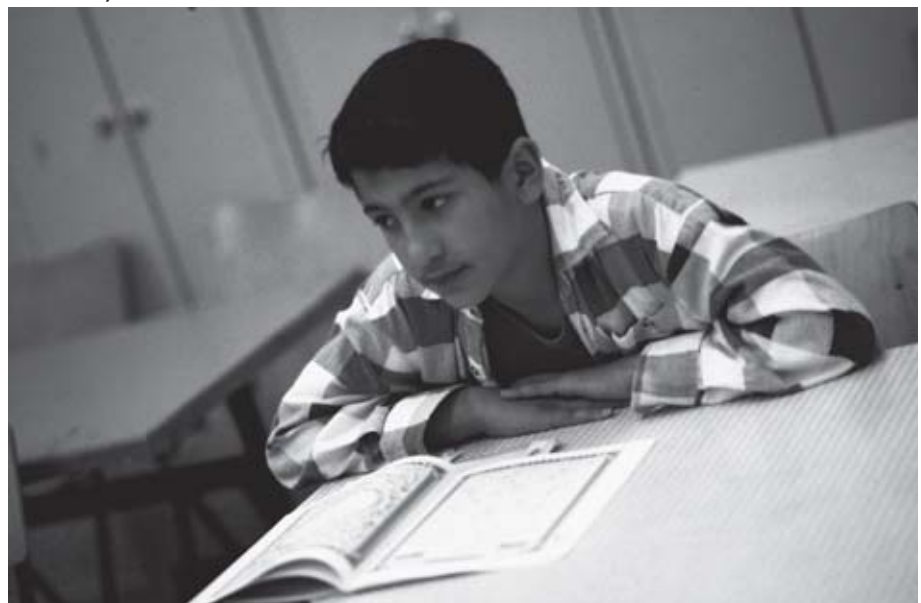
A refugee participating in a JRS skills training course, Rome, Italy



JRS Portugal

JRS-supported  
language  
classes for  
migrants,  
Portugal

Germany



Nina Ruecker

# SOUTHEAST EUROPE

JRS-supported  
landmine  
survivor,  
Bosnia

In the last decade the refugee situation in southeast Europe has greatly improved. However, many problems remain unresolved. In 2005, there was little progress in the return of Serb refugees: less than a third of the initial 350,000 Croatian Serbs have returned. Additionally, no tangible progress was made on the issue of lost tenancy rights in socially-owned property. Limited economic opportunities, partly caused by employment discrimination and violent acts against ethnic Serbs, further impeded their return. The successful re-integration of returning refugees also depends on reviving Croatia's economy.

In early 2005 Serbia instigated a major policy change on co-operation with the international community and Kosovo Albanians in dialogue about the status of Kosovo. In October, the UN launched negotiations between Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo on the territory's political future. The Albanian majority demands full independence, while Serbia

"...minority rights in Serbia remained an issue of concern..."

wishes to keep Kosovo. Analysts predict a US-EU compromise for conditional independence. This postpones the return of displaced Kosovars to their homes in Kosovo. Despite isolated cases, the inclusion of Kosovars in the local administration and Roma in pre-school education, minority rights in Serbia remained an issue of concern.

In particular, Roma faced constant discrimination when attempting to access basic services. Although the government implemented an anti-poverty strategy, the 248,000 refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Serbia, who experience exceptionally high poverty rates, were not defined as a priority group. In Kosovo, the picture was also bleak. Insecurity and lack of free movement for minorities, justice system failures, and widespread discrimination remained serious problems. The return of IDPs and refugees from Kosovo to their homes continued to be stalled.

In Bosnia, political leaders voiced commitment to constitutional reform aimed at streamlining the three-member presidency and parliament by March 2006, before elections next autumn. A key breakthrough was achieved in late 2005 when an agreement was reached on creating a unified, multi-ethnic, national police force which will replace the separate forces operated by the individual entities.

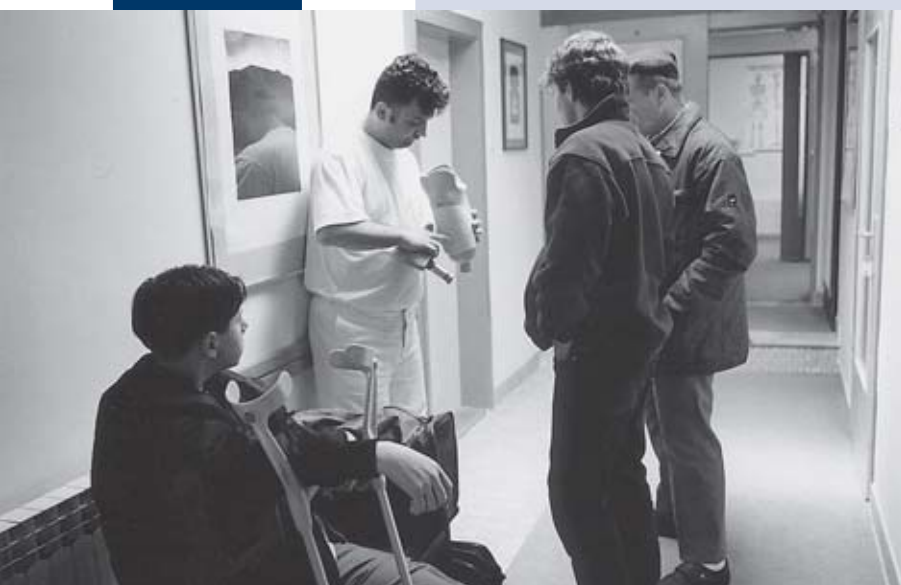
"In Bosnia...crime and corruption continued to flourish."

International administration has helped Bosnia consolidate stability. Much of the war damage has been repaired and the GDP has risen steadily. Nevertheless, crime and corruption continued to flourish. Unemployment remained very high and investment was slow. Although the number of IDPs dropped from over half a million in 2000 to 186,000 in 2005, the return of refugees and IDPs remained a burning issue.

The undetermined status of neighbouring Kosovo, implementation of the peace accord – which ended the 2001 ethnic Albanian armed insurgency – and a weak economy continued to be challenges for Macedonia. A low standard of living, high unemployment rate, and relatively low economic growth rate are the central economic problems. In spite of the tense inter-ethnic situation in two villages affected by the 2001 armed conflict, there was little danger of resumed conflict. Unfortunately as many as 2,400 IDPs and 1,500 refugees had not yet returned to their pre-war homes.

Stjepan Kušan SJ,  
JRS Southeast Europe Director

Don Doll SJ





## JRS projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina

### *elderly home care*

**SARAJEVO** In 1996, soon after the signing of the peace agreement, JRS began providing elderly returnees and IDPs with medical, psychosocial, material and financial home care to 93 beneficiaries. Despite the introduction of a modest state pension system, many are still unable to leave their homes due to illness or immobility. In the interim, many died and others moved in with their returned families. In 2005, 53 persons were assisted.

### *education*

**SARAJEVO, GROMILJAK** Initiated in 2002, JRS provided basic and advanced computer classes, including classes in webpage design, to 46 students during 2005.



## JRS projects in Serbia & Montenegro

### *education*

**BELGRADE, SMEDEREVO camp** Initiated in 2000, following an assessment of the needs of the refugee population 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 to obtain employment. In 2005, 240 students completed computer courses at various levels. In 2006, the project will be taken over by a local NGO.

### *monitoring / material assistance*

**KRAGUJEVAC, RACA** In 2005, JRS monitored the social and economic circumstances of some 13,800 refugees and IDPs who lived in 30 communal centres. The team lobbied the authorities to ensure their basic needs were met. In exceptional circumstances refugees and IDPs were provided financial support to buy necessities.



## JRS projects in Kosovo

### *landmine survivors*

**PRISTINA** Through its medical, material, psychosocial and other assistance, JRS continued to provide 62 survivors with the self-confidence to re-integrate into society. It also organised a 10-day summer camp for 24 children. The opportunity to share common experiences has helped the children to overcome the trauma caused by the landmine accidents.

### *re-integration*

In 2005, the government of Luxembourg began to return, sometimes forcibly, Kosovar families who had been living there for many years. Many faced difficulties re-integrating into Kosovar society, particularly the children who lacked an adequate knowledge of Albanian. JRS acted as an intermediary between the local authorities and the families of 23 children to ensure their registration and integration into local schools. It also provided intensive language support to five children.



## JRS projects in Macedonia

### education

**OHRID, SKOPJE** Initially working with Kosovar refugees, JRS later started working with Macedonian IDPs. In collaboration with local Catholic and Orthodox parishes and institutions, as well as the Michiko Inukai Foundation, JRS provided English and German language classes to 690 participants in two Macedonian towns during 2005.

### disability programme

In June 2004, JRS began providing food assistance to 40 families with children with disabilities. In September 2005, following a needs analysis and consultation with the families and local authorities, JRS opened a day centre for 16 children and young people with cerebral palsy to provide them with psycho-medical assistance and to assist the children's social development. The staff undertook a public awareness campaign to advertise the services of the centre to potential beneficiaries, and computers were made available to existing beneficiaries to improve their employability.



## JRS projects in Croatia

### social & pastoral / reconciliation

**ZAGREB** This project was established to train lay people involved in social, community and church work as well as to train local leaders on issues pertaining to peace and reconciliation in transitional Croatia. In 2005, four-module workshops for 42 participants were held. The workshops sought to provide participants with the appropriate skills, such as: communication skills, social analysis, theological reflection and project planning and design, to undertake social action.

### 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 caregivers. Zagreb city state hospitals and staff also provided significant support to this project. Since it began, the project has assisted 410 persons 24 hours a day. In 2005, 214 individuals continued to benefit from the project. Twenty-six workers, three full-time employees, six technical assistants (mostly university students), as well as two civil servants and 20 volunteers, were trained and participated in the project. Operators received over 8,000 requests for assistance, including 156 requests for medical assistance, and made 166 home visits.

### reconciliation

**PCELICA, Knin** For returnees rebuilding their lives in Croatia, it is not enough to remove legal, political and economic obstacles. It is also important to foster tolerance and mutual respect. Through their participation in a JRS multi-ethnic and multi-religious kindergarten, Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian children continued to learn to socialise, live, play and be creative together. Every effort is made to involve the parents in the education process. In 2005, 45 children were enrolled in the school.





Alberto Saccavini/JRS

Kosovo



Don Doll SJ

Landmined  
area, Bosnia

JRS-supported kindergarten, Croatia



Stjepan Kušan SJ/JRS

# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Colombian  
refugee,  
Venezuela

The election of leftwing governments, of very different political philosophies, in Latin America continued throughout 2005, affecting relations between the US and Latin America. Unable to reach agreement on a free trade treaty for the Americas (ALCA) with Latin American states as a whole, the US continued to negotiate with individual states, such as the Dominican Republic (DR) and Panama. All of this has had a significant impact on the region's migration policies, as national security issues took priority over humanitarian concerns.

Colombia, through Plan Colombia, continued to be the largest recipient of US state aid, mainly in the form of military assistance. Since 2000, the plan has contributed to a serious deterioration of human rights in the country, forcing thousands of Colombians to seek protection in neighbouring Panama, Venezuela and Ecuador and bringing the number of internally displaced persons to well over three million. The Colombian conflict has had a huge impact in rural districts bordering neighbouring countries, caused by the flow of thousands of displaced people, as well as by the presence of armed groups. For electoral reasons, the Colombian government tried to play down the extent of displacement by hindering internally displaced persons (IDPs) from registering as displaced. Fear of losing their land also impeded many individuals from leaving unsafe areas.

The crisis near the Colombian border in neighbouring countries has gradually displaced refugees towards large cities, such as Quito, Ecuador. This is the largest host city of asylum applicants in the region and the applicants are waiting longer and longer for their application to be processed. Of the estimated 130,000 Colombians residing on the Venezuelan border, only 5,774 have applied for asylum and fewer than 200 have received a response. Out of fear, many remain as irregular immigrants instead of requesting asylum, thus creating a 'grey zone' between asylum and migration. The forced recruitment of child soldiers in Venezuela and Ecuador increased, while in Panama, refugees lived in fear of arbitrary deportation after being denied official recognition.

In Mexico, the lack of humanitarian policy responses and the persistent violation of international human rights treaties resulted in little or no change to the displacement crisis in the indigenous Chiapas regions. The low intensity war persisted and as such assistance, although insufficient, to the 30,000 displaced persons was carried out with great difficulty.

A visible sign of continuing human rights violation in the DR was the illegal deportation of Haitians in May and the fact that only five people were recognised as refugees last year. Nevertheless, in 2005, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruled twice in favour of Haitians. First, to accept a petition to sanction the DR after the illegal deportation of Haitians in May, and second to order the Dominican government to issue

birth certificates to Dominican children of Haitian origin. One can but hope that this will push the Dominican government to adopt more humane policy responses.

JRS in the region responded to the humanitarian challenge by re-organising work geographically around the crises in Colombia, Haiti and Mexico, and stepping up co-operation with JRS International and the other JRS offices in Geneva and Washington.

Alfredo Infante SJ,  
JRS Latin America & the Caribbean Director

Carlos de Castro







## COLOMBIA

### JRS projects in Colombia

In 2005, JRS Colombia provided psychosocial, social, educational, financial and legal assistance to 2,063 families, i.e. 9,797 individuals, in Magdalena Medio, Centro del Valle, and Tierralta.

#### **accompaniment / general assistance**

JRS held meetings with local parishes to encourage them to work with displaced persons and offered pastoral support to youth groups. It also provided psychological assistance to displaced persons, and carried out visits to areas where freedom of movement was restricted to offer psychosocial and humanitarian assistance. JRS also provided support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) applying to local authorities for housing, as well as acting as mediator to resolve disputes between families.

#### **education / training / income-generating**

JRS provided financial assistance for women to start small businesses and for farming families to enable them to sell their goods. Workshops were also carried out on marketing techniques, project writing and evaluation, and budget management. Training was also offered to community groups and displaced persons on various issues, such as capacity building, management skills, and literacy classes, and scholarships were given to students to study human rights and citizenship. An agreement was reached with the Jesuit University in Bogotá to undertake research, in co-operation with JRS, on the rights of children in Barrancabermeja.

#### **legal / advocacy**

JRS provided legal assistance and advice to IDPs seeking assistance from state authorities. The team produced documents analysing the humanitarian situation facing IDPs, and encouraged local authorities to develop their own plans to provide protection to IDPs and to prevent further displacement. The team also monitored press coverage of displacement-related issues and produced analytical commentaries for relevant groups. JRS held a number of meetings with the UN and Colombian authorities on issues, such as education, housing and health, to promote awareness of the effects of displacement. Meetings were held with local groups and IDPs to promote issues of citizenship and human rights. JRS also organised a workshop on displacement and human rights for primary and secondary students at St Ignatius School in Medellín.



## MEXICO

### JRS projects in Mexico

#### **general assistance / advocacy**

**CHIAPAS** JRS provided IDPs with pastoral care in eight camps, financial support for medical assistance and assistance to 36 education facilitators working with 500 IDP children. The team also financially supported the installation of electricity for one of the IDP camps, benefiting 600 individuals, as well as the reconstruction of a camp retreat centre and a warehouse to store corn. Staff held regular meetings with local service providers to improve the assistance provided to IDPs. Approximately 8,500 IDPs benefited from JRS services in 2005.

children's rights project,  
Barrancabermeja,  
Colombia



Ledis Bohórquez



## JRS projects in Dominican Republic / Haiti

In 2005, JRS assisted 4,500 forced migrants in Santo Domingo and Dajabón in the Dominican Republic and in Wanament in Haiti. Of this number, 3,000 applied for asylum in the Dominican Republic.

### general assistance / education

JRS held meetings with members of receiving communities to promote tolerance towards refugees, and with migrant associations to assist them to carry out needs analyses for their communities. The team gave workshops to NGO co-ordinators on providing psychosocial support, and education and employment-related workshops to refugees. Food assistance was also provided to vulnerable refugees, while Haitians were helped to enrol in technical training courses. JRS organised workshops on: creative arts for children of Haitian origin, social and communication skills for Haitian and Dominican children, multiculturalism for Haitians and Dominicans, and Spanish language classes for Haitian refugees. The team also published an education manual on anti-racism, and carried out workshops with teachers, members of the military, the police and universities on refugee and migrant rights and on racism.

### legal / advocacy

JRS held meetings with officials from the Dominican refugee commission and the Dominican ministry of foreign affairs to discuss Dominican migration and refugee policy. Staff also provided legal assistance and advice to migrants wishing to regularise their legal status. Subsequently, the cost of renewing asylum applications was annulled. The JRS team, in collaboration with local NGOs, lodged a case in the local courts contesting the constitutionality of the Dominican migration law. In addition, in 2005, after seven years of legal proceedings, a JRS-affiliated NGO network received a positive judgement from the Inter-American Court on Human Rights ordering the Dominican government to issue birth certificates to two Dominican children of Haitian origin. JRS undertook a public awareness campaign to highlight the injustice of the illegal mass deportations of Haitians. The team also raised awareness of refugees, migration and racism in commemorative events, as well as regularly published refugee-related information in JRS publications.



## JRS projects in Panama

### advocacy / general assistance

**JAQUÉ, EL REAL, PUERTO OBALDÍA** JRS continued to work in national and international networks, coalitions with civil society organisations and with the UN refugee agency (UNHCR). Approximately 1,000 refugees benefited from its advocacy and humanitarian assistance services. JRS led a public information campaign on refugee and migrant rights to combat xenophobia and helped to establish and update the website of the National Platform for Refugees and Migrants (MNRM) [www.menamire.org](http://www.menamire.org). JRS also undertook research projects on the situation of refugee families in Jaqué and El Turia, and on the migration of indigenous Colombians to Panama. Additionally, JRS organised meetings with university departments to promote the study of refugee and migrant issues. JRS also met with Panamanian and Colombian government officials, as well as the Panamanian refugee commission, and submitted proposals to the Panamanian government on modification of the country's migration and refugee law. As an observer member of the Panamanian refugee commission, JRS, on behalf of MNRM, participated in field visits to refugees to the Panamanian border. JRS provided assistance to migrants facing work-related and family difficulties.



## JRS projects in Ecuador



## ECUADOR

In total, JRS assisted 400 refugees, specifically children and adolescents in five neighbourhoods in Quito.

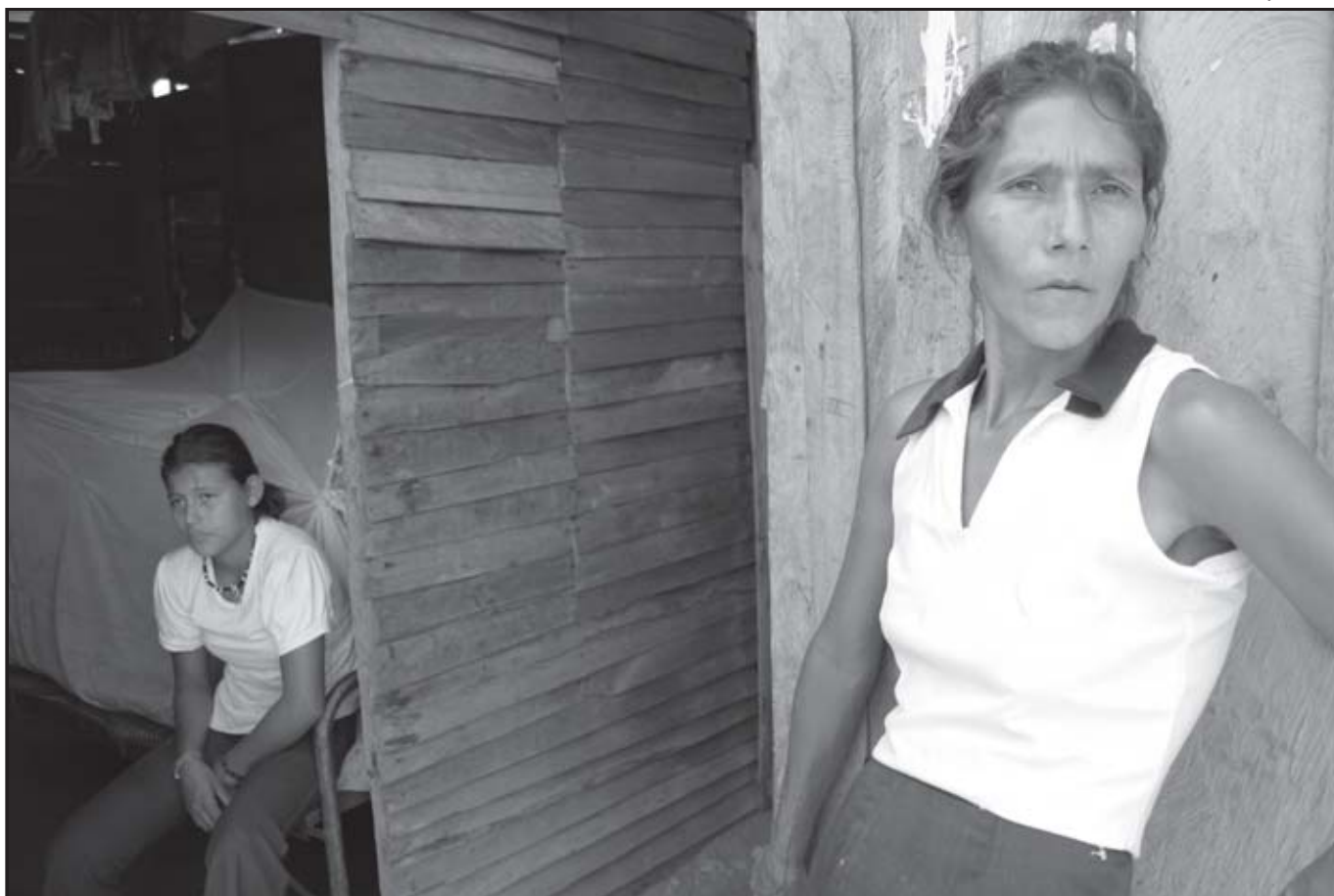
### **accompaniment / psychosocial / integration**

**QUITO** In 2005, the team carried out visits and needs assessments in the capital and on the Colombian border. JRS provided five employment-related workshops for women refugees, information workshops on the asylum process and five other workshops on the regularisation of the legal status of migrants in Ecuador. Information on access to public services, such as education, health, social security and other humanitarian networks was also made available. JRS organised five socio-cultural events, such as a football competition and a camping trip, to promote the integration of the refugee population, particularly young people and child refugees.

### **legal / research / advocacy**

**QUITO** JRS participated in various state and NGO fora to influence public policies towards refugees and to challenge xenophobic views. For instance, the team participated in a state working group to look at the right to work for asylum seekers. A network of lawyers also sought to identify cases to take to judicial review, nationally and internationally, and researched legal aspects of the asylum procedure. JRS, as part of a NGO/state agency team, also visited the Colombian border and produced analytical documents on the situation facing refugees there. JRS provided legal assistance to 120 asylum seekers and refugees and to those seeking resettlement, and advised migrants on their rights relating to the labour market, health and education. The team also sponsored 25 Colombians seeking to regularise their legal status in Ecuador. Research on the needs of the local refugee population was undertaken and, as a member of the national coalition to stop the use of child soldiers, staff participated in research on the situation of children involved, or at risk of involvement, in the conflict on the Colombian border.

Francesco Spotorno



Colombian refugees, Venezuela

## JRS projects in Venezuela

**ALTO APURE** In 2005, JRS provided psychosocial, legal, education and training services to 2,063 refugees, principally women and children, as well as undertaking advocacy and awareness-raising activities.

### *pastoral / psychosocial assistance*

**ALTO APURE** JRS provided pastoral services to refugees partly through organising events and providing information to young people and adults. Staff offered psychological services to refugees, including psychiatrically ill persons and children, and acted as mediators in cases of intra-family violence. Workshops also provided skills training and psychosocial support to women refugees, and to school children. Activities were organised to inform children of the dangers of recruitment into armed groups.

### *education / training*

**ALTO APURE** JRS provided informal training in community organisation, project planning and institutional capacity building to local education, health and information service providers. The team also offered information to refugees seeking employment and support to those establishing small businesses. In co-operation with the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) and the Andrés Bello University, JRS established a professorship in refugee studies and organised a training course on refugee-related issues for government employees. JRS also established a legal clinic to provide continuing human rights training to lawyers.

### *legal / advocacy / awareness-raising*

**ALTO APURE** JRS provided legal assistance and advice to asylum seekers in the asylum process, and asylum seekers and refugees reporting human rights abuses. The team carried out regular evaluations and analyses of the situation facing asylum seekers in the region. The findings were presented, often in co-operation with other civil society organisations, at various fora in order to promote more humane policies towards refugees.



VENEZUELA

Carlos de Castro



Colombian refugee children, Venezuela



JRS Colombia

JRS humanitarian assistance projects, Colombia



Giovanni Dalmás/JRS

Illegal forced repatriation of Haitians, Dajabón, Dominican Republic

JRS humanitarian assistance projects, Colombia



JRS Colombia



# USA - CANADA

JRS pastoral  
services to  
detained  
migrants,  
New Jersey,  
USA

During each of the past two years, the US refugee resettlement programme admitted more than 50,000 refugees following several years of lacklustre admissions figures in the wake of 11 September. Still, strong anti-terrorist sentiments in the USA continued to create a harsh environment for both refugees and migrants. Current interpretation of the 2001 US Patriot Act, which denied admission to refugees who had provided 'material support' to terrorist organisations, unjustly excluded many bona fide refugees, such as Burmese and Colombians, who had been forced to pay protection money to terrorist groups. During 2005, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) committed itself to hiring 1,000 new border patrol agents, increasing border surveillance and expanding current detention centres. Further, recent legislation passed by the US House of Representatives criminalised the presence of undocumented migrants, subjecting millions of people to immediate deportation and prohibition from future entry. Advocates of reform continued to call for legislation that would regularise the status of undocumented migrants well integrated into their local communities.

Efforts to ensure greater refugee protection for persecuted Haitians continued, buoyed by the hope of new collaborative opportunities with the US Department of State. Fear of renewed violence and bloodshed in Haiti, especially during the period of national elections, raised the prospect of a mass exodus. This engendered fear of an even greater humanitarian crisis in the Caribbean, stretching refugee protection measures to breaking point.

Ongoing conflict in Colombia made the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons within the country and in neighbouring Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama more difficult. In response to kidnappings and targeted violence against Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples, advocates began to demand greater accountability from the Colombian government and to urge the US Congress to certify compliance with human rights protection prior to approval of further US funding.

"...the US House of Representatives criminalised the presence of undocumented migrants..."

The number of refugees crossing into Canada from the United States (especially Colombians) was vastly reduced due to the 2004 Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA), which requires asylum seekers, who pass through the US on the way to Canada, or vice-versa, to apply for asylum in the first country in which they arrive. Combined with tighter control at airports and on private sponsorship, Canada received almost 40 percent fewer new refugee claimants compared to four years ago. The UN working group reviewing Canada's recent performance criticised the Canadian government's refusal to implement Canada's law requiring a right of appeal for refused refugee claimants.

Ken Gavin SJ,  
JRS USA Director



JRS USA



## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### JRS projects in the USA

#### **detainees, pastoral**

JRS, in co-operation with the Church World Service, a Protestant humanitarian organisation, continued to provide pastoral care services to over 60,000 individuals at all eight US detention centres operated by the Department of Homeland Security. These programmes helped struggling people find purpose and meaning, in addition to hope and love in their lives.

#### **advocacy**

- JRS joined coalition colleagues to urge the government to create a waiver process for refugees denied refugee status for purportedly providing 'material support' to terrorist groups.
- JRS continued to oppose the use of indefinite detention for asylum seekers and promoted the use of alternatives to detention such as parole, work release and electronic surveillance.
- JRS Latin America and Caribbean and JRS USA collaborated on issues of common concern such as efforts to protect child soldiers and to increase public awareness of the negative effects of US government policy in Colombia.
- With JRS Nepal and Malaysia, JRS USA promoted sustainable solutions for the over 100,000 Bhutanese refugees in Nepal and thousands of Burmese Chin refugees in Malaysia and India.
- JRS initiated an outreach programme to Jesuit secondary and higher education institutions to foster understanding of refugee issues by students and staff.

#### **fundraising**

- JRS raised over \$1.75 million to support projects assisting tsunami and conflict displaced people in Sri Lanka and Aceh, Indonesia.
- JRS distributed \$210,000 to support JRS projects in 11 African and Asian countries.
- JRS helped to secure \$374,000 to support a JRS Eastern Africa education programme for returning Sudanese refugees.
- JRS raised \$110,000 to assist the Jesuit New Orleans Province to rebuild a primary school and start a job training programme for US citizens displaced by Hurricane Katrina.



## CANADA

### JRS projects in Canada

#### **advocacy**

JRS continued, in collaboration with other refugee-related groups, to assist refugee resettlement into Canada, undertake research on refugee issues, and advocate on behalf of refugees unfairly threatened by government officials with detention and deportation. JRS appeared before Canada's Parliamentary Committee on Citizenship and Immigration in an attempt to overturn the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States.

#### **assistance**

The local team supported JRS Colombia staff to study international and Canadian refugee law and practice, as well as English.

# JRS FINANCES 2005

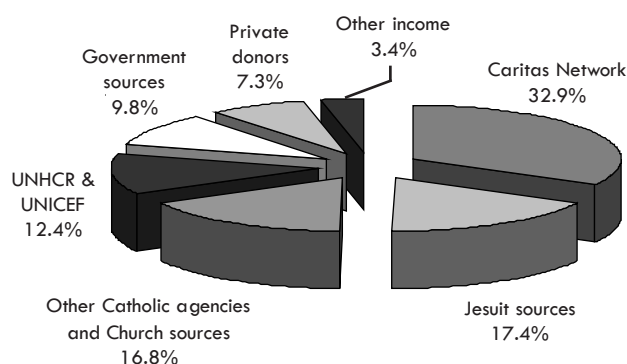
## Some explanatory notes

1. Information based on income & expenditure reports 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. They are difficult to quantify but play an important role in support of JRS.
3. The increase of approximately 20% in project funding and expenditure in 2005 can be principally explained by increased JRS activity with vulnerable populations in post-tsunami Indonesia and Sri Lanka.
4. **Sources of funding:**
  - *Other Catholic agencies and Church sources* refers to donations from Catholic 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.

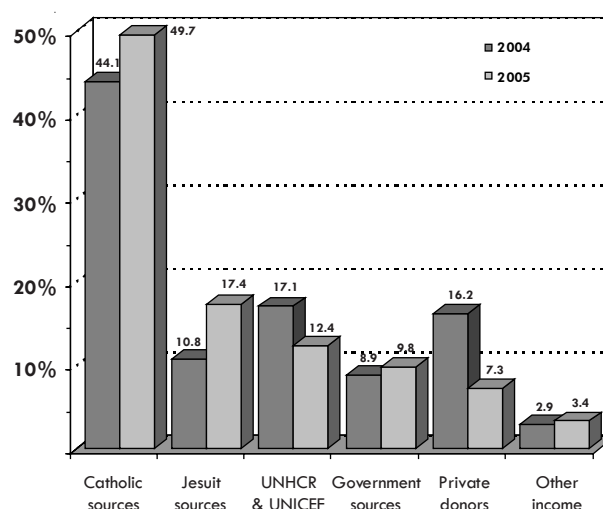
## SOURCES OF FUNDING JRS WORLD-WIDE (in US dollars)

Sources of funding	Amount
Caritas Network	8,964,037
Jesuit sources	4,722,872
Other Catholic agencies and Church sources	4,563,409
UNHCR and UNICEF	3,386,725
Government sources	2,660,744
Private donors	1,986,447
Other income	931,741
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>27,215,975</b>

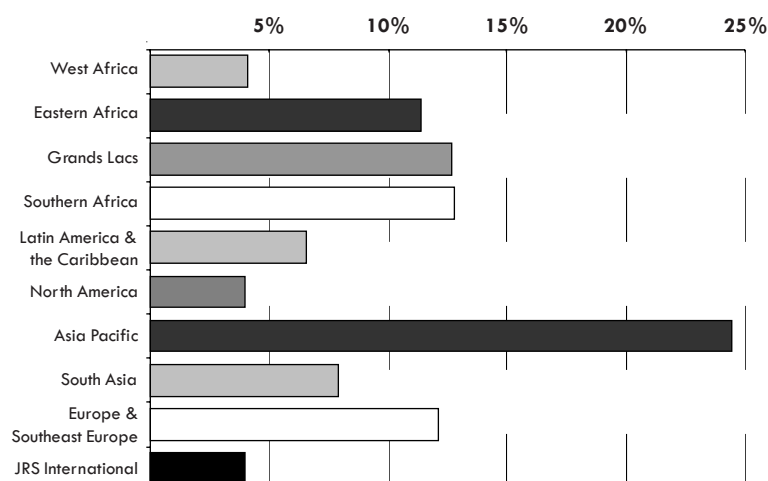
## SOURCES OF FUNDING BY PERCENTAGE



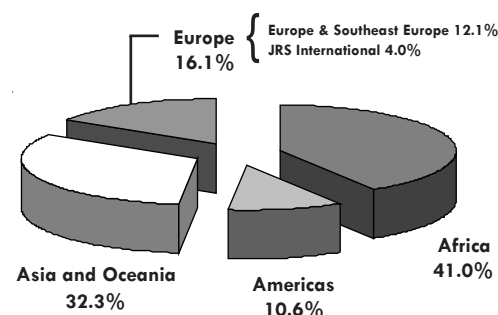
## SOURCES OF FUNDING: COMPARISON 2004-2005



## PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE BY REGION



## PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE BY CONTINENT



# JRS PUBLICATIONS

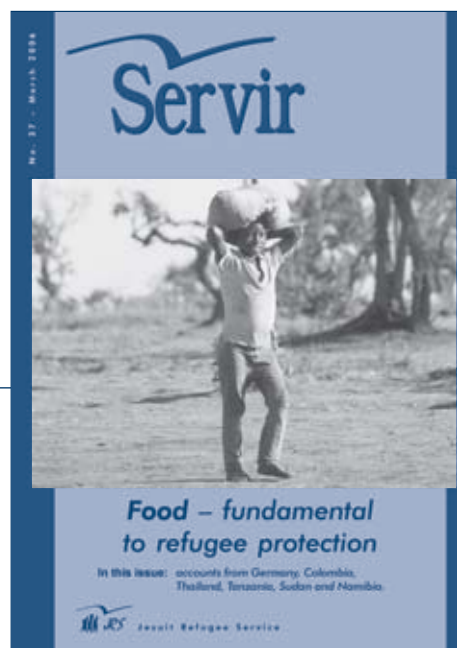
## <http://www.jrs.net> The JRS Web Site

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.



## Dispatches

*Dispatches*, a twice-monthly electronic news bulletin, details refugee news briefings as well as updates on JRS projects and activities. 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>



## BOOKS TO MARK JRS' 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

### The Wound of the Border: 25 Years with the Refugees

The history of JRS is a history of refugees. To mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation by Fr Pedro Arrupe SJ, JRS offers this memoir. The centre of gravity of this book is not JRS or its work, but the refugees themselves. We celebrate their dignity, courage and determination to keep hope alive: to choose light instead of darkness.

This book is not meant to be historically exhaustive, but to bring together the testimonies of people who have witnessed the growth of JRS at different stages and to offer their experience and vision, sharing significant events in their regions, the specific challenges and dilemmas they encountered, and the signs of hope.

In his letter which established the Jesuit Refugee Service, Fr Arrupe said: 'The spiritual as well as the material needs of nearly 16 million refugees throughout the world today could scarcely be greater'. Today there are almost 40 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide. The words of Fr Arrupe have inspired many people to give themselves to the service of refugees, a privilege that many share in the pages of this book.



### Horizons of Learning: 25 years of JRS Education

More than 27 million children and young people affected by conflict do not have access to formal education; ninety percent of whom are displaced within their countries of origin. Such findings highlight enormous and urgent needs, particularly of children fleeing persecution and armed conflict.

Although JRS offers a wealth of diverse services, the provision of education stands out as the cornerstone of its work. JRS workers value a learning-based approach that affirms the humanity of refugees and restores their wounded dignity. Education means planting seeds of hope in insecure and traumatic circumstances. From the asylum seeker in detention who pleads for language classes to the child in Uganda who walks for hours each day to go to school, the urgent need to be fed by this hope and affirmation is one and the same.

*Horizons of Learning* outlines the JRS *modus operandi* by offering the reader a snapshot of various education activities. The projects described in this book represent the continued dedication and professional effort of thousands of refugees and JRS workers who implement similar programmes daily across the world.



### God in Exile: Towards a Shared Spirituality with Refugees

To join JRS is to embark on a journey of faith accompanied by refugees (JRS seminar, Kigali, 1995). Over the years, JRS workers have reflected on the spiritual values represented by refugees and on what message they have to share with JRS and the rest of the world.

*God in Exile: Towards a Shared Spirituality with Refugees* is a compilation of reflections. It does not pretend to be the final answer in what is essentially a process; rather it is a step in the journey towards discovering, together with refugees, a spirituality arising out of the experience of forced exile and the specific faith-based response. JRS is called upon to be forever flexible and open to new challenges, and it has always found direction in St Ignatius' criteria for apostolic work, giving priority to situations of great need.

This book does not attempt to idealise the experience of displacement. Ultimately, however, a dogged resolve reveals itself, rising above the hardships described to meet the challenge of discovering how God is present in the suffering of exile.



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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

My cheque is attached

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Surname:

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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

Colombian refugees, Venezuela



Francesco Spoto



<http://www.jrs.net>

