



JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE
Annual Report 2007



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 2007 Report is published in English, Spanish, Italian and French.

Cover photo:
JRS accompaniment means being with refugees until they no longer need this support
Photo by: Sergi Camara/ JRS

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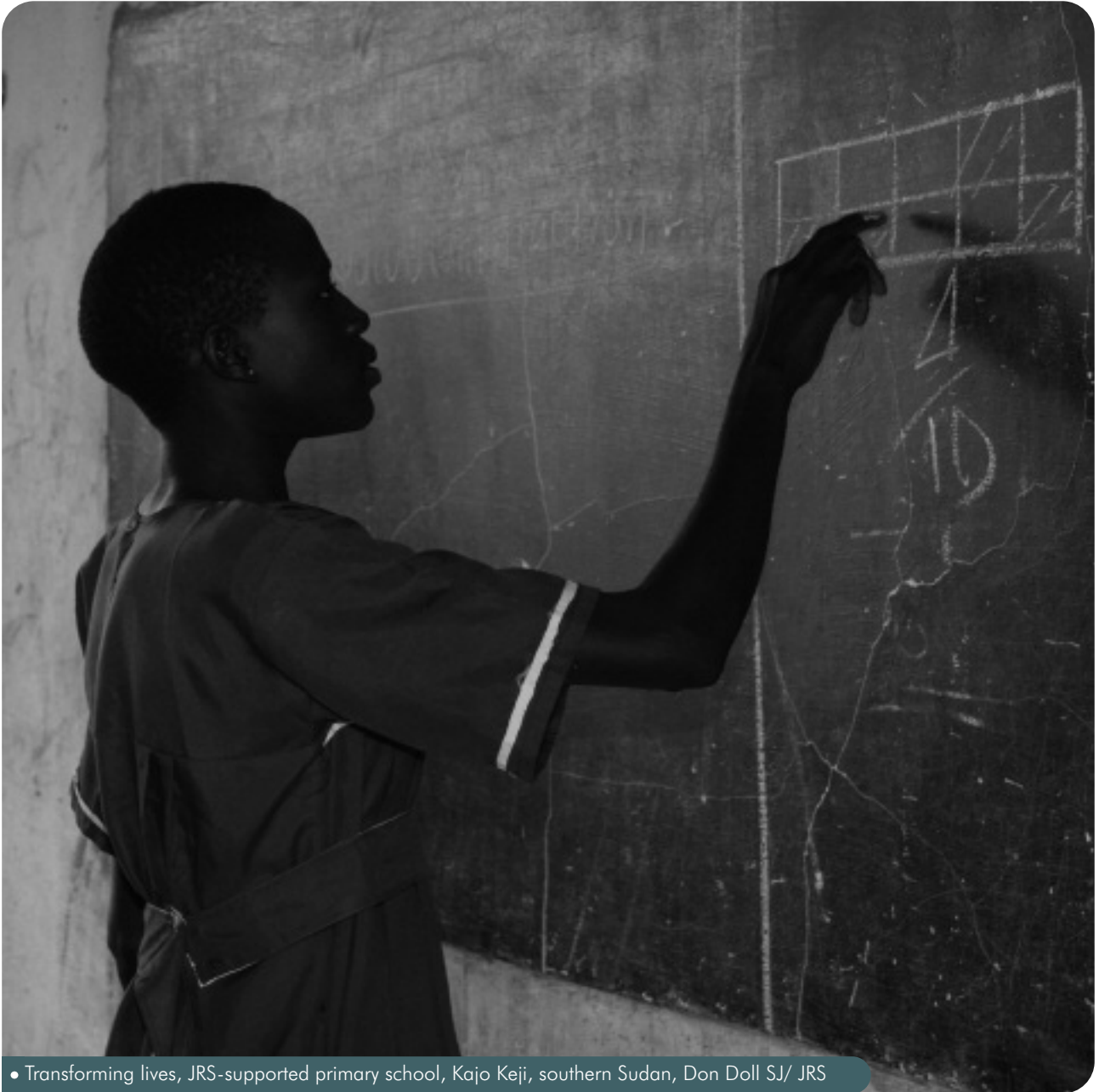
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to accompany, to serve, to advocate
Jesuit Refugee Service

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• Transforming lives, JRS-supported primary school, Kajo Keji, southern Sudan, Don Doll SJ/ JRS

Message from the International Director



• Settlement for internally displaced persons, Caconda, Huíla province, southeast Angola, Xavier Garcia i Marfí

Accompaniment means sticking it out with people in exile

It is a joy when JRS is no longer needed, when refugees return home or resettle, and embark on a new life. This is what we experienced at the end of 2007, when more than 30 schools built by JRS Angola in Moxico Province, were handed over to returnees. Many had been exiled in Zambia. Some smiled and nodded their heads when I mentioned Sal, Herbert and Francis, members of the first JRS team in Meheba camp, Zambia, back in 1993. Three years later, we had begun working in Angola as well. After 14 years of service to Angolan refugees and internally displaced persons, it was immensely satisfying to attend the closing ceremony of JRS in Angola. Peace had finally taken root.

Last year, another long-standing JRS commitment came to a close in Liberia, following a final year of unstinting work to get schools built and help communities with housing and agricultural programmes in Lofa and Nimba counties. Apart from a two-year interval, JRS had worked in Liberia since 1993.

When Fr Arrupe founded JRS, he thought it might be a temporary measure. The involvement of JRS is indeed temporary because it withdraws when peace prevails, but this can take years of waiting with refugees, serving and advocating their cause. In Vietnam and Cambodia it took 15 years, in Angola, Liberia likewise. This is what accompaniment means — sticking it out with people in exile.

Fr Packiaranjith's death demonstrates that accompaniment can involve risking one's life

On 1 October 2007, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, presented the Nansen Award to Dr Katrine Camilleri of JRS Malta. During the ceremony, he praised the reliability of JRS as a partner organisation. Our reliability is rooted in faithfulness to refugees, in our mandate to accompany them until they no longer need us. The High Commissioner described Katrine as an 'angel' to asylum seekers detained in Malta. For her, they are not just clients, they are friends passing through difficult times. An 'angel' accompanies, shows the way, encourages and befriends.

Around the time Katrine received the award, we heard the tragic news of the killing of Fr Packiaranjith, JRS coordinator in northern Sri Lanka. On 25 September 2007, a claymore mine destroyed the vehicle of the 40-year-old priest, as he travelled through rebel-held territory to deliver aid to displaced persons and orphans. His death demonstrates that accompanying displaced persons and sharing the dangers they face, means putting one's life at risk.

In 2007, JRS leadership also changed, with the departure of Lluís Magriñà SJ as International Director and of Peter-Hans Kolvenbach SJ as Superior General of the Society of Jesus, the person ultimately responsible for JRS. Fr Kolvenbach's parting words to JRS express his gratitude to all involved, "collaborators, refugees, lay people, religious and Jesuits because this social apostolate of the Society of Jesus has been a source of deep consolation throughout my 24 years as General... It is a joy to see how JRS is committed to the mission of consoling so many refugees and forcibly displaced people, the poorest of the poor, around the world, especially in camps."

I too would like to express my gratitude to all JRS collaborators, donors and partners, Fr Magriñà and especially Fr Kolvenbach.

Peter Balleis SJ

JRS and Advocacy



• Students in a JRS-supported school, Gihembe camp, Rwanda, Sergi Camara/ JRS

Last year, the defence of the human rights of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons remained central to JRS. Advocacy work focused on enabling staff to respond to its internationally identified issues, particularly children involved in armed conflict, sexual- and gender-based violence, immigration detention and the search for durable solutions. However, teams also responded to crises and other relevant issues as they arose.

Even as media attention moves on, JRS continues to defend the rights of forgotten refugees

northern Uganda. During these events, staff received training on international human rights, and were encouraged to discuss strategic approaches and share best practices. Various national workshops focused on promoting gender equality, self-sufficiency and peace building in post-conflict societies.

To reinforce staff capacities, JRS organised three internal advocacy meetings in 2007 for key staff. These included Asia Pacific and Latin America regional meetings in Bangkok and Caracas respectively and a cross-country meeting for project staff from southern Sudan and

In the Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia, staff actively participated in the national coalitions against the use of children in armed conflicts, raising public awareness and providing children with alternatives to conflict. In addition, JRS supported the UNHCR pilot project on Safe Education, aimed at creating secure environments for learning. This project if mainstreamed will not only deter sexual and other violence, but will also encourage school attendance, offering alternatives to children who may otherwise be drawn into armed groups.

JRS redoubled efforts to challenge the arbitrary use of immigration detention

the use of administrative detention. This work was recognised by the prestigious Nansen Award which was presented to JRS Malta lawyer Dr Katrine Camilleri by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR).

JRS played a leading role in the International Coalition on the Detention of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (IDC), actively contributing to statements and publications — in particular the IDC report on children in migrant detention launched in November. In the US and Europe, JRS redoubled efforts to challenge

Much of the work focused on promoting legislative and policy changes to assist refugees in finding durable solutions: voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement. In Nepal, after years of campaigning, the resettlement of some 60,000 Bhutanese refugees to third countries began. In several countries, such as Panama, Dominican Republic and Kenya, staff worked to ensure that displaced communities were granted the right to freedom of movement and access to the labour market. In Europe, awareness was raised regarding refugees who fall through the cracks in the system and become destitute.

As well as concentrating on these priorities, JRS responded to crises and met new challenges as they unfolded, producing reports and other resources and actively engaging with the media. Consequently, JRS contributed to the prevention of a potential food crisis in Nepal and focused attention on acts of violence indiscriminately targeting civilians in Sri Lanka. In Ecuador, JRS and other NGOs worked closely with the UN Committee on Migrant Workers which subsequently issued recommendations to the government which, if implemented, will benefit thousands of refugees. Even as media attention moves on to the next crisis, JRS continues to defend the rights of forcibly displaced persons who have been forgotten and contribute to bringing about solutions, allowing them live in peace and dignity.

Andrew Galea Debono, Advocacy and Policy Coordinator

The evolving mission

Remaining faithful to the vision of Fr Pedro Arrupe



• Pedro Arrupe in St Peter's Square, Rome, shortly after his election as Father General in 1965

The centenary of his birth in 2007 was a fitting time to recall the unique vision of Fr Pedro Arrupe for the refugee service he established on 14 November 1980. It was the last project he launched as Jesuit Superior General. His appeal, "God is calling us through these helpless people", was heeded by many Jesuits, who volunteered simply to be in the camps, adopting a personal approach.

JRS will be a school in which we learn many things

Fr Arrupe was so happy with the way JRS was developing. "I see a tremendous opening for the Society, and not only as regards work among refugees. This work will be a school in which we learn many things". He said this on 6 August 1981, at a meeting in Thailand with 16 Jesuits involved in the apostolate, where it was agreed that the way ahead lay in a ministry of "being with rather than doing for". Fr Arrupe's address that day would be his swansong for the Society. The following day, as he returned to Rome, he had the stroke which left him with impaired speech and partially paralysed.

Spreading rapidly across the world, JRS flourished under Father General Peter Hans-Kolvenbach, who made his predecessor's call his own. "Our service to refugees is an apostolic commitment of the whole Society... one real test of our availability today". After taking shape over the years, the mission of JRS was officially endorsed in 1995 in General Congregation 34. "There are over 45 million refugees and displaced people in today's world... The Jesuit Refugee Service accompanies many of these brothers and sisters of ours, serving their cause in an uncaring world. The General Congregation appeals to all Provinces to support the Jesuit Refugee Service in every way possible".

The challenges have never stopped a steady stream of volunteers from joining JRS

Throughout his tenure, which ended in 2007, Fr Kolvenbach's key message for JRS was a simple one, remain loyal to the vision of Fr Arrupe, serving forcibly displaced persons in "camp-like" conditions, meaning those in urgent need of protection, the most vulnerable, forgotten, invisible, those whose lives are threatened. Fr Arrupe's call for "a spirit of alacrity and availability... to go anywhere we are most needed for the greater service of God", was echoed by Fr Kolvenbach, "we are not called to stay forever in the same place with the same people, but to be like St Paul, to start something and to move on when our work is done, constantly in search of needs not being met by others".

This mission is by no means easy. Fr Arrupe knew this. On 6 August 1981, he told Jesuits working in the camps "you are doing an important work though a difficult one... Pray. Pray much. Problems such as these are not solved by human efforts". Years later, in 2006, Fr Kolvenbach said, "it is much easier to help in a way you do not suffer. You just do your job. But this will not be the way for those who work in the framework of JRS".

The challenges have never stopped a steady stream of volunteers from joining JRS. Jesuits and co-workers give their time, talents, professionalism and themselves, to live out the mission of JRS in a way that would make Fr Arrupe proud.

Prestigious UN award goes to JRS lawyer

Courage and perseverance recognised attributes



• Nansen Award winner, Katrine Camilleri, updates a Congolese asylum seeker on her case, Malta, A Pace/ UNHCR

On 1 October, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, presented the 2007 Nansen Refugee Award to Dr Katrine Camilleri, a 37-year old lawyer from JRS Malta, who works to defend the rights of refugees and migrants. The Nansen Committee, which grants the award, said it chose Dr Camilleri in recognition of her exceptional dedication to the refugee cause.

In the recent past, JRS Malta and Dr Camilleri have faced a series of attacks

During the award ceremony, High Commissioner Guterres praised Dr Camilleri's courage in protecting refugees and asylum seekers. He went on to describe JRS as a key partner helping the agency fulfil its goal of assisting governments in identifying refugees caught in migratory movements and responding to their needs. In her acceptance speech, the Maltese lawyer said how receiving the award was an honour for JRS members worldwide who continue to accompany, serve and defend the rights of forcibly displaced persons.

In the recent past, JRS Malta and Dr Camilleri have faced a series of attacks. Nine vehicles belonging to the Jesuits were burned in two separate incidents. In April 2007, arsonists set fire to both Katrine's car and her front door, terrifying her family trapped inside. The attacks shocked Maltese society and drew widespread condemnation, including from the government.

JRS was the first organisation in Malta to offer regular professional legal services to detainees

Dr Camilleri first came into contact with refugees when working in a small law firm in 1994. One case was a Libyan refugee about to be deported back home where he risked persecution. Her interest grew and she started working with JRS Malta in 1997, first as a volunteer, then on a part-time and eventually full-time basis.

JRS Malta was but a fledgling organisation when Katrine began offering legal services to refugees and asylum seekers. In 2000, she was referred the case of an asylum seeker in detention and others soon came forward to ask for legal assistance. JRS became the first organisation in Malta to offer professional legal services on a regular basis to detainees.

In 2002, the number of asylum seekers reaching Malta's shores by boat increased sharply. Believing these detainees to be in greatest need, JRS shifted its focus more and more to the detention centres. Despite her significant legal caseload, the young mother of two devoted considerable energy to expanding JRS services. She subsequently secured funding to employ more professional staff and set up new projects offering social, health and education services to refugees.

Since 1997, Katrine has provided legal advice to hundreds of people held in administrative detention centres, helping them with their asylum claims and challenging their detention. Her efforts have focused on the most vulnerable, including victims of trauma or torture and survivors of sexual and gender based violence.

The Nansen Refugee Award is presented annually to an individual or organisation for outstanding work on behalf of refugees. Established in 1954, it is named after Fridtjof Nansen, the celebrated Norwegian explorer and the world's first international refugee official. Previous recipients of the award include Eleanor Roosevelt and Médecins sans Frontières.

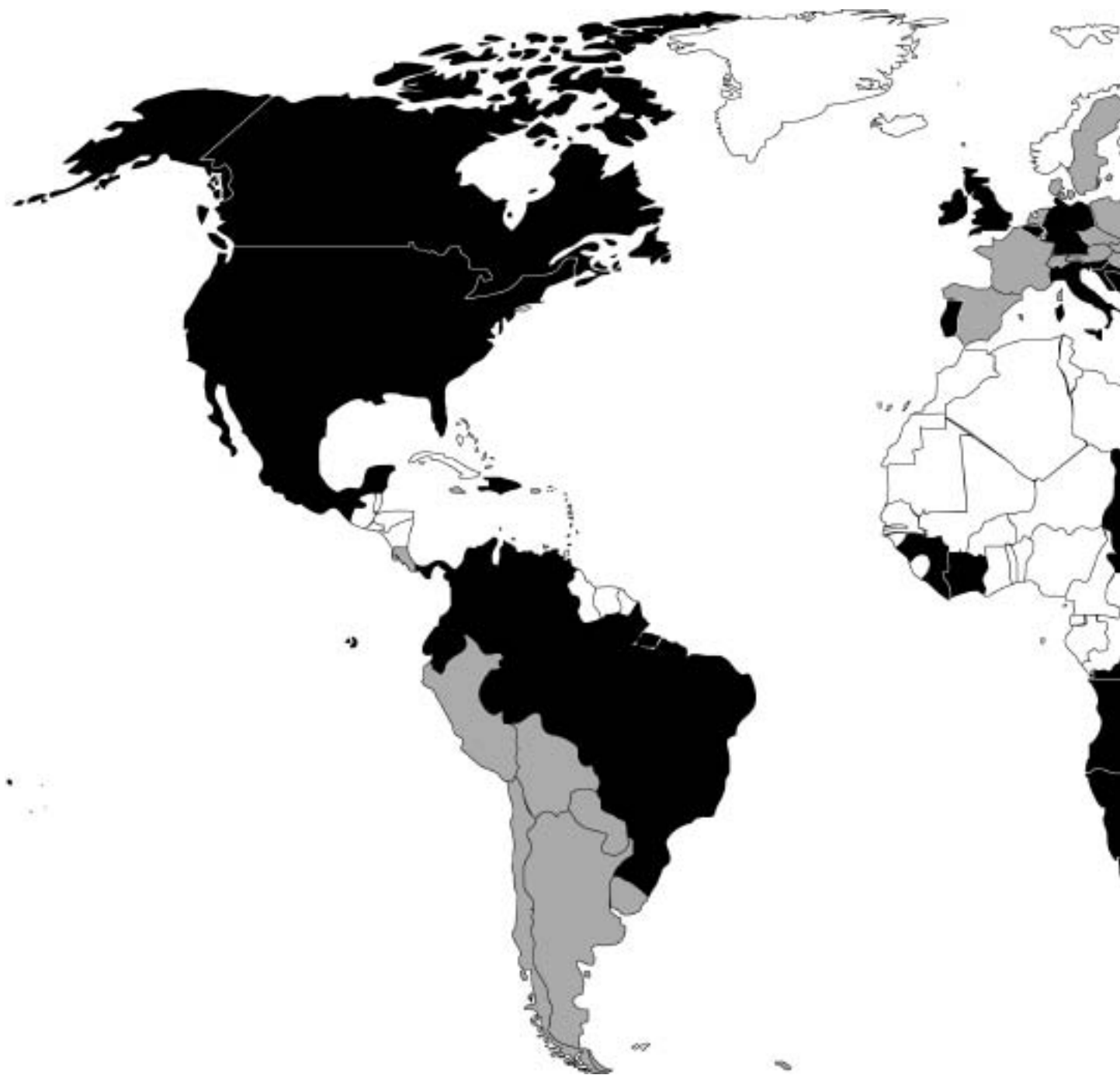


• Hal Far open centre for refugees, Malta, A Pace/ UNHCR



• JRS Malta staff a few days prior to the public presentation of the Nansen Award to Katrine Camilleri, Malta, A Pace/ UNHCR

JRS projects worldwide 2007





Countries in which JRS provides 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 in 2007

Africa continued to be the worst conflict-affected continent in the world with nearly 15 million forcibly displaced persons out of a total approximately 40 million worldwide. As Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Sudan continued to implement peace agreements, tens of thousands of returnees faced enormous challenges in post-conflict reintegration and reconstruction.

JRS developed strategies to phase down some projects and hand others over to local organisations

More than half the children out of primary school — at least 39 of the 77 million worldwide — live in countries affected by conflict. More than two-thirds of these live in conflict-affected fragile states in Africa.

These children are denied the right to education. Consequently, they are at greater risk of violence, recruitment by armed groups and direct participation in war, illness and disease, exploitation and abuse. Moreover, they are thus less equipped to contribute to the reconstruction of their countries.

Quality education is more than just a right. JRS believes it is an essential protection tool. It saves and sustains lives, restores normality to those affected by conflict, provides a source of hope for the future, prevents conflict and promotes peace. Education prepares people to be citizens, able to build just and peaceful societies. Through its centre and the Education resource person for Africa (ERPA), based in Nairobi, JRS provides a wide range of education services in 18 African nations.

In 2007, the ERPA visited 11 education projects in five African countries — Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda — as part of an ongoing evaluation process, providing information and advice to staff. Evaluations of education projects were carried out in Yei, Lobone and Kajo Keji, in southern Sudan, as well as of the scholarship project in Kakuma, northern Kenya. Following a review of education activities in Adjumani, northern Uganda, JRS developed strategies to phase down some projects and hand over others to local organisations. In cooperation with the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) and the JRS Geneva representative, an appraisal of education activities in refugee camps in Rwanda was undertaken as part of the Safer School Environment Project.

Specific attention was paid to those living in vulnerable circumstances

Workshops and seminars were held and information on new developments, best practices and other useful resources was made available to JRS staff and other education personnel. Last year, a regular monthly newsletter was sent to more than 70 JRS offices and other partners. Nearly 130 new textbooks, research reports and other resource material were acquired and given to staff upon request. A comprehensive update of all resources, particularly new acquisitions, accessible from the centre was sent to key staff and other partners.

In addition, the ERPA worked closely with UN agencies, local governments, NGOs, in particular the Girl Child Network, and education personnel on the continent. Consequently, strategies were developed to maximise access to education during emergency and post-conflict reconstruction periods. Specific attention was paid to those living in vulnerable circumstances. One such strategy document based on the experiences of JRS Grands Lacs, *Basic Education Programme for war-affected populations in Africa: a Strategy of Intervention*, was finalised. It will form the basis of future work on a project management handbook for JRS education in Africa.

Martin Foss, JRS Education resource person for Africa



• Education provides a source of hope, northern Uganda, Don Doll SJ/ JRS



Eastern Africa

Eastern Africa is both a recipient and producer of refugees. Of the 1,544,900 refugees in the region, Tanzania hosts 485,700, Kenya 337,000 and Uganda 277,800, putting them in the world's top ten refugee recipient nations. In 2007, policies shifted towards the large scale repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), mainly due to improved situations in Burundi, southern Sudan and northern Uganda. The improvement in Uganda, largely due to peace talks between the rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and the government, had a positive impact in southern Sudan. This repatriation drive was also explained by changing government attitudes towards large refugee populations who have stayed for an extended period of time in the respective countries and was accompanied by stricter migration controls and camp policies.

An increasing focus on migration management triggered the introduction of refugee legislation

neighbouring countries in the region. In January 2007, the Kenyan government, citing security concerns, closed its border with Somalia, forcing Somalis to look for alternative routes out of the country. Those who made it to Kenya received little assistance. On 27 December last, after the opposition accused the Kenyan government of rigging the presidential elections, violence erupted which would later cause the deaths of hundreds and displace hundreds of thousands.

Although eastern Africa has long been a host to large refugee populations, responsibility for their protection was left to the UN refugee agency (UNHCR). Since the introduction of the cluster approach, addressing gaps and strengthening the effectiveness of humanitarian crisis responses through partnerships, UNHCR has also assumed lead responsibility for protection, emergency shelter and camp management of IDPs. By the end of 2007, UNHCR was employing this approach in Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda (though not in Sudan) to 5.8 out of 7.6 million IDPs in the region.

Fear of conflict and land shortages convinced most Burundian refugees to remain in Tanzania

governments, UNHCR and other agencies also intensified. In July, Tanzania demanded that Burundian refugees return home by the end of 2007. Despite 36,000 voluntary returns to Burundi, fear of drought, renewed conflict and a lack of access to land meant that the majority remained in Tanzania.

Although the situation in some parts of the region improved during the year, facilitating voluntary repatriation, conflict intensified in Somalia, the western Sudanese region of Darfur, the southeastern Ethiopian region of Ogaden and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Consequently, nationals from these countries fled to

However, in response to an increasing global emphasis on migration management and security, existing legislation in Tanzania and Ethiopia was amended and new refugee legislation was enacted in Kenya and Uganda. Cooperation between



• Breaking down barriers, JRS-supported peace group, southern Sudan, Andrew Galea Debono/ JRS

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the authorities in southern Sudan and the national government is still fragile, clearly demonstrated during a fall-out between the two governments last October. Further, large numbers of IDPs and refugees returning to southern Sudan — nearly 1.8 million since 2005 — and a slow reintegration process is putting strains on basic facilities, having contributed to increased tensions between different groups. Moreover, the situation in Darfur continued to be particularly alarming: 245,000 forced to flee to Chad and a further two million internally displaced. Although it figures prominently on the political agenda of many countries, the UN and African Union (AU) seemed unable to bring the conflict to an end, despite an increase in UN/AU peacekeeping troops.

Joe Hampson SJ, JRS Eastern Africa Director

JRS projects in the regional office



advocacy/ information

In order to strengthen the quality of JRS work, regional staff provided advocacy training and ongoing support to all the country offices and mainstreamed gender, disability and HIV/AIDS into all aspects of its projects, as well as reinforcing contacts with relevant stakeholder agencies. Weekly e-bulletins on activities in the region and a bi-annual newsletter were also published. In addition, the regional advocacy department referred the cases of refugees in vulnerable circumstances to the relevant agencies for protection or resettlement. Relevant governments consequently agreed to resettle 13 cases in third countries.

JRS projects in Kenya



• Pastoral accompaniment, Kakuma camp, northern Kenya, Dani Villanueva SJ/ JRS

scholarships

NAIROBI, KAKUMA refugee camp

JRS provided material support, guidance counselling and life skills training to 165 students, including 34 in their final year, to continue their primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational education, including distance learning courses at the University of South Africa and special needs education. All students also participated in community service.

parish outreach

NAIROBI

JRS provided emergency food and non-food items and financial assistance to 380 recently arrived families, including asylum seekers and documented and undocumented refugees in vulnerable circumstances. Eighty families also received medical assistance and psychosocial support with priority given to HIV positive refugees. Pastoral support was provided to all families. Those in need of legal protection and other services outside the JRS mandate were referred to the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) or other relevant NGOs.

income-generating

NAIROBI

JRS visited and offered assistance to 53 refugees, former recipients of small loans, undertaking new endeavours. Eighty-five refugees received training and advice from the staff at the JRS Mikono Craft Shop and were permitted to use the shop to market their products nationally and internationally.

social services

KAKUMA

JRS staff provided counselling support to 2,198 and alternative healing sessions to 9,994 refugees, as well as training in basic counselling and massage and reflexology to a further 235 and 180 respectively. Sixty women in vulnerable circumstances and 40 children received shelter and support, and a further 35 were assisted to attend school. Respite care was also provided to 115 refugees with mental disabilities in three camp centres.

JRS projects in Ethiopia



emergency needs

ADDIS ABABA

Upon arrival in the city, 1,342 asylum seekers and refugees in vulnerable circumstances received emergency financial and material assistance to meet their basic food, clothing, rent and other needs. Assistance was also provided to undocumented refugees wishing to return home, and to newly arrived asylum seekers to travel to the camps, contributing to an increased sense of personal security. JRS also carried out 684 home visits to families, dealing with health, sanitation and neighbour prejudice-related issues and provided medical assistance and counselling to 2,088 and spiritual support to 25 refugees respectively.

community centre

ADDIS ABABA

The centre provides recreation, education, counselling and childcare services for 776 refugees, offering language, IT and music classes and workshops on community development, HIV/AIDS and basic healthcare. The only community centre for refugee and asylum seekers in the city also hosts a library and resource room, and serves as a place where refugees can learn about tolerance and peaceful coexistence, interacting with people of different cultures, attitudes and beliefs. Moreover, day-care and after school tuition are provided to 58 children in the centre.

JRS projects in Tanzania



Radio Kwizera

NGARA, KIBONDO, KASULU

This year Radio Kwizera expanded its coverage to the southwestern Burundian region of Kigoma, southwestern and central Tanzania regions of Tabora and Rukwa, and parts of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. The station now broadcasts to areas with a population of more than two million individuals for 19 hours a day in English, French, Kiswahili and Kirundi. The stations include UNHCR supported daily news reports on refugee repatriation for Burundians and others, programmes on health, education, arts, sports and soap operas, raising public awareness on human rights, gender, disability and HIV/AIDS-related issues. They also seek to improve relations between refugee and local populations.

education

LUKOLE A & B camps

In July 2007, as a direct consequence of the repatriation of large number of Burundian refugees, JRS closed its education programmes in Lukole as the camps were merged with others in the country. JRS provided nursery education and school materials to 831 children, and intensive training and support to 18 refugee teachers. Teams also raised public awareness in the community of

early childhood development and focusing on peace-building and conflict transformation, ensuring the community was ready for the repatriation process.

pastoral

NGARA, KIBONDO

In close cooperation with the Diocese of Kigoma, JRS offered pastoral services establishing and accompanying Small Christian Community groups, training 100 Church and community leaders and 40 catechists and catechising 3,567 children in the camps. Teams also cooperated with UN agencies, the government, and international and local NGOs advocating on behalf of refugees in the camps.

psychosocial

NGARA, KIBONDO

JRS teams raised public awareness of HIV/AIDS and peace building among the refugee community, as well as training to 258 community facilitators. JRS also provided financial and material assistance, as well as career guidance, to 248 secondary students, and food assistance to 566 and material support to 462 refugees in vulnerable circumstances. Thirty refugee counsellors were given training and 158 refugees received small loans to establish soap-making, tie & dye, basket & knitting businesses and small food stores.

JRS projects in Uganda



emergency assistance

KAMPALA

JRS provided food assistance to 3,960 asylum seekers, rent assistance to 561 documented and undocumented refugee families and transport assistance to 131 refugees in vulnerable circumstances, and medical assistance to 278 individuals. Language training was also given to 45 students.

informal education and community services

RHINO camp

Due to the increased rate of refugee repatriation to southern Sudan, JRS closed some projects and the remainder were handed over to local organisations. In 2007, JRS managed 16 functional adult literacy centres, benefiting 451 refugees. Management of these centres was transferred to the District of Arua. JRS provided 123 refugee women and girls training in tailoring and gave them their own sewing machines. A further 135 former trainee women received advanced skills training and assistance to establish small businesses. Management of the tailoring school was transferred to a local organisation, Participatory Rural Development Agency. Courses in leadership development, interpersonal skills and informal and formal skills training were organised for 2,120 young people. A further 62 young people graduated from carpentry or building courses in formal training centres and 15 local community leaders received training and assistance to manage community development programmes. JRS teams also offered pastoral support and instruction to 30 catechists, who in turn trained small Christian communities, and celebrated the sacraments. Responsibility for these activities was handed over to the diocese.

community college and psychosocial support

KITGUM

Vocational (carpentry, joinery or catering) and life skills training was provided to 67 internally displaced persons (IDPs) who were then offered internships in local businesses. In cooperation with the Association of Volunteers in International Service, all 67 students received training in group dynamics and business management. Subsequently, they received tools and established seven cooperatives. JRS provided psychosocial care and support and pastoral accompaniment to IDP communities, also visiting 408 households. Fifty-one teachers received training in basic counselling skills, focusing on traumatised children and development, and later engaged the students in activities which promote psychological well-being, such as sports and games, debates, music, dance and drama. JRS also provided training and workshops in the camps on domestic violence, alcohol abuse and healthcare, as well as organising social activities focusing on culture, dialogue and reconciliation for 120 young people.

education and pastoral support

ADJUMANI

JRS supported 74 nursery, primary and secondary schools, benefiting 28,442 students and 1,318 teaching and administrative staff. In-service and full-time teacher training and education materials were made available to 370 beneficiaries. JRS also provided on-going assistance to parent teacher associations and school management committees. Teams paid particular attention to ensure the participation of foster parents and the improvement of school structures to facilitate the education of girls and children with special needs. Pastoral activities, such as religious education and, spiritual support and material support, were also provided to the refugee population.

JRS projects in Sudan



education and pastoral support

NIMULE

In 12 primary and secondary schools and an adult literary centre, established by local communities, JRS provided textbooks and stationery, trained and supervised teachers and assisted with the maintenance and construction of buildings. Staff offered training and ongoing support to the increasingly active boards of governors and parent teacher associations and pastoral support to communities in Nimule and Loa parish in Torit diocese. The programme benefited 8,696 students and 132 teachers. JRS organised workshops and meetings throughout the year on peace building for teachers and grassroots community workers, provided literary courses to 60 women interested in acquiring tailoring skills and supported basic education courses to 541 adults.

education

LOBONE

JRS provided education materials, informal and formal teacher training, supervision and classroom and material support to 21 nursery, primary and secondary schools, benefiting 5,513 IDP and refugee students. There was a strong focus on promoting girls education, including the provision of partial scholarships to 65 girls and sanitary materials to all of them. In addition, the team gave technical and management training to local education authority staff and developed the internal and external examinations. JRS financially supported 9 students and 147 adults to attend vocational training centres and literary classes respectively. Activities which promote peace were carried out with community groups, the police and the army. Community peace committees were also established.

KAJO KEJI

JRS teams provided material assistance, education supplies, classroom supervision, management training and support to 30 primary and secondary schools, benefiting 8,548 children. JRS assisted with the development of internal and external examinations, financed fulltime teacher training for 121 students and provided in-service methodological and subject specific training to 50 teachers. Girls received partial grants and material assistance to encourage them to continue in secondary school. JRS trained 40 community mediators and workshops were provided to local communities on peace building, including the peace agreement between the southern authorities and the Sudanese government.

YEI

JRS provided material support, education supplies, classroom supervision to 22 primary and secondary schools for IDP children, benefiting 12,139 students, as well as supporting 61 students to attend fulltime teacher training institutes. Three graduated and took up posts in the schools. Teams gave partial grants and material assistance to 231 boys in vulnerable circumstances and girls to attend secondary school, and conducted HIV/AIDS workshops for community and youth groups. Spiritual support and assistance was also provided to small Christian communities, as well as training to local catechists.

emergency education

NORTH DARFUR

JRS provided 449 internally displaced adults, mainly women, with literacy classes in 16 centres in five localities, as well as in-service teacher training to 26 individuals. In close cooperation with the ministry of education, the team supported 80 out-of-school young people in learning centres, subsequently facilitating their re-entry to formal schools in the IDP camp. In addition, staff offered formal lessons and extracurricular activities and organised cultural events, as well as providing classroom supervision and assistance to teachers in the camp.



• Images produced by children previously involved with armed groups, Gulu, northern Uganda, Don Doll SJ/ JRS



• Beneficiaries of the JRS Scholarship Programme, Nairobi, Kenya, Dani Villanueva SJ/ JRS



• Peace studies class in a JRS-supported primary school, Nimule, southern Sudan, Don Doll SJ/ JRS



Grands Lacs

In the last 18 months, there has been significant political progress in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), including the organisation of broadly free elections and the establishment of parliamentary democracy. Nevertheless, violence against civilians, political repression and impunity continued. Last year, the eastern province of North Kivu, still suffering the consequences of the war between the Alliance of Democratic Forces in Congo (AFDL) and the former Mobutu regime, descended further into chaos.

The Hutu Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (pre-1994 genocide Rwandan army soldiers), Mai-Mai groups (nationalist militias), the Tutsi Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD), and splinter groups of the former AFDL, roamed about North and South Kivu, engaging in gross human rights violations with impunity.

With rising ethnic tensions, everything points to a humanitarian catastrophe in eastern Congo

by the 17,000-strong UN peacekeeping (MONUC) forces, sought a military solution to the problem. Sporadic and heavy fighting continued to break out in North Kivu, displacing thousands towards Rwanda and the provincial capital, Goma.

In June, in order to 'defend' Congolese Tutsis, the RCD rose up against the government. Three months later, the government issued an ultimatum to all armed groups, calling on them to integrate into the national army. Following their refusal, the government, backed

Reports estimated the total number of displaced persons living in camps at 60,000, with another 300,000 displaced throughout the province, and detailed atrocities committed against civilians. Most displaced persons were forced to leave their animals and crops behind. Beyond the reach of humanitarian agencies, they were living in forests without even basic health services and at risk of being infected with serious diseases, such as cholera.



• Students in a JRS-supported school, Rwanda, Sergi Camara/ JRS

With rising ethnic tensions, everything points to a humanitarian catastrophe. Most armed groups live off the land, devastating the livelihoods of local populations, while others are heavily involved in the illegal smuggling of minerals, such as gold and diamonds, and the exaction of local 'taxes'. Within this context, JRS is already working in Goma, looking for ways to help. Unfortunately we shall be hearing about Nord-Kivu for quite some time.

In Burundi, the fragility of the government, torn by internal dissent in the ruling party, was evident. Rising corruption and a deteriorating situation, not least for women, and a series of strikes demonstrating the frustration and restlessness among the population, characterised the worrying situation. Moreover, the National Liberation Force, the FNL rebel group, strengthened its capacity to extort money and, in general, to make life difficult for the population.

Despite the early impression that the country was drifting, recent political developments pointed to a more determined government with more clearly defined goals and grounded hopes for better governance. Within this context JRS began winding down its activities in the capital, Bujumbura, and focused on the return of refugees in the east of the country.

In Rwanda JRS concern focused on the situation of the 45,000 refugees who have been living in camps for the past 11 years, for whom the likelihood of return to the DRC is increasingly remote. Very little has been done to find permanent solutions for them, such as resettlement in a third country. Instead, contingency plans were being made for the possible influx of new arrivals.

Tony Calleja SJ, JRS Grands Lacs Director

JRS projects in Burundi



education

KIYANGE, BUTERERE, BUJUMBURA, RUYIGI, MUYINGA

In Kiyange and Buterere, JRS continued to manage a nursery school for 248 displaced children and help others to attend school. Until February, in Bujumbura, JRS managed two hostels and provided assistance to more than 200 Congolese refugee children. In all three places remedial classes were provided for the students. In Ruyigi and Muyinga, JRS has provided 570 returnee secondary school children with school fees, school kits, clothing, reading glasses etc, most of whom would have been unable to attend school without this assistance.

income generating/ vocational training

KIYANGE, BUTERERE, BUJUMBURA

In Kiyange and Buterere, as these projects began winding down, JRS intensified the provision of vocational training to its beneficiaries to become progressively more self-reliant. In 2007, 388 displaced persons received courses in agriculture, catering, literacy, mat and basket-weaving and basic management, as well as loans to establish small businesses. A further 215 displaced members of the ethnic minority Batwa community received technical and financial support to become self-sufficient in agricultural activities. At the end of the year, bakery, basic management, carpentry, embroidery, sewing and tannery courses were being extended to more displaced persons. In Bujumbura, vocational training was also provided to young Congolese refugees.

health

KIYANGE, BUTERERE, BUJUMBURA

In Kiyange and Buterere, the JRS health centre provided basic healthcare, medicines, meals and psychological assistance to 400 displaced and vulnerable individuals per day. Some of these services were extended to 220 individuals in Mpimba prison. In Bujumbura, 5,000 Congolese refugees were assisted in accessing medical care, and in limited cases hospital care. An AIDS awareness-raising campaign was also organised for Congolese refugees.

Cooperating closely with 12 parishes and 200 community workers in the Bujumbura area raising awareness of HIV/AIDS, JRS assisted 600 individuals, including the provision of medical services to 300 individuals per day, anti-retroviral drugs to 150 and financial support to 78 refugees living with HIV who were hospitalised. Workshops and film screenings were organised targeting the wider community. JRS carried out home visits and pre- and post-test counselling for persons living with HIV/AIDS and provided emergency assistance to orphans and bereaved families. Financial support was also provided to 450 refugee members of cooperatives to establish small businesses. In October, JRS worked closely with the African Jesuits Aids Network to ensure the smooth transfer of responsibility for the AIDS projects to the Society of Jesus.

humanitarian assistance/social & cultural

KIYANGE, BUTERERE

JRS financed the construction of 79 houses for displaced families, orphans and older persons, and provided food and health assistance to 12 orphans and 350 individuals in vulnerable circumstances. Various cultural activities were also organised for 643 young people.

food security

In 2007, in light of the mass return of refugees from Tanzania, JRS established three food security projects to assist 900 families to establish small farming activities.

JRS projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo



education

KISANGANI MANONO, KATANGA

In Kisangani and Manono, JRS built and equipped three schools and contributed to the construction of five other schools, to be completed by the parents. JRS teams also provided 18 workshops and pedagogic manuals to 380 teachers, as well as distributing school materials to 10,428 students. Towards the end of 2007, JRS started two new similar education projects in Kisangani and Katanga provinces.

health

WANIE-RUKULA

JRS projects assisted approximately 60,000 individuals. Very much involved in this health district, JRS constructed two health centres and equipped four others. JRS teams also provided training to 80 nurses and 24 midwives in the 16 centres in the district, as well as providing management training to 64 administrative staff in the centres.

children involved in armed groups

UVIRA

In 2007, JRS Reception and Transit Centre received 219 children who had formerly been involved in armed groups. They were given the opportunity to continue their formal education or undertake vocational training. Those who have experienced serious trauma received psychological assistance. The majority of them were successfully reintegrated with families. JRS provided post-return follow-up support to the families to help children in continuing their education. A considerable number of older children were financially assisted to take vocational training courses, such as soap-making, hairdressing, woodworking, electro-mechanics, etc. They were subsequently helped to establish cooperatives or small businesses, with varying degrees of success.

advocacy

In cooperation with two Jesuit centres, Social Action Research Centre (CEPAS) and the Human Rights and Christian-Inspired Civic Education Network (RODHECIC), JRS began developing a national advocacy programme to promote the human rights of displaced persons, the consolidation of peace and good governance. Activities will include the analysis of field information in order to lobby national and international organisations to provide services to returnees and promote free education.

JRS projects in Rwanda



education/vocational training

KIZIBA & GIHEMBE camps

For the last 10 years, JRS has continued to provide nursery, primary and lower secondary education to 1,145, 8,325, and 1,425 Congolese refugee children respectively. Funding was also provided to 509 students to continue their upper secondary school education outside the camps, as well as providing scholarships to 17 university students. The team offered literacy classes, vocational training and small-business management to 243 refugees, as well as assistance to 88 refugees to establish small businesses or cooperatives. Last year, JRS established two new projects: a teacher training project for 180 refugee and 43 local primary and secondary teachers and a protection project for 400 girl refugees at risk of abuse.

assistance/ culture

KIZIBA, GIHEMBE

JRS continues to assist a total of 1,347 refugees in vulnerable circumstances, including 432 older persons and orphans. Religious services and cultural and sports activities were provided for approximately 7,000 refugees.



• One of the many Congolese refugees living in exile in Rwanda since 1996, Sergi Camara/ JRS



• JRS beneficiaries from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bujumbura, Burundi, JRS Grands Lacs



• The presence of UN peacekeepers is not sufficient to protect the population, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Teun Voeten/ JRS



Southern Africa

Anti-refugee sentiment was profoundly reinforced throughout southern Africa last year. This was in part triggered by the mass exodus of Zimbabweans fleeing economic collapse. Initially they mainly comprised males between 18 and 35 years old, but by the end of 2007, increasing numbers of women and children were arriving. The numbers of Zimbabweans deported from South Africa was an indication of the scale of this migration, more than 150,000 in nine months of last year compared to 90,000 in 2006. Governments in the region stepped up their efforts to stem the movement of migrants towards South Africa and Angola, adversely affecting attitudes towards refugees as well. Moreover, negative statements by Governments about the composition of migrant flows became more common. In May, photos — of dubious authenticity — aired on national television in Malawi purported to show Somali asylum seekers as members of armed groups.

Economic collapse and political oppression in Zimbabwe may lead to civil war

On a more positive note, the repatriation of Congolese refugees from Zambia commenced, and tripartite talks between the governments of Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) also began, in anticipation of the start of an assisted repatriation programme. Congolese refugees living in camps in Zambia responded positively to the news. However, the number of refugees returning remained low due to difficulties arranging transport and security concerns in the DRC.

Food security was a serious problem in parts of the region in early 2007, particularly in Zimbabwe due to a lack of foreign currency needed to purchase food. As the year closed and the population awaited the harvest, Zimbabweans still found it difficult to get basic foodstuffs. However, refugees in the country continued to receive adequate food rations from the UN World Food Programme.



• Angolans surviving and thriving off the land, Negage, Uige province, northern Angola, Xavier Garcia i Marlí/ JRS

In face of rising intolerance, the Church urged South Africans to welcome fleeing Zimbabweans

African National Union - Patriotic Front and the main opposition party, Movement for Democratic Change, over constitutional and election issues, the situation at the end of the year remained volatile.

In March, in response to criticisms of the government, police and security agents in Zimbabwe embarked on increasingly violent attacks on perceived dissidents. Hyperinflation and a worthless Zimbabwean dollar have impoverished the working and middle classes. Economic collapse and increased political oppression have laid the foundations for strife which may lead to civil war.

Despite a rapprochement between the ruling government party, Zimbabwe

Late last year, the president of South Africa and former leader of the African National Congress (ANC), Thabo Mbeki, was criticised by the newly elected ANC leader, Jacob Zuma, for his foreign policy approach to Zimbabwe. However, South African presidential elections are not due until 2009, so it remains to be seen whether or not Zuma's criticism will alter government policy towards Zimbabwe. At the end of 2007, Archbishop Buti Tlhaagale, in his role as president of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference, issued a statement calling on South Africans to welcome those fleeing Zimbabwe.

Joanne Whitaker RSM, JRS Southern Africa Director

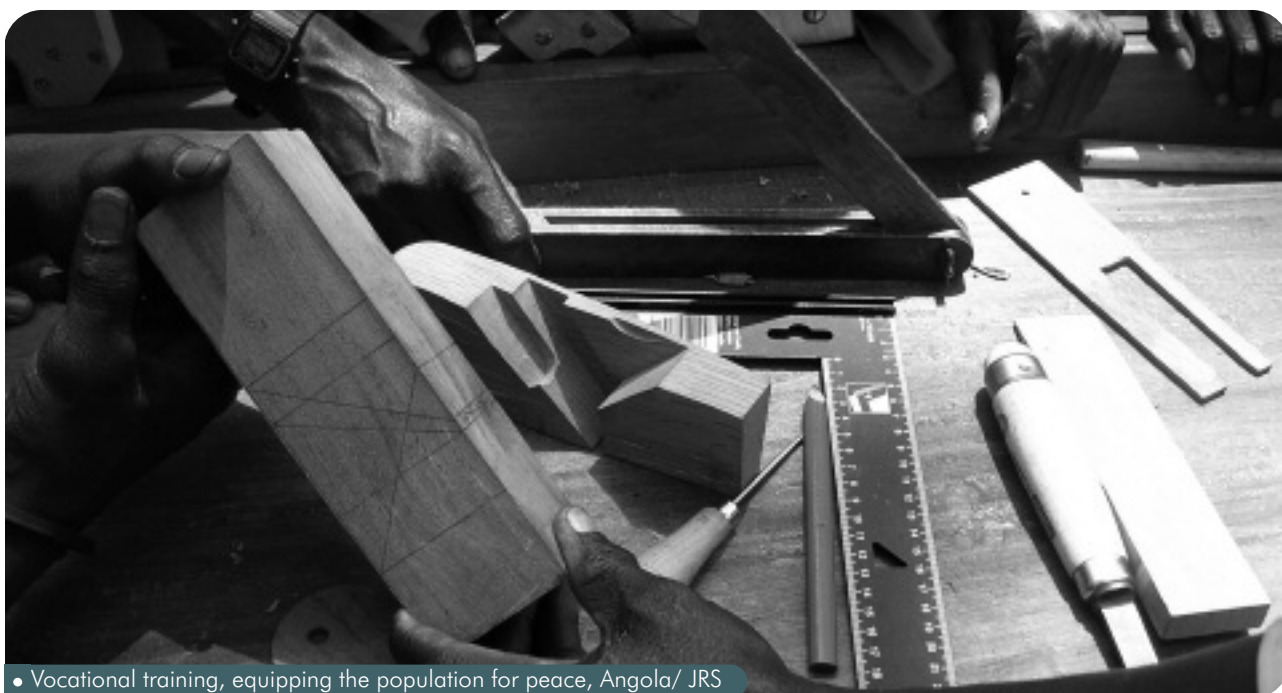
JRS projects in Angola



reintegration - peace education/ advocacy

MOXICO

As part of the peace education and advocacy programme, JRS organised seminars and talks in communities on peace-related issues. Teams also provided training and assistance to those establishing community associations, emergency assistance to individuals in response to flooding in Cazombo and small businesses loans. In addition, teams monitored gender-based violence in communities. In total, 36,613 returnees, formerly internally displaced persons and refugees, benefited from this programme.



• Vocational training, equipping the population for peace, Angola/ JRS

reintegration - formal education/ teacher training

MOXICO

JRS organised seminars for teachers and provided intensive supervision to recently trained teachers. Similarly, staff provided Portuguese and literacy classes, as well as distributing education materials to teachers and students. In total, 40,686 returnee teachers and students benefited from this programme. JRS also constructed 15 schools, two houses for teachers and a shelter for girl students, benefiting 2,535 returnees.

reintegration - children's registration/ research

MOXICO

JRS assisted 21,798 returnee children to obtain birth certificates, essential to gain access to state services, particularly education. JRS also produced a research report on reintegration-related issues including access to land and the needs of returnees in vulnerable circumstances.

At the end of 2007, JRS handed over responsibility for its programmes for returnees to the education ministry and the local church, concluding the consultation and handover phase which began in 2003.

legal

LUANDA, MOXICO

Last year, in partnership with UNHCR, JRS provided legal representation and advice to 9,266 refugees and asylum seekers from 13 different African countries, mainly the Democratic Republic of Congo. The team organised seminars and workshops for 477 in-

dividuals, provided legal assistance to 3,149 individuals on refugee status-related issues and carried out regular visits to refugees in detention centres. Staff also produced information brochures for refugees and asylum seekers and participated in radio programmes. Recognised by the migration and other state authorities, the JRS programme helped reduce the number of illegal detentions, and opened the way for refugees to open bank accounts and obtain licenses to establish businesses. In 2008, the programme plans to expand its services to three additional provinces.

JRS projects in Malawi



Malawi is host to more than 9,000 refugees, particularly Congolese, Rwandans and Burundians. Established in 2003 to cater for new arrivals, Luwani camp never hosted more than 2,500 refugees. In May, the government closed Luwani camp, citing security concerns, and transferred the refugee population to Dzaleka camp, where most refugees were already living. Last year, JRS worked as the UNHCR-implementing partner for education in both camps.

education/ income-generating/ social services

DZALEKA & LUWANI camps

In Dzaleka camp, JRS provided nursery, primary and secondary education for 1,396 children. In addition, JRS supported women's groups, provided language classes, vocational training in carpentry, sewing and computer training and offered financial assistance to individuals to establish small businesses, in total benefiting 162 refugees. In response to the sudden increase in the camp's primary school population, JRS built eight new primary schools, began building four others and renovated the nursery school. Latrines, a kitchen, a room for vocational training and a food storeroom were also constructed. The involvement of a school counsellor and an educational psychologist significantly improved access to and retention rates at the schools and provided important and timely follow-up for problems. In 2008, JRS plans to improve access to secondary education for refugees, by making temporary use of four of the new classrooms. In Luwani camp, JRS managed nursery, primary and secondary schools for more than 930 students, and carpentry, sculpture and child development courses for adults.

JRS projects in Namibia



education/ youth activities/ emergency assistance/ advocacy

OSIRE camp

In partnership with UNHCR, JRS continued to provide nursery, primary, junior secondary, vocational and special education for 609, 1,844, 617, 15 and 10 refugees respectively, mainly Angolans and Congolese — the largest groups in the camp. Adult literacy courses were given to 403 and scholarships to 15 beneficiaries, and youth and sport activities were organised for 1,247 participants. In addition, JRS made a library service available to the camp residents and provided emergency assistance to urban refugees. At the end of December, after participation in a state taskforce, JRS handed over responsibility for its education programme to the relevant ministry. The Archdiocese of Windhoek took responsibility for the pastoral care of refugees, as well as some emergency assistance activities. In 2007, UNHCR intensified negotiations with the government promoting the local integration of the remaining approximately 7,500 refugee camp population.

CALAI (Angola)

Near the border, this project is managed by JRS Namibia. Last year, 1,868 students were enrolled in two Portuguese language and literacy courses and youth and sport activities were organised for 1,120 children during weekends and school holidays. Funds were also secured to add three classrooms and a hall to the existing school. In December, JRS handed over responsibility for the school to Calai municipality.



JRS projects in South Africa

Despite the challenges they face upon arrival, asylum seekers continued to seek refuge and an opportunity to begin anew in South Africa, particularly in urban centres. Many fall victim to abuse, exploitation, xenophobia and crime. Responding adequately to these challenges is increasingly difficult and complex, making networking among JRS, churches, UNHCR and other humanitarian organisations essential.

education/ psychosocial support/ emergency assistance/ health/ advocacy

JOHANNESBURG, PRETORIA

Textbooks, uniforms and stationery were provided to 2,571 nursery, primary, secondary, vocational and language course students. Where waivers could not be obtained, JRS paid their school fees. Psychosocial support, short-term accommodation and food, and referrals for counselling, including trauma counselling, were made available to 2,434 asylum seekers and refugees.

In an increasingly challenging area of JRS work, 295 unaccompanied minors (UAM) received support for accommodation, food, toiletries and other daily needs. To overcome the difficulties these children face when they reach 18 years of age and finish secondary school, steps were taken to assist their transition from the JRS Arrupe Centre for UAM to independent living.

Advocacy, with other key stakeholders, to ensure refugees were granted access to healthcare, formed a significant part of JRS work in this area. In addition, JRS assisted 1,789 refugees with consultation fees and the purchase of medicines, as well as referrals for pre-natal care and other specialised services. Struggling in a country marked by xenophobia, JRS worked to secure access to HIV/AIDS treatment, including anti-retroviral drugs, for refugees. JRS also provided material support to five shelters in Johannesburg providing housing for Zimbabweans and small business loans to 295 individuals.

JRS projects in Zimbabwe



The deteriorating social, political, civic and economic situation made the provision of goods and services to asylum seekers, refugees and Zimbabweans in vulnerable circumstances extremely difficult.

education/ income-generating/ emergency assistance/ social services/ health

TONGOGARA CAMP, HARARE transit camp, MUTARE

JRS provided scholarships at vocational schools, offered sewing classes and built four additional secondary school classrooms in Tongogara, benefiting 204 refugees. The camp library, available daily to 2,000 refugees, was maintained and enhanced. Eight refugees received loans to establish small businesses, including chicken farms and clothing production and retail outlets. One successful business, a Rwandan women's refugee group, produced school uniforms for local schools. However, fewer businesses than planned were assisted due to escalating costs and limited availability of commodities.

In urban Harare, JRS continued to provide refugees with basic material and financial assistance and pay for their medicines, medically-advised food supplements, doctors' fees and other medical costs. In exchange for cleaning materials, financial incentives and supervision, six refugees were made responsible for the maintenance of the public areas of the transit camp, benefiting 2,050 refugees. JRS carried out advocacy with urban and camp-based refugees in Harare. These activities included the investigation of allegations of physical mistreatment of refugees by the authorities and the referral of their cases to relevant organisations, assistance gaining access to state services, and the organisation of a workshop on peace building and conflict management.

CHECHECHE

JRS provided 26 orphans and other children in vulnerable circumstances with school fees, uniforms and books. The family of each child received 20kg of maize seed packs, helping prevent their displacement. As the year progressed, the provision of education was increasingly hindered due to the migration of teachers seeking employment elsewhere.

JRS projects in Zambia



pastoral/ social services/ community development/ advocacy/ income-generating

MWANGE camp

JRS provided pastoral and social services for more than 17,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This included the celebration of the sacraments, religious instruction and the training of small Christian communities, benefiting 12,000 beneficiaries within the camp. Some 5,500 young refugees participated in social and sport activities and received assistance to develop clubs, teams, and social groups. In cooperation with the parish, material and psychosocial assistance was provided to

73 older refugees and persons with disabilities in their homes. Established in 2006, a cooperative of 50 refugees and Zambians received training and other support to plant 15 hectares of fruits and vegetables, and manage 51 pigs and four fish ponds. In mid-2007, almost all refugees agreed to participate in the UNHCR-assisted repatriation programme to Katanga Province in the DRC. JRS provided information, advice and material support to those planning to return home. Of the 10,000 expected to return home, only 4,000 actually left. The programme will resume in 2008.



• Vocational training, providing the skills to live independently, Zimbabwe, JRS Southern Africa

education/ advocacy/ income-generating/ social services

LUSAKA

The JRS Peace Centre offered courses in English, French, computers, tailoring and food catering. JRS provided support and small loans to individuals to establish businesses, including the initiation of a sewing group and a restaurant at the Centre, and courses on business development. Postal, internet and email services were made available to refugees, and with the cooperation of the Red Cross, assistance was provided to help them trace their families. Teams regularly visited refugees in prison and the housebound sick, offered support to young groups and organised music, cultural, and sports activities. In total, 384 refugees and 38 Zambians benefited from this programme. In April, JRS handed over responsibility for the Peace Centre to the Archdiocese of Lusaka with support from Catholic Relief Services.



• Landmines, an obstacle to refugee return, Angola, Teun Voeten/ JRS



• JRS accompaniment restores a sense of normality to refugees' lives, Mwange camp, northern Zambia, JRS Southern Africa



• JRS-supported school, Dzaleka, Malawi, JRS Southern Africa



West Africa

Instability mounted last year in Chad as armed conflict between rebel and national forces intensified, bringing the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to 180,000. In February, the Chadian government signed the Paris Principles, to ensure that children were no longer involved with armed groups, and subsequently, a protocol with the UN children's agency (UNICEF), to assist them reintegrate into civilian life. In 2007, JRS established a transit and orientation centre for many such children, as well as teacher training projects in 12 refugee camps and primary schools in eight IDP sites. Violence in Chad cost the lives of hundreds of people and repeatedly disrupted the delivery of humanitarian aid. Likewise, an escalation of the conflict in the Darfur region brought the number of Sudanese refugees in Chad to 235,000. The deployment of 3,700 EU peacekeepers was expected early in 2008, months later than originally planned.

In Guinea, UNHCR announced a reduction in camp services five months before the planned repatriation of 2,000 Ivorian refugees

A peace accord signed last March between opposition and government leaders marked a turning point in the crisis dividing Côte d'Ivoire. However, its implementation, i.e. the disarmament of militias and fair elections, has been seriously delayed. Slow progress caused suffering among people in the north and west, where state authority and services faltered. Despite continued ethnic and political tensions, 200,000 of more than 700,000 IDPs returned home. Over the next two years, the



• Home again, post-repatriation Liberia, Teun Voeten/ JRS

UN refugee agency (UNHCR) plans to assist 19,000 Liberian refugees to integrate locally in Côte d'Ivoire, and another 8,000 to return home. JRS continued to provide education and healthcare services in the former rebel stronghold of Bouaké, and closed one project, a mobile clinic, as public services slowly returned.

Approximately 160,000 Liberians returned home

Political and economic strife in Guinea, home to 50,000 refugees, continued throughout 2007. In early 2007, government forces suppressed national strikes, and killed and injured over 1,500 people, hindering the delivery of humanitarian aid. Despite the appointment of new national leaders, the future looked uncertain. Nevertheless, the government, with UN support, began large-scale registration and issuance of residence permits to Liberian, Ivorian and Sierra Leonean refugees. Although the UNHCR-sponsored repatriation process for Liberians ended in June, services were subsequently reduced for the remaining 7,000 in Lainé and Kouankan I camps and UNHCR assistance to help their local integration has not produced the expected outcome. Furthermore, even though UNHCR planned only to begin repatriation of the 2,000 Ivorian refugees in Kouankan II camp in June 2008, services for the refugees were to be reduced in January. JRS closed its projects in Lainé and Kouankan I camps in June and planned to hand over responsibility for projects in Kouankan II to the Guinean Red Cross in January 2008.

As President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf finishes her second year in office, hope slowly returns to Liberia. Approximately 110,000 Liberians voluntarily returned home with UN assistance, while another 50,000 returned spontaneously. In November, the government, with UNHCR support, assisted over 3,500 Sierra Leoneans of the remaining 10,000 refugees in Liberia to integrate locally. JRS worked closely with communities providing education, social and other services in Bomi, Lofa, and Nimba Counties. In the first half of the year JRS managed a teacher training project in Lofa, and offered vocational training in Saclepea refugee camp, hosting 1,300 mainly Ivorian refugees.

Kapitula Nzanzu SJ, JRS West Africa Director

JRS projects in Chad



education

ABÉCHÉ, GOZ BEIDA

In Abéché, 1,022 school teachers from 12 Sudanese refugee camps attended two 5-day workshops in Arabic, English, arithmetic, teaching methods, and other specific subjects. In Goz-Beida, JRS recruited, trained and evaluated community teachers in Gouroukoun, Koubigou, Koloma, Gassire, Habile and Aradib IDP camps. At the end of 2007, 11 schools were fully functioning, benefiting 9,500 children. Weekly meetings between teachers and JRS staff were held. JRS also devised and implemented an attendance tracking system in each school, particularly targeting girls. In addition, JRS worked closely with parents' associations, building and maintaining school infrastructure and distributing school materials. Sixty community centres were built and used as classrooms.

peace building

ABÉCHÉ

In May, JRS opened a transit and orientation centre for the rehabilitation and reintegration of children formerly involved with armed groups. The centre provided counselling, healthcare, recreational activities, food and other assistance to 66 children for a period of four to six months. In close cooperation with local authorities and communities, 41 of these children, particularly ethnic Tama from Guéréda, were reunited with their families by JRS.

JRS projects in Guinea



education

LAINÉ, KOUANKAN II

In Lainé, JRS provided kindergarten services for 150 children and non-formal vocational education — literacy, business skills, cultural and health classes — to 150 adolescents at risk. In Kouankan, 307 individuals, including 128 refugees in vulnerable situations, received similar training — tailoring, embroidery, soap-making, carpentry and tie-dye. The best vocational students received start-kits containing trade materials. All students received literacy courses. Camp and office staff attended seminars and IT courses.

income-generating

LAINÉ, KOUANKAN II, N'ZÉRÉKORÉ

In Lainé, JRS provided 195 individuals in vulnerable circumstances with trade tools and technical advice to establish crocheting and embroidery small businesses. In Kouankan II, ongoing support was given to eight groups and financial assistance to 40 more individuals managing bakery, carpentry, restaurant, cultural and CD retail businesses.

social services/ community development

LAINÉ, KOUANKAN I & II

In Lainé, JRS provided material support, counselling and other services to 1,500 Liberians in vulnerable situations, as well as organising sports, recreational and cultural activities for another 2,250 Liberian refugees. Logistical support was also offered to 4,013 refugees returning home. In Kouankan I, JRS provided cultural and sports activities for 1,875 Liberian refugees and social services for another 1,125. Assistance was also made available to 2,346 refugees returning home. In Kouankan II camp, JRS assisted 1,348 Ivorians in vulnerable situations, as well as organising cultural and recreational activities for the entire camp population of 2,900. Day-care services, including food and recreational activities, were provided to 64 children. In addition, staff participated in UNHCR initiatives to gather information on refugee needs and raise awareness of the repatriation programme.

Projects in Lainé and Kouankan I camp closed in June and those in Kouankan II were to be handed over to the Guinean Red Cross in January 2008.

JRS projects in Côte d'Ivoire



education

BOUAKE

In a city economically depressed by war, JRS offered courses in literacy, childcare, health and hygiene and management, as well as providing small business loans. In cooperation with the UN World Food Programme (WFP), JRS also supplied food, day-care, medical and social services to 158 women and 36 children.

healthcare

BOUAKE

The JRS mobile clinic carried out 18,551 medical consultations in seven surrounding villages, treating illnesses such as cholera, bronchitis, diarrhoea, malaria, meningitis, skin diseases and yellow fever, mainly due to problems of poverty, hygiene and sanitation. With the gradual re-opening of public health centres, JRS planned to close their clinic in February 2008. The JRS AIDS clinic continued to raise public awareness about sexually transmitted diseases, benefiting 12,840 people. Staff also carried out HIV tests on 625 individuals and provided medical assistance for 167 persons living with the virus. Vocational training in tie-dye and business management was offered to those seeking a means to pay for healthcare, benefiting 21 people.

JRS projects in Liberia



education

BOMI, LOFA, MONTERRADO AND NIMBA COUNTIES

In Bomi, three schools were reconstructed, four received agricultural technical assistance, and five were supplied with furniture. In Lofa, one school was built and four others were reconstructed, benefiting more than 1,300 students. Eight schools received furniture, 50 received school materials and blackboards and 29 received technical and material assistance to engage in farming activities. In cooperation with the WFP, 82 schools, a total of 38,100 students, received meals under the Emergency School Feeding Programme. More than 700 teachers and administrators received professional training. In Monterrado, JRS provided scholarship support to 73 primary, secondary and university students. In Nimba, one school was built and three others renovated and were equipped with furniture and school supplies.

training/ income-generating

MONTERRADO AND NIMBA COUNTIES

In Monterrado, JRS assisted a local organisation to provide 75 returnees, mainly women, with vocational training in baking, tailoring, tie-dyeing and hairdressing. In Saclepea, Nimba County, 131 Sierra Leonean refugees and Liberian returnees graduated from vocational courses in vehicle, radio and television repair, masonry, hairdressing, tailoring, IT skills, literacy and maths and 130 vocational graduates received small business loans. In Tappita, Nimba County, 30 community-based organisations, involving 1,160 beneficiaries, received technical agricultural assistance and another 82 beneficiaries received tools to establish small businesses.

social services/ community development

LOFA AND NIMBA COUNTIES

In Lofa, local communities were provided with materials and skilled technical labour to build 323 homes for individuals in vulnerable circumstances, and a series of five-day health awareness workshops were organised for 1,100 individuals. In Nimba, 247 homes were also built. Three committees in Tappita, Nimba county, received ongoing assistance and workshops to increase their knowledge of community development. In Saclepea refugee camp, JRS provided a day-care centre for 135 children. Almost all 1,300 refugees in the camp benefited from sports, cultural and pastoral activities.



• Small loans prepare Ivorian refugees for repatriation or local integration, Saclepea camp, Nimba county, central Liberia, Pauline Marteil/ JRS



• Educating a new generation of Sudanese refugees, eastern Chad, Ken Gavin SJ/ JRS



• Accompanying internally displaced persons — central to the JRS mission, Cote d'Ivoire, JRS West Africa



Asia Pacific



• Burmese refugees seeking protection, Thailand, JRS Asia Pacific

In Australia, despite some mild reforms enacted by the outgoing Liberal Party government, key policies on offshore processing of asylum claims, not subject to international law, and mandatory detention remained untouched. Fortunately, in November the incoming Labour government introduced some major reforms, such as the closure of Nauru Island detention facility and the announcement of temporary protection and bridging visas, which prohibit the right to work and access to essential social services. Yet, other concerns remained, such as the use of long-term detention, particularly on the inaccessible Christmas Island. Moreover, in the small island Pacific nations rising sea levels, political instability and poverty all contributed to the displacement of these populations.

In Cambodia, despite concerns about the tribunal's efficacy and the lack of victim participation in the process, the trials of five indicted leaders of the former Khmer Rouge regime began. Conflicts over land ownership, climate change, misuse of natural resources and the

conferral of vast land concessions to private companies contributed to human rights violations and internal displacement. While the rights of the Khmer Krom ethnic minority suffered at the hands of the government, the Vietnamese Montagnards continued to seek asylum from abuses in the country.

In post-tsunami Indonesia, attention shifted to long-term development needs in Aceh province

highlighted a lack of attention on trauma healing, both for survivors of the tsunami and the 32-year conflict. The durable peace and development of the region ultimately depends on the implementation of the autonomous Aceh government's political, economic and social aspects of the development programme.

In Indonesia, as the post-tsunami emergency relief wound down, NGO attention shifted to Aceh's long-term development needs, and the central government assumed a greater role in disaster management systems in this natural-disaster prone country. Nevertheless, external evaluations of the humanitarian response

In Timor Leste the effects of the 2006 political crisis, divisions in the armed forces, 100,000 displaced persons and other political violence continued to plague the government. Security concerns, inadequate infrastructure, social services and employment opportunities need to be addressed.

Political instability in Thailand contributed to a reduction in the protection space for refugees

Since the September 2006 coup, the political instability in Thailand has contributed to a reduction in the protection space for asylum seekers and refugees. National security became a top-priority of the military government and informed all migration and refugee related decisions, including the restrictions on access to refugee status determination, and attempts to deport some ethnic groups and other asylum seekers. The September protests by monks against the military regime in Burma and the ensuing violent crackdown led some to seek asylum in Thailand, highlighting the plight of the refugees in the country. Although some asylum seekers were allowed to register with the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), it remains to be seen if the state agency, the Provincial Admissions Board (PAB), will assist the determination of their claims. The year ended with a general election and it is hoped that the new, democratically elected, government will usher in a more humane and politically stable environment for refugees and migrant workers in Thailand.

Bernard Arputhasamy SJ, JRS Asia Pacific Director

JRS projects in Australia



emergency relief & assistance

The JRS pilot Shelter Project provided 20 destitute asylum seekers, who were legally prohibited from seeking employment, with food and accommodation, as well as referring them to appropriate social and health service providers.

protection/ advocacy

JRS continued to monitor and raise awareness of the effects of Australia's Memoranda of Understanding with neighbouring countries on migration control, particularly on those migrants returned to nearby transit countries. JRS began a research project mapping the causes of displacement from the Pacific Islands of Micronesia and Melanesia, after anecdotal evidence suggested an increase in forced migration due to rising sea levels and disparities in development. A project in Papua New Guinea to build the capacity of Daru-Kiunga Diocese to meet the needs of 10,000 Indonesian West Papuan refugees was also established.

communication

JRS continued to raise public awareness of refugee-related issues through the publication of newsletters, organisation of public events, and participation in seminars, conferences and media interviews. JRS also organised a series of after-work seminars of forced migration-related issues, including three seminars on the situation in East Timor.

social services/ community development

JRS continued to visit migrants and asylum seekers in Villawood Immigration Detention Centre and carry out follow-up visits to detainees transferred elsewhere or released into the community. Of the 160 beneficiaries in contact with JRS, 60 were released on humanitarian grounds as a result of its advocacy efforts. JRS also sourced funds for refugees to attend school and university.



JRS projects in Singapore

fundraising

In 2007, JRS raised US\$330,000 for projects assisting refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), including education and healthcare projects in northern Thailand, health-related projects in Malaysia, education projects in India and emergency assistance to IDPs in Sri Lanka.

public awareness

JRS organised and participated in talks, exhibitions and other fora, raising awareness of refugee-related issues in Asia within the wider Catholic community. In addition, in cooperation with the Catholic Social & Community Council (CSCC) in the Archdiocese of Singapore, JRS organised a month-long recruitment fair for volunteers. The team also published articles in the Catholic news on the plight of Burmese refugees in Thailand and Malaysia, as well as a quarterly electronic newsletter, the Refugee Voice, distributed to approximately 1,000 supporters and donors.

pastoral/ accompaniment

To commemorate World Refugee Day, JRS organised a mass presided by Archbishop Chia and attended by 400 individuals to pray for all Burmese refugees. In October, a mass and candlelight procession, attended by 500 volunteers and supporters, was organised by JRS and the Jesuit community to pray for a peaceful resolution to unrest in Burma. Staff also organised visits to JRS projects in Thailand, India and Nepal for new volunteers, Christ the King church parishioners and students of a local Catholic school.



JRS projects in Cambodia

In 2007, JRS assisted 100 asylum seekers and refugees, including 45 new arrivals.

social assistance

JRS social workers assisted asylum seekers and refugees to gain access to subsistence allowances, emergency assistance, accommodation, education, healthcare and psychiatric services. Staff also helped them adapt to life in the host society, including intervening to resolve problems with the police and neighbours.

protection/ advocacy

Last year, JRS continued to provide legal assistance to asylum seekers and refugees living in urban areas. The advocacy team organised and co-organised several meetings, including the organisation of local activities on the Global Day and the regional forum in Phnom Penh on cluster bombs. These events contributed to the government decision to support the treaty to ban cluster bombs. JRS participated in activities to raise awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and steering committee meetings on survivor assistance and landmine action. The team also took part in international conferences and meetings about landmines and cluster bombs in Austria, Cambodia, Jordan and Switzerland, as well as in meetings and advocacy activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the UN treaty to ban landmines. In addition, staff prepared the Cambodia section of the Landmine Monitor report.

JRS also carried out research into the causes of forced internal displacement within the country, particularly the dispossession of land by powerful elites, and continued to monitor the difficulties faced by Vietnamese Montagnard asylum seekers and refugees and advocate on their behalf.

communication/ peace & conflict transformation

JRS contributed articles to JRS and Cambodian publications, as well as being interviewed by the media. Staff attended a workshop on managing trauma in preparation for possible repercussions from the Khmer Rouge trial. JRS also contributed to peace building and conflict transformation through its extensive work on landmines and disability rights.



JRS projects in Indonesia

JRS post-tsunami response focused on emergency relief work in 2005. By 2006 intervention had shifted to long-term reconstruction work and the empowerment of communities. Last year, this longer-term response in more than 35 cities, villages and surrounding areas throughout Aceh province was winding down.

emergency assistance

ACEH

In 2007, JRS provided technical and material emergency assistance in 15 cities, villages and surrounding areas. Teams distributed rice seeds to 159 families to encourage displaced families to return to farming, and supplementary food products to 215 children and 38 expectant and young mothers. Over the course of 2006 and 2007, JRS built 90 buildings, e.g. community centres, Islamic schools, NGOs, a radio station, village fishing offices etc., for community groups, as well as building three centres for 285 children. Teams also assisted communities to build homes for 183 families.

healthcare

ACEH

Last year JRS provided health-related assistance in eight cities, villages and surrounding areas. Twelve patients were referred to hospitals, 493 others were treated by the JRS mobile clinic and 118 children received hygiene kits to raise their awareness of health and sanitation issues. JRS also constructed 28 latrines, six water wells and three elevated water tanks in five

villages, as well as providing them with waste containers. In addition, psychosocial training was provided to 26 local government staff working with children. The government officials subsequently founded the Children Assistance Communication Forum and provided training to a further 34 officials.

education

ACEH

Last year JRS provided education-related assistance in five cities, villages and surrounding areas. With the participation of 10 staff members, four JRS-assisted traditional Islamic boarding schools conducted a comparative study to identify new management and learning systems. Arabic and English language classes were provided to 34 individuals and IT classes to another 30. Participants were encouraged to transfer their knowledge to other students using informal education mechanisms. JRS organised class management training for 24 teachers and sourced external pedagogic training for five other teachers, as well as administration and library management training for 19 staff of a Muslim boarding school. In addition, school uniforms were distributed to 420 students at two primary schools and stationery to 346 kindergarten, primary and secondary school students. Six reading centres were also established, furnished and equipped with school and Islamic books.

social services & community development

ACEH

JRS bought office equipment for 11 coastal community state agencies. Project management and alternative education training workshops were provided for 26 individuals working with five local state agencies. Training was provided for 14 staff working with children of three local state agencies. JRS also financially supported important religious celebrations in local communities.

income-generating

ACEH

Last year, JRS provided assistance to small businesses in 19 cities, villages and surrounding areas. JRS continued to provide technical assistance and monitor the progress of a number of small business groups who received capital grants in 2005-2006, benefiting 532 individuals. The groups engaged in a wide range of business activities, including fishing, farming and various traditional manufacturing, service and retail activities. JRS provided rice and ginger seeds and pesticides to 293 farming families, of whom 158 also received agricultural machinery. Two village communities were assisted to construct dams to prevent flooding and irrigation walls, benefiting 822 persons.

JRS projects in Thailand



education

MAE HONG SON

JRS remained committed to supporting primary and secondary education, school-based vocational training, special education, home-school liaison and teacher training for the two Karenni camps in Mae Hong Son. In 2007, JRS assisted 7,658 students to attend school and provided 681 refugee teaching and non-teaching staff with training. A newly established vocational training and non-formal education programme benefited more than 3,000 refugee participants.

RANONG

JRS was the largest NGO providing education to the children of Burmese migrant workers in five Burmese communities and two Thai schools, benefiting 1,200 students and 34 Thai and Burmese teachers.

urban programme/ advocacy

BANGKOK

As a result of external and internal political developments, the number of asylum seekers from Asia, Africa and the Middle East who received counselling, legal advice and financial assistance rose sharply to more than 3,000 last year. In May 2007, after UNHCR ceased conducting refugee status determination interviews, JRS, as the primary organisation assisting asylum seekers, urged the agency to resume. JRS continued to provide assistance to Hmong, Karen, Arakan and other Burmese communities living in the city.

MAE SOT

In the aftermath of protests in Burma last September, JRS provided counselling services, financial and emergency support to 768 asylum seekers, including new arrivals. The team also provided assistance to the Burmese Karen and other ethnic minority groups for education services and community development activities.

detention/ healthcare

BANGKOK

Towards the middle of the year, restrictions were placed on NGOs working in Suan Plu immigration detention centre (IDC). Despite these constraints and a record number of detainees, approximately 1,300, JRS continued providing medical care and supplementary food, as well as advocating for the release of detainees. JRS advocated against the arbitrary detention of refugees and asylum seekers, and successfully negotiated with UNHCR the introduction of financial assistance for all recognised refugees in the IDC.

social services & community development

CHIANG MAI

JRS continued to support the educational and material needs of Burmese Shan refugees and other minority refugees in northern Thailand, benefiting more than 1,000 children and 2,000 Shan families. Furthermore, JRS became more involved in advocating for the provision of birth registration and reduction of statelessness of the Shan and Lahu people.

JRS projects in Timor Leste



social services & community development

In response to the ongoing crisis in the country, JRS opened a project last October to provide community services to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and assist the local Church hosting them. Six camps were selected and meetings were held with camp leaders and managers in the six religious communities hosting IDPs in order to gather data and identify the needs of IDPs.

protection/ advocacy

In order to raise awareness of internal displacement, JRS facilitated workshops on the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement for 37 individuals, including camp managers and staff working for local NGOs and the government ombudsman on human rights.



• Villawood Immigration detention Centre, Sydney, JRS Australia



• Promoting food security, JRS agricultural training centre, Mae Hong Son, northern Thailand, Sara Pettinella/ JRS



• Homes for internally displaced persons, Aceh, Indonesia, JRS Asia Pacific



South Asia

Insufficient political resolve and internal difficulties in key countries prevented South Asian states from agreeing to much needed common economic reforms. Consequently, plans to establish a single currency in the region remained a distant dream. Fortunately, positive developments in Nepal and Bhutan left hope that durable solutions will be found for Bhutanese refugees in exile since 1990.

In Pakistan, the announcement of parliamentary elections raised hopes of democratic advance. Tragically, the assassination of former prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, during an election rally pushed this process backwards. In India, an agreement between US and Indian authorities on civil nuclear cooperation sparked off nationwide opposition and the establishment of Special Economic Zones caused large scale displacement of marginalised groups.

In Sri Lanka, the year was marked by aerial bombings, disappearances and arbitrary killings

in eastern Nepal, offering to resettle 60,000 Bhutanese refugees. Subsequently, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and a few other countries also offered to accept smaller numbers. In the first phase, the US plans to resettle 12,000 refugees before October 2008, completing the process by 2012.

Last year, Bhutan experimented with democracy as the country held its first ever elections for the upper house of parliament. The move was hailed by many as the first step towards establishing an egalitarian society in a country subject to monarchic rule for many centuries. Moreover, the US government took steps to resolve the refugee crisis



• Displacement, the cost of conflict, Sri Lanka, Max Martin/ JRS

In Sri Lanka, there was a return to full scale conflict. The insurgent ethnic Tamil group, the LTTE, used suicide bombers to destroy one of the largest government air force bases at Anuradhapura while its air force flew over the capital Colombo, creating fear among the majority Sinhalese population in the country's south. In response, the government air force killed the LTTE political leader, Tamil Selvan, widely believed to be one of the organisation's peace doves.

Despite progress elsewhere, a peaceful solution to the Sri Lankan conflict was nowhere in sight

in northern Sri Lanka was killed in a claymore explosion as he travelled through rebel-held territory to deliver aid. More than 50,000 persons, displaced as a result of army operations in the east, continued to live in substandard conditions in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the northeastern and eastern districts of Trincomalee and Batticaloa. Late last year, the theatre of war shifted to the north, provoking further displacement.

The year was marked by aerial bombings, disappearances, arbitrary killings, freedom of movement restrictions, economic blockages and consequent food shortages, particularly in the Vanni region and the Jaffna peninsula. Moreover, attacks on humanitarian workers escalated. In September, Fr Packiyaranjith, JRS Mannar District Coordinator

Notwithstanding events in Sri Lanka, the trickle of refugees into India slowed down last year. Concurrently, the Tamil Nadu state government introduced a number of refugee-friendly measures. The state government requested that Sri Lankan refugees re-register to benefit from new state schemes, lifted the ban preventing their access to free higher education and granted them permission to build new community centres in refugee camps.

Despite progress in Nepal and India, a peaceful solution to the Sri Lankan conflict was nowhere in sight, a matter of grave concern to all civilians and humanitarian workers.

PS Amalraj SJ, JRS South Asia Director

JRS projects in India



education

Last year, JRS helped 10,155 students to register in Tamil Nadu state schools and provided them with stationery and other materials. JRS provided 9,640 children with evening classes in JRS centres, 1,714 upper-secondary students with extra school tuition during the summer holidays and 101 early-school-leaver girls with technical skills training in JRS residential centres. JRS enabled 154 refugees, working in its tuition centres in 60 camps, to participate in annual teacher training workshops and helped the camp committee construct and renovate 20 community centres and halls. In addition, JRS helped 200 students to register in community colleges, 158 of whom also received financial assistance with their accommodation and fees. A further 868 students received financial support for their accommodation and of these 162 were provided with living allowances. Special tuition grants were given to another 257 upper secondary school students as well as assistance to university students to produce a bi-monthly magazine, Manavar Vidyal.

community development

Each month, JRS facilitated the organisation of a college forum on issues such as HIV, gender awareness and social responsibility, attended by an average of 717 students. A workshop on leadership and media issues was also organised for 650 student leaders. In addition, Some 210 women refugees were provided with seamstress courses in JRS centres.

advocacy/ accompaniment

Assistance, which included three workshops, was provided to district camp leaders to promote planning and information sharing. Staff made house visits to 4,879 families and gave medical and other emergency assistance to 1,256 individuals and counselling services to another 228. Nearly 650 older refugees were also given a monthly allowance.



JRS projects in Nepal

education

JRS supported 1,155 refugee teachers in 42 camps, benefiting 32,035 students, and 14 support teachers helping 550 children with special needs. More than 4,800 primary and secondary students sat public exams, of whom nearly 75% passed. Seven child centres, employing 46 staff, offered day services to 3,231 students. JRS youth centres in seven camps provided recreational, sports and social activities, including raising awareness of HIV/AIDS for young adults between 18 and 25 years.

vocational education

With the assistance of the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) JRS extended the range of vocational courses it provided for young people, including early-school leavers. Last year, it offered 1,884 young people vocational training in a wide range of areas, including basic IT, carpentry and plumbing.

disability

JRS managed 13 disability and palliative centres last year, providing vocational training to 546 young early-school leavers. Sign language and other training courses were provided to 381 participants with different types of disabilities. The centre also provided medical certificates for 514 persons with disabilities.

advocacy

JRS continued to provide field reports and undertake lobbying with local and international partner agencies encouraging Nepal to approve the resettlement of Bhutanese refugees to third countries. In November, the government responded positively. The prospect of resettlement led to unrest and outbreaks of violence between refugees in favour of repatriation to Bhutan and those in favour of resettlement. Two young refugees died and others were injured after the police fired on demonstrators.



JRS projects in Sri Lanka

education

Last year, JRS education programmes benefited 57,345 war-affected and displaced children and 1,106 teachers. JRS managed 131 pre-schools employing 297 teachers and 289 evening tuition centres employing 674 teachers, benefiting 5,482 and 24,675 children respectively. The team also provided education materials and uniforms to 62,920 and scholarships to 3,197 children, and supplied 81 teachers to 36 state schools benefiting 4,064 students. In addition, JRS helped students produce 4,000 copies of their bi-monthly magazine *Manavar Vidyal*, and managed orphanages for 121 children.

human resource development

JRS vocational training centres provided life-skills training, in areas such as tailoring, embroidery and hairdressing, for 132 early-school-leaver girls. Teams also provided pedagogic training to 971 individuals to work in pre-schools and evening tuition centres, parenting skills and leadership training to 6,508 individuals and courses in leadership and peace and reconciliation to 19,979 students. In addition, 15 counsellors gave individual and group sessions to 8,730 individuals traumatised by the 2006 tsunami and ongoing conflict. JRS staff also organised vocational training courses, including motor mechanics, carpentry and welding, for 99 young unemployed individuals. Moreover, JRS opened a care centre for children with disabilities and financially supported a local NGO, Mannar Association for Rehabilitation of Differently Abled People. In total, 91 children with disabilities benefited.

income-generating

Last year, teams continued to provide technical and other assistance to JRS-established cooperatives. Loans were given to 72 cooperatives — 34 for farmers, six for fishermen, 23 for widows and 15 groups for people with disabilities — benefiting 2,616 families. In its five production centres, JRS employed 69 life-skills-training students to prepare meals and produce school materials for student beneficiaries. One hundred and ten self-help women's groups also received loans to establish businesses, benefiting 1,842 families.

emergency/ construction

Small emergency grants of 75 US dollars and business loans of 250 US dollars were provided to 1,476 returnee refugees in vulnerable circumstances. JRS also constructed 896 temporary and 320 semi-permanent shelters, four children's and 182 permanent homes, seven pre-schools, 19 evening tuition schools and four human resource centres.



• Sri Lanka refugee family, Tamil Nadu, India, JRS South Asia



• Education, the heart of JRS, Sri Lanka, Ken Gavin SJ/ JRS



• Bhutanese refugee children, eastern Nepal, JRS South Asia



Europe

At the beginning of 2007, Romania and Bulgaria joined the European Union (EU), bringing its membership to 27 nations. Nine of the 10 nations which joined the bloc in 2004 became members of the Schengen common travel zone. As the EU strives to implement a common asylum policy by 2010, it has simultaneously tightened its borders, limiting access to asylum. EU officials are placed at external air and sea ports, indiscriminately preventing individuals from leaving their countries of origin. High border fences are accompanied by increased patrols on the Mediterranean Sea and near the Canary Islands. Rights groups are worried that these extended security measures not only obstruct the arrival of people fleeing human rights abuses, but also force them to use more dangerous routes to reach the continent. As the EU fails in its obligations to protect human rights, the role of the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights becomes more significant.

For the first time in five years, the number of asylum applications in the EU increased

in receipt of expulsion orders remain in the country. Those unable to return home are often deprived of basic social services and end up destitute — respect for their fundamental human rights becomes dependent on their legal status.

Last year, for the first time in five years, the number of asylum applications in the EU increased by approximately 11% — with the largest groups of asylum applicants coming from Iraq, Russia and Pakistan. Likewise, the number of people in administrative detention increased, principally irregular migrants in receipt of an expulsion order. Almost two-thirds of those



• Refugee girl living in the Pedro Arrupe family reception centre, Claudio Lombardi/ JRS

Irregular migration is likely to remain the rule rather than the exception in the future

basic human rights protection is offered to all, regardless of their status. Significantly, the prestigious UN refugee agency Nansen Award was given to a JRS worker who has worked for more than 10 years with all kinds of migrants: Dr Katrine Camilleri from Malta.

It is increasingly more difficult to distinguish refugees from other migrants. Experts now speak of 'mixed migration' flows of groups fleeing persecution and other human rights abuses and those fleeing poverty and desperation. Both generally arrive in their host countries undocumented after using the same travel routes. It is essential that

Although politicians who oppose immigration have significant support in European countries, it is gradually becoming accepted that Europe is now a continent of immigration. It is estimated that in the coming years, 44 million people will leave the labour market and that the continent will face severe labour shortages. With rising employment, wages and standards of living in countries like Poland, Ukraine and Morocco, it is likely that emigration from these countries will decrease. Both migration-producing states and the European Commission would like to make it easier to migrate to Europe legally, but this will fail without specific commitments from EU Member States. Consequently, irregular migration will remain the rule rather than the exception, with all the related risks of exploitation and abuse. It is ironic that while awareness is growing that Europe needs migrants, little progress is being made to encourage resettlement of refugees from countries outside the EU.

Jan Stuyt SJ, JRS Europe Director

JRS projects in the regional office



advocacy/ public awareness

Last year, JRS policy and advocacy work focused on four strategic issues: administrative detention of asylum seekers and irregular migrants, destitution, migration and development, and the externalisation of EU asylum procedures.

To counter the continued use of closed administrative detention centres throughout the continent, JRS compiled a collection of resources on its new website www.detention-in-europe.org — including relevant court cases, various national legislation and information on JRS Europe projects. In cooperation with JRS country offices, the regional office undertook advocacy work with policy makers in Brussels and in major European capitals.

JRS research on destitute unsuccessful asylum applicants, formally launched in 2007, found that these individuals, many of whom are unable to return home, were denied social services due to their legal status; this often leads to their social and economic marginalisation.

JRS participated in events surrounding the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Brussels — and organised a conference with political representatives, ambassadors and relevant NGOs — to exchange information on best practices.

As part of JRS work on the externalisation of EU asylum policy, JRS initiated research on the protection gaps facing refugees and migrants living in Morocco.

JRS continued to organise the Pedro Arrupe Award to raise awareness of refugee-related issues. The Polish and Slovakian winners — selected from applicants from 35 secondary schools in 14 European countries — received their prizes in the European Parliament. In addition, JRS launched a similar competition for students of journalism.

Although JRS does not have full-time staff in Austria, Lebanon, Spain and Ukraine, a small number of fundraising and other activities take place.

JRS projects in Belgium

detention/ advocacy / public awareness

Last year, JRS continued to visit asylum seekers and migrants detained in five closed centres, offering moral support and legal counselling, and making contact with lawyers and their families. JRS continued to lobby government officials and political parties to introduce or propose measures enhancing the protection of asylum seekers and migrants, particularly those in detention. Consequently, psychological services were extended to detainees and the French-speaking Socialist party proposed legislation based on the recommendations of a report produced by JRS and other NGOs on detention in October 2006.

As part of its advocacy work against the detention of children, JRS supported lawyers challenging the detention of families with children. Moreover, JRS invited other NGOs to sign an open letter — published in two national newspapers on 20 November, International Children's Day — urging the Minister of Interior to halt their detention. On St Nicolas' Day, 6 December, JRS, in cooperation with other NGOs, visited the Ministry of Interior to hand them drawings and letters of children from all over Belgium calling for an end to the detention of children.

In April, JRS participated in the 'Who Can Stay?' campaign to highlight the arbitrary nature of the regularisation process. The public was asked to choose between actors representing undocumented migrants and decide who can stay in Belgium. On World Refugee Day, 20 June, JRS participated in an inter-religious vigil, organised by the regional office, for those who had died while trying to reach the continent.

JRS projects in France



Last year, JRS fully established an office, and recruited a country director, project worker and a number of volunteers. Approximately 10 volunteers visited detention centres and assisted with an integration project in Paris. Subsequently, JRS initiated a refugee integration project in Chambéry, southeast France, and the new information team developed and launched its website.

JRS projects in Germany



detention

In 2007, JRS provided almost 2,500 individuals with legal, social and pastoral support in detention centres in Berlin, Eisenhüttenstadt (Brandenburg) and Munich (Bavaria). Established in 2005, the JRS legal aid fund for detainees in Berlin-Brandenburg was co-funded by the European Refugee Fund. With a budget of 20,000 euro, assistance was provided in 80 cases, of which 30 have already been resolved successfully. In November, 12 organisations — including Caritas Bavaria, the Diocesan Council of Catholics and the local section of Amnesty International — agreed to support the expansion of the JRS initiative to Bavaria in southern Germany.

advocacy

JRS addressed several NGO conferences discussing European border control operations. Staff also produced a policy paper critically assessing the failure of the relevant EU agency, FRONTEX, to protect refugee and migrant rights.

Hardship Commission

In 2007, the Berlin commission met on nine occasions to adjudicate on 220 cases and recommended to the Berlin Home Secretary that 155 cases receive humanitarian residence status, of which 94 cases were granted. As a commission member of the commission, JRS filed 36 applications in 2007. The commission ruled on 46 JRS-filed applications from 2007 and previous years. The Berlin Home Secretary granted humanitarian residence to 17 cases and other forms of residency to another seven cases. As a direct result of JRS intervention, 51 persons were granted the right to stay in Germany.

JRS projects in Ireland



detention/ advocacy

JRS continued its weekly outreach and psychosocial support service to women detainees. In May, JRS and the Mercy Refugee Network organised a training course for 25 detention visitors. Moreover, JRS participated in a European Parliament commissioned research project on migrant detention conditions, particularly focusing on facilities for persons with special needs.

integration

Community Links, an integration project in Dublin inner city, offered employment, education and cultural services and activities. Training courses — in job seeking and interview skills, intercultural communication, CV preparation and personal development — were provided to long-term unemployed refugees seeking employment. Activities and resources designed to assist parents and teachers of refugee and migrant children were developed and made available to 33 primary and 12 secondary schools. A School Resources Folder, developed in 2006, was widely distributed in 2007. The first in a series of seminars for teachers — 'Immigration, Rights and Entitlements' — was held in November and attended by 30 people. To lessen the isolation of refugee and migrant families, JRS organised intercultural events on International Women's and World Refugee Days. JRS continued to expand its language support services with peer tutoring projects.

public awareness

JRS Ireland began the development of a booklet on the Irish education system for migrant parents, and finalised the 2008 Interfaith and Intercultural calendar and a new JRS Ireland website, www.jrs.ie.

JRS projects in Italy



social assistance/ training

In partnership with the national health service, and with the support of the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), JRS opened a centre in Rome — *Salute per Migranti Forzati* — offering assistance and healthcare to asylum seekers and refugees. The project seeks to encourage forced migrants to use the state health system. In cooperation with *Medici Contro la Tortura*, specialised services were also offered to victims of torture. A building confiscated from the Mafia, in Catania, Sicily, was given to JRS to use as an accommodation centre for 60 people, making it the fifth JRS accommodation centre. Financed by the Lazio Regional authorities, JRS organised 400 hours of classes and 100 hours of work experience in social work for 23 migrants from 16 countries. After the final examination, the participants obtained an official qualification.

advocacy/ public awareness

JRS Italy took part in a research project, whose preliminary findings were launched in November 2007, into the difficulties facing destitute unsuccessful asylum applicants in Lazio region, usually young male Africans and Asians smuggled into the country. JRS hopes to use the findings of the report to improve assistance to this group, whose inability to find employment is often the most difficult hardship to endure. During 2007, thousands of high school students took part in two JRS projects on the right to asylum and interfaith dialogue. Many of these students participated in a writing competition *La lettura non va in esilio*, supported by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage.

JRS projects in Malta



detention

JRS continues to focus on detention, offering legal, social and pastoral services to detainees. The team provided legal information regarding rights and procedures to all new arrivals. Individuals in vulnerable circumstances were provided with more in-depth legal assistance, and others were referred to the relevant government agencies by a social worker and a nurse.

advocacy

JRS was the lead agency of an EU-funded project documenting detention conditions in the 10 states which joined the EU in 2004. Each country prepared a national report, and these, together with the regional report, were presented at a conference held in Malta in October.

social assistance

Financed by UNHCR, the sexual- and gender-based violence project increased JRS' work with migrants, both outside and inside the detention centres. With the help of two cultural mediators and a psychologist, JRS communicated with women from different cultures and learned about their traumatic experiences. With the assistance of UNHCR and other NGOs, JRS developed a successful health education and promotion programme in the closed and open centres.

public awareness/ pastoral

In 2007, JRS work in the 'We are All Equal' EU funded project expanded. The team visited more than 40 schools and community centres and organised a number of public theatrical performances attended by 500 students. The students were given the opportunity to view and discuss a 30-minute DVD about racism and discrimination. In addition, a small group of Jesuits celebrated Sunday mass for Christian detainees; the highlight of this activity was the nine masses organised on Christmas Day by eight Jesuit priests.

JRS projects in Portugal



JRS supported approximately 5,500 people in 2007, mainly from Eastern Europe, Portuguese speaking countries in Africa and from Brazil.

social assistance

Last year, 114 homeless migrants received shelter in the Pedro Arrupe Centre and 205 received emergency assistance from the social aid office. In cooperation with JRS, a religious order provided lunch and dinner to marginalised migrants, serving approximately 100 meals a day. Approximately 85 migrants were seen by a volunteer doctor who, when appropriate, referred migrant patients to specialists in other fields, e.g. dentistry, psychiatry, gynaecology. JRS offered social, psychological, cultural and religious support to around 300 irregular migrants housed in a state-run temporary accommodation centre, and hired a clinical psychologist, initially on a part-time basis, who provided 110 sessions to 29 individuals.

integration

In 2007, 45 migrant nurses successfully participated in a JRS project to recognise their qualifications. As part of the UNIVA project, in cooperation with state agencies and NGOs, JRS provided assistance to and interviewed 2,751 migrants and refugees, referring them to employers principally in the construction, housekeeping and care sectors. In addition, the team offered 712 migrants and refugees information on the regularisation of their legal status, the renewal of their documents, requests for nationality, education, health rights and voluntary return. Ninety-one individuals also participated in JRS-run Portuguese classes.

public awareness

In 2007, the 'Welcome to our Country' project, to raise awareness and encourage the integration of migrant communities, ended. In total, around 40 schools were visited and 2,000 people were involved in the sessions. JRS participated in several debates and conferences, occasionally in events promoted by the print media, radio and television, and distributed 1,800 copies of its quarterly newsletter.

JRS projects in Romania



social assistance

Once the period of state-provided accommodation comes to an end, JRS is the only organisation offering this service. Last year, 57 men were temporarily accommodated in a JRS hostel for a maximum of six months, and another 22 individuals (families and single women) were housed in social apartments. JRS assisted refugees and migrants to comply with administrative requirements set down by the state and find appropriate employment. In addition, the team referred refugees and asylum seekers to state authorities and other NGOs which offer specialised services, such as legal, psychological and medical assistance. A volunteer doctor and nurse also attended to people living in accommodation centres. JRS social workers offered counselling and other assistance to individuals with psychosocial and behavioural problems living in detention and accommodation centres.

integration/ education

In order to assist their integration into Romanian society, JRS continued to encourage migrants to participate in Romanian and English classes and cultural activities. Similarly, computer courses were provided for refugees and asylum seekers, offering them a means to communicate with family and friends. Important cultural and Christian and Muslim religious events were celebrated in the Pedro Arrupe Centre, and recreational and sporting activities were organised.

JRS projects in Slovenia



reception and detention visits

Nineteen individuals completed a volunteer training programme and four seminars were provided for volunteers working in Asylum House reception centre in Ljubljana and the detention centre in Postojna. Twice a week, an average of 70 detainees received visits from JRS volunteers, offering friendship, listening to them and playing with the child detainees. Four times a week, volunteers and a JRS social worker visited the open centre where they organised a residents' support group, creative workshops and cultural activities. Similarly, the JRS social worker assisted young children with preparations for their future education. In addition, on 5 December, JRS organised Christmas activities, including a visit by Santa Claus, for 40 children in the open centre.

integration/ education

For the fifth consecutive year, JRS organised a week-long holiday for 28 women and children to the coastal city of Portorož. For the first time, two families from the detention centre also participated. For many of them it was their first visit to the sea. To promote their integration into Slovenian society, JRS organised four computer courses for 27 asylum seekers and refugees.

communication

JRS Slovenia broadcast a bi-monthly radio programme, 'Building a more Open Society', on the Catholic station, *Radio Ognjišče*. At the end of December, the programme, which focuses on refugee- and migration-related issues, broadcast its hundredth radio show.

JRS projects in Sweden



detention

Fully established as a country office last year, a JRS visitors group consisting of nine persons provided moral support to detainees, helped them get in touch with their relatives and lawyers, and mediated between the detainees, the police and the Swedish migration board. On a case by case basis, particularly for detainees being transferred to other EU countries under the Dublin II agreement, contacts were established with NGOs or JRS offices in the destination countries to ensure adequate support and a fair treatment upon arrival. On a less structured basis, JRS offered help and advice to irregular migrants.

JRS project in the United Kingdom



advocacy/ detention

In order to raise awareness about the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK, staff and volunteers continued to give talks and lead workshops for church and secular groups. JRS worked in coalitions undertaking lobbying and campaigning work on destitution and detention issues and participated in a group monitoring asylum interview facilities. Moreover, JRS helped establish the Independent Asylum Commission, a people's inquiry into the asylum process in the UK, comprising human rights experts, members of the House of Lords, a theologian and a refugee. In 2007, public hearings were held across the UK and written evidence was requested. The findings will be published next year. In addition, 10 volunteers visited between 40-60 detainees per week, also liaising with health professionals and legal advisors.

social assistance

Last year, 3,110 asylum seekers and refugees from 31 countries sought assistance from JRS, an increasing number of whom were unsuccessful asylum applicants. JRS helped 150 individuals per week with applications for travel and emergency relief grants, finding them solicitors, as well as providing financial and material assistance when necessary. Another 50-60 indi-

viduals who visited the office less regularly, monthly and bimonthly, received similar services. Others, some fitted with electronic tags, visited on daily or bi-weekly basis. The state provides asylum seekers who are unwell, who have agreed to leave the UK or whose cases have been reopened with vouchers to the value of £35 a week. Some have received these vouchers for more than two years. To give asylum applicants greater choice about what they buy, JRS began a voucher exchange scheme. Each month, £7,700 of vouchers were exchanged for cash.

JRS projects in western Balkans



Bosnia-Herzegovina

elderly homecare

Established in 1996, JRS provides medical and psychosocial support to vulnerable returnees, displaced elderly persons or those who remained alone in Sarajevo. In 2007, staff assisted 30 individuals, distributing food, facilitating doctors' visits and paying their utility bills.

Croatia

reconciliation

Last year, in cooperation with a Serbian Orthodox NGO, the Serbian Orthodox Monastery Krka and the parents, JRS managed a multi-ethnic and multi-religious kindergarten in Knin for 45 Bosnian, Serb and Croat children, helping them socialise, learn and play together.

Kosovo

landmine survivors

For the past 7 years, JRS has offered direct medical assistance, accommodation and psychosocial support to young victims of landmines and their families. In 2007, limb prostheses, eye surgery, medical follow up care and education were available for 66 children. A summer camp was also organised for 29 young landmine survivors in Ohrid, Macedonia.

reintegration

In partnership with Caritas Luxembourg, JRS assisted 12 families — including 53 children — who were forcibly returned from Luxembourg between 2005 and 2007. Language courses were provided to the children and social support to the families to help them integrate into Kosovar society.

other activities in the region

With the support of JRS staff, projects for elderly homecare, material support for vulnerable families, IT courses in Croatia, in Bosnia and Macedonia are now managed by other agencies.



• Refugee girls from the Pedro Arrupe family reception centre, Claudio Lombardi/ JRS



• Hal Far open centre for refugees, Malta, A Pace/ UNHCR



• Distribution of essential materials, JRS Serbia



Latin America & the Caribbean

In 2007, the armed conflict in Colombia continued to spill into neighbouring countries Brazil, Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela, evolving from a national to a regional conflict. In the last decade, 1997-2007, the humanitarian crisis in Colombia has dramatically deteriorated — disproportionately affecting indigenous, Afro-Colombian and mestizo communities. At the end of last year, more than three million people had been internally displaced and another 600,000 forced to flee to neighbouring countries. In addition to being used by elements of the military and irregular armed groups to gather intelligence, 10,000 children were recruited to participate directly in the war. Moreover, approximately 5,600 individuals, of whom 567 were children, became victims of landmines.

In Panama, most Colombian refugees are confined to border zones

A constant flow of small numbers of asylum seekers continued to arrive in Ecuador, fleeing on-going clashes between the military and right-wing paramilitary groups, and the left-wing guerrilla group, FARC-EP. Indiscriminate coca-spraying, with harmful fertilisers, also pushed many Colombians into Ecuador. Early last year, the Ecuadorian government announced its intention to regularise the irregular status of almost half a million Colombians, but no concrete action was taken.



• Refugee family benefiting from small JRS loan, Guasdalito, southern Venezuela, Sara Pettinella/ JRS

Last year, indigenous peoples and Afro-Colombians, fleeing conflict between paramilitary and guerrilla groups in the Pacific Coast region continued seeking asylum in Panama. In addition, refugees from the Caribbean coast fled paramilitary violence, whose control over the region permeates into the political sphere. Once in Panama, most refugees are confined to the border zone; those who reach the city are not entitled to seek employment.

At the end of 2007, diplomatic relations between the Venezuelan and Colombian governments were at breaking point. They exchanged accusations: the Venezuelans were accused of supporting FARC-EP, and the Colombians of introducing paramilitarism into Venezuela to destroy its socialist revolution. Colombian guerrilla and paramilitary groups clashed repeatedly in the Zulia, Tachira, Apure and Amazonas states on the Venezuelan side of the border. In Apure state, the conflict was between two guerrilla groups, FARC-EP and ELN. These conflicts are internally displacing Venezuelans and preventing Colombian asylum seekers from finding safety. Extortion, kidnapping, paid assassinations and child recruitment by irregular groups are now a reality in Venezuelan border states.

Last August, JRS began an assessment of the refugee phenomenon and the possibility of establishing a project in the Amazon region of Manaus, Brazil, as part of its response to the humanitarian crisis affecting the border regions of Colombia's neighbours.

Thousands of Haitians have fled extreme poverty and political instability, principally to the Dominican Republic, but also to Puerto Rico, the United States, Canada, Jamaica and Venezuela. Haitians frequently fall prey to human traffickers and smugglers, who operate with almost total impunity. Last year, the Dominican Migration Office and army arrested and deported 12,427 Haitians. In violation of the constitution, the Dominican state continued to deny citizenship to children born in the country of Haitian parents. In response to the Haitian crisis, JRS teams worked together to strengthen their accompaniment and human rights defence of this population living in vulnerable circumstances.

Alfredo Infante SJ, JRS Latin America and Caribbean Director



JRS project in Colombia

In 2007, JRS worked in the regions of Magdalena Medio (Barrancabermeja and San Pablo), Valle del Cauca (Buenaventura and Centro del Valle) and in Soacha and the south of Bogotá, where its teams assisted 19,036 displaced persons.

advocacy/ communication

In cooperation with the coalition against the use of children in conflict, JRS teams monitored human rights violations suffered by this group and advocated to the national authorities and international community to ensure their protection. In cooperation with the Javeriana University of Bogotá, JRS conducted research into the violation of children's rights in Barrancabermeja, Magdalena Medio, and into the importance of religious symbols to the spirituality of populations in the municipalities of Magdalena Medio. Legal assistance to displaced persons was also provided. Further, JRS produced monthly reports on the human rights situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs), published articles in Jesuit publications and produced two videos on the Soacha drop-in centre.

education and training/ emergency support

JRS provides local populations with training on national and international human rights assisting them to gain access to their rights as citizens. Teams assisted displaced persons to gain access to literacy classes and provided them with music, dance and theatre courses. Workshops and seminars on planning, management, business development, and peace and reconciliation were provided to displaced communities. In addition, JRS mobile education teams provided teachers with courses on personal development, methodologies for working with children, socio-political analysis, human rights and public administration. Families in emergency situations also received assistance to buy food, essential household items and to make improvements or carry out repairs on their homes.

medical assistance

In cooperation with the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare, JRS provided assistance to displaced children in programmes, monitoring their nutritional intake. In areas where JRS works, it reached agreements with local hospitals to provide health assistance to displaced persons. In cooperation with the UN World Food Programme, JRS provided financial assistance to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. JRS also established health bridge teams of medical professionals to assist displaced persons unable to attend doctors. In addition, training on health, sexuality and family planning to displaced communities and psychological assistance to persons affected by violence were also provided.

social services and community development/ pastoral

Teams offered newly arrived displaced families, particularly in cities such as Bogotá, basic information on available services and support. JRS provided technical and other support to women's organisations, as well as financial support for three can- teens for young children. Financial and technical support was made available to displaced persons to establish farming projects and community cooperatives. In close cooperation with religious institutions, JRS provided pastoral services, including masses during Holy Week and Christmas.



JRS projects in the Dominican Republic

In 2007, JRS worked in Santo Domingo, Santiago and the border city of Dajabón, directly assisting 1,500 individuals.

advocacy/ communication

In 2007, JRS established a human rights policy institute, monitoring and participating in public debates on migration and asylum in the print and digital media, TV, radio, roundtables and seminars. Research was undertaken on labour conditions for Haitians in the Dominican construction sector and policy papers were produced on smuggling and trafficking of persons. The teams also participated in social and cultural events, including international women's, migrants' and refugee days.

education

JRS offered diploma courses to the local and migrant populations on human rights, with a particular focus on education, and workshops on human rights, interculturalism, gender, local development, leadership, and self-esteem. The teams also assisted children to enrol and integrate into local public schools, as well as providing Creole and Spanish language courses and scholarships to Haitians.

social services & community development

JRS continued to provide technical and other assistance to Haitian NGOs, as well as project management and other training to new grassroots NGOs. Assistance was made available to migrants to carry out repairs on their homes and community centres and to communities affected by tropical hurricanes. Migrant women also received sewing machines, helping them to establish small businesses. JRS also assisted Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian parents to acquire residency documentation and passports, and carried out follow-up visits to families affected by domestic violence.



JRS projects in Haiti

In 2007, JRS worked in the northwestern border cities of Ouanaminthe, Captille and Ferrier, providing direct assistance to 7,004 individuals.

advocacy/ communication

JRS established a policy institute to document human rights abuses and provide legal assistance to victims. The team also carried out research into human rights abuses in the border area and engaged in public debates in the media on the trafficking and smuggling of migrants, as well as publishing news bulletins on JRS activities in the country.

training/ education

JRS managed nursery and primary schools for 300 children and offered training in psychosocial support to the teachers. The team also organised conferences for deported migrants on the legal requirements for migration to the Dominican Republic, and to community-based organisations on irregular migration, migrant rights, trafficking and smuggling. Workshops were also offered to local populations on equality and gender; subsequently, a reduction in domestic violence cases was reported.

assistance/ income-generating

JRS provided financial assistance to deported migrants to buy food and pay their transport costs home, and carried out follow up visits to help them reintegrate. Financial assistance was also provided to families affected by domestic violence. Four community-based organisations received technical and other assistance to help them manage an eco-friendly farm, and labourers in the border area were given loans and training to establish cooperatives.



JRS projects in Ecuador

In 2007, JRS continued to work in suburban districts of the Ecuadorian capital, Quito, and in the border region of Lago Agrio, directly assisting 2,313 individuals.

advocacy

As a member of the national coalition for refugees and migrants, JRS elaborated policy proposals on various aspects of the human rights of migrants and refugees, and presented shadow reports to national and local Ecuadorian state agencies and international organisations. The team also developed policy proposals in relation to the reform of the Ecuadorian constitution, and provided technical and other support to the network of migrants and refugees in the country.

education

Refugee and migrant children were assisted to gain access to local schools. JRS developed a proposal to mainstream refugee and migrant related issues into Fé y Alegria education courses. In 2008, it will be piloted in a number of their centres and, if positive, will be presented to the ministry of education. JRS adapted stories on the lives of refugees and migrants for young children, promoting awareness of the issues affecting this group.

training/ accompaniment

Throughout the country, JRS provided ongoing technical and other support to grassroots NGOs working on refugee-related issues. The team also organised training on citizenship and business management to staff in refugee and migrant NGOs, who in turn offered these courses to their beneficiaries.



JRS projects in Panama

In 2007, JRS assisted 1,389 Afro-Colombian and indigenous Colombian refugees in Panama City (Curundú, Panamá Viejo, Parque Lafebre and Torrijos-Carter), as well as in Jaque and Puerto Piña on the Colombian border.

advocacy

In cooperation with national networks, such as the Mesa Nacional de Migración y Refugio (MENAMIRE) and Pastoral de Movilidad Humana, JRS raised awareness on refugee issues with government officials and in the national and international media. The teams also provided workshops on international humanitarian and human rights law to refugees, migrants and the host population, including civil servants and the police working near the Colombian border. In addition, JRS participated in the design of a research programme managed by MENAMIRE.

accompaniment/ legal

JRS accompanied the refugee population in the border region of Darién, monitoring the human rights situation, as well as participating in cultural events for young people. Staff also assisted migrants applying for work permits, student visas and residency documents, as well as assisting those seeking release from detention.

training/income generating

JRS provided vocational training to Emberá, Wounam and Kunas indigenous displaced communities on the Colombian border, as well as loans to displaced persons seeking to establish small businesses. In cooperation with Fé y Alegria centres, JRS ran public awareness and education workshops with the students of the centres and local communities.

emergency aid/support/psychological attention

Five hundred persons were made homeless and 137 homes destroyed in a fire in Curundú district. JRS provided the victims with financial and material support, including support to rebuild their homes and psychosocial assistance to children and adolescents.



JRS projects in Venezuela

In 2007, JRS teams worked in El Nula and Guasdualito, in Alto Apure state bordering Colombia. They directly assisted 2,918 adults and children.

legal/ advocacy/ training/ research

JRS provided legal advice and assistance to those seeking refugee status, and also to refugees and members of local communities whose human rights have been violated. Teams also met with public officials, giving them information on the experiences of asylum seekers and refugees and seeking policy changes to improve assistance to this group. On the border with Colombia, workshops on human rights and refugee protection were given to NGOs and civil servants, and research was undertaken on the human rights situation of women, particularly sexual and gender-based violence.

integration/ psychological

JRS provided training on issues such as community development and project management to refugee and local community leaders. One of the goals was to promote contact between community leaders, teachers, etc and strengthen cooperation between networks to provide health, education and refugee-related information to local and refugee populations. The team also provided advice to refugees seeking employment, and support to those establishing small businesses, including assistance acquiring small loans. Women refugees also received vocational training. In addition, JRS provided psychological assistance for adults and children with mental health problems and victims of family violence. Psychosocial training was provided to women, while activities for school children to prevent their involvement with irregular armed groups were also provided.



• Colombian refugee families in the aftermath of a fire, Curundú district, Panama City, JRS Panama



• Refugee community receives JRS loan for a local school, El Nula, southern Venezuela, Sara Pettinella/ JRS



• Internally displaced families in the marginalised district of Soacha, Bogotá Colombia, Sara Pettinella/ JRS



USA/ Canada

USA

In 2007, important shifts, both positive and negative, were noted in US government policy and public opinion towards refugees and forcibly displaced migrants. Enforcement of a poorly constructed 'material support bar' section in recent anti-terrorist legislation, with excessively broad definitions of terrorism and of what constitutes material support to terrorists, had contributed to a considerable decline in the number of refugees resettled in 2006. Accordingly, many refugees, themselves victims of terrorism, were denied protection in the US. At the end of 2007, however, legislation was enacted ensuring that applications from many refugees and asylum seekers unjustly labelled as 'terrorists' would no longer be refused. Waivers to the 'material support bar' will facilitate the resettlement to the US of a number of refugee groups in vulnerable situations, such as the Burmese Chin in India and Malaysia, the Bhutanese in Nepal, the Lao Hmong and Vietnamese Montagnards, who fought with the US in the Vietnam War, and Burmese rebels in Thailand, among other groups.

Significant amounts of US aid to Colombia were redirected from security to social and judicial services

Last year, US legislators expressed greater concern over human rights abuses committed against displaced populations by governments. Consequently, in 2007 Congress allocated 45 percent of US aid for Plan Colombia to social and juridical services, and only 55 percent, in contrast to 80 percent previously, to military aid, which has contributed to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Colombian families.

Despite support from religious groups, Congress failed to pass comprehensive immigration legislation which would have offered a pathway to citizenship to approximately 12 million undocumented migrants and established a programme for temporary workers offering them security and guaranteeing respect for their rights. In the politically charged atmosphere of the presidential campaigns, an 'enforcement-only' mentality to migrants gripped segments of the population. The construction of border fences, increased use of immigration detention, deportation raids on migrant workplaces and public smear campaigns which label migrants as an economic drain, became commonplace. Many believe Congress will not seriously address the issue for several years. In the absence of national reform, several states and local municipalities enacted anti-immigration legislation, contributing to differing and often inhumane responses to undocumented migrants.

Ken Gavin SJ, JRS USA Director

Canada

Canadian courts ruled that the US was unsafe for refugees from certain countries

recognising refugees fleeing religious persecution were the focus of major public debate. Signs of xenophobia and discrimination surfaced during a public hearing, which were later exaggerated in media reports, disrupting the social harmony in the multicultural city.

Last November, a Canadian judge struck down the Safe Third Country Agreement with the US, concluding the US was not safe for refugees from certain countries. JRS worked hard to nullify this agreement which had prevented refugees who travelled through the US from seeking asylum in Canada. Meanwhile in Quebec, the integration of migrants and criteria for

The Canadian government, in its efforts to support US policies on trade, military, refugees etc, refused to condemn the Guantanamo detention centre, including the detention of Canadian citizen, Omar Khadr, a child soldier jailed there since he was 15. Moreover, the government has also allowed the positions of 43 of the 215 refugee tribunal judges to remain unfilled. Consequent delays and growing backlogs incited criticism from both pro- and anti-refugee advocates.

Jack Costello SJ and Elisabeth Garant, JRS contact persons in Canada

JRS projects in USA



detention/ pastoral/ migration

In 2007, JRS coordinated 3,712 religious services in which 41,580 detainees of various religions — 55 percent Roman Catholic, 33 percent Protestant, 8 percent Muslim, 1 percent Jewish and 3 percent other religions — participated. Chaplaincy staff offered 589 worship and spiritual counselling sessions and celebrated over 1,005 worship services, and volunteers led 1,828 worship services in Spanish, English and Arabic. In partnership with JRS and the Mexico Province, the California Jesuit Province established the Kino Border Initiative to provide education and training on migration issues and socio-pastoral outreach to migrants, as well as advocating on behalf of migrants on both sides of the border.

advocacy

JRS helped the Texan Diocese of Brownsville reinstate the celebration of the Eucharist for migrants after the use of wine in religious services was prohibited at a local detention centre. In addition, following JRS advocacy efforts, Congress redistributed a greater portion of the \$600 million of US aid to humanitarian and human rights programmes in Colombia. In cooperation with other agencies, JRS advocacy led to the enactment of federal legislation to provide discretionary waivers for refugees formerly denied access to the US resettlement programme, as well as successfully promoting the resettlement of many thousands of Bhutanese and Burmese refugees.

fundraising/ outreach

JRS funded a variety of other JRS projects worldwide, including medical assistance for Haitians in the Dominican Republic and displaced persons in the Democratic Republic of Congo, secondary education for Bhutanese refugees, housing, education and vocational training for displaced Sri Lankans and support for a convalescent home for sick refugees in Malaysia. Since 2006, JRS also visited 32 Jesuit high schools, raising awareness among students and teachers about the problems and needs of refugees.

JRS projects in Canada



In Toronto, JRS worked with Romero House assisting resettled refugees to integrate in the country, as well as offering languages classes to senior JRS Latin America staff and academic courses at the Jesuit Regis College. As a member of the Sanctuary Coalition, JRS engaged in raising public awareness on sanctuary, and advocating on behalf of individuals whose lives would be at risk if deported. A few controversial cases highlighted the practice of religious sanctuary nationwide. In November, JRS was appointed one of the four sponsors, which includes the Jesuit *Centro Prodh* in Mexico City, for a major consultation in January 2008 on Mexico and its capacity to protect its citizens at risk.

In Montreal, JRS managed the consultation process of the 'Lives on Hold' campaign which advocates on behalf of people in 'limbo' who cannot be deported but who are denied, sometimes for years, any legal status. This office also worked vigorously along with other groups to persuade the government to sign the Convention for Migrant Workers and their Families as part of our defence of agricultural and domestic workers in Canada. JRS also sponsored the resettlement of 32 refugees from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Burundi.

JRS Finances

2007

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. Sources of funding:

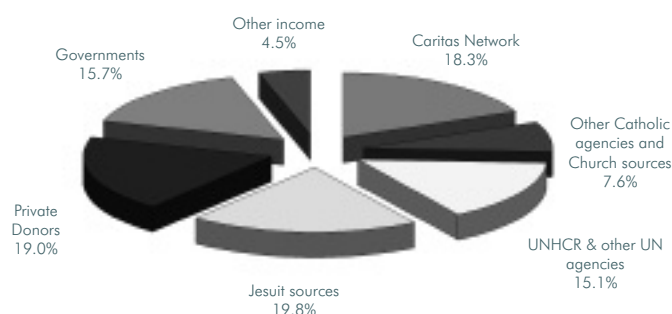
- Other Catholic agencies and Church sources refers to donations from Catholic Bishops' Conferences, dioceses, religious congregations and Catholic agencies other than the Caritas Network;

- Private donors includes individuals and private foundations;

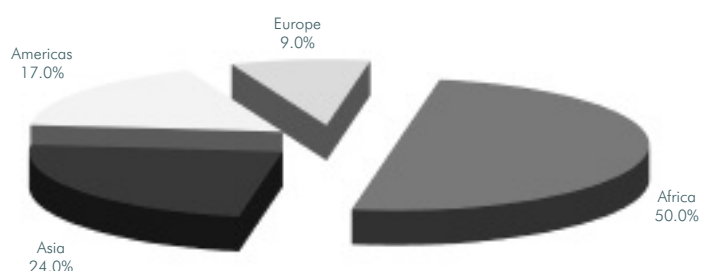
- Other income refers to earning from investments, interest on bank deposits and retail sales from income-generating projects;

- Jesuit sources refers to funds received from Jesuit provinces, individual Jesuits and the Jesuit Mission Offices.

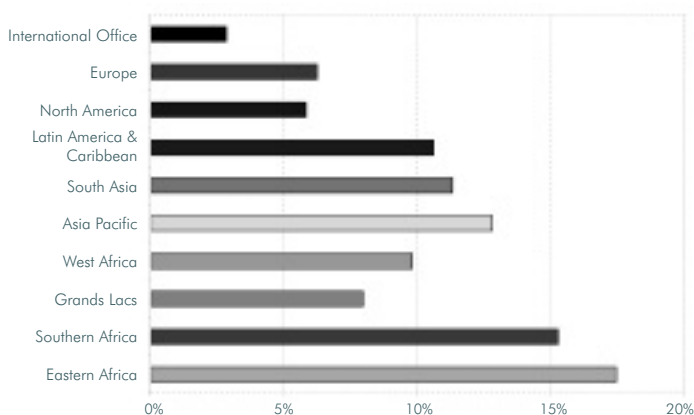
Sources of funding by percentage



Percentage distribution of expenditure by continent



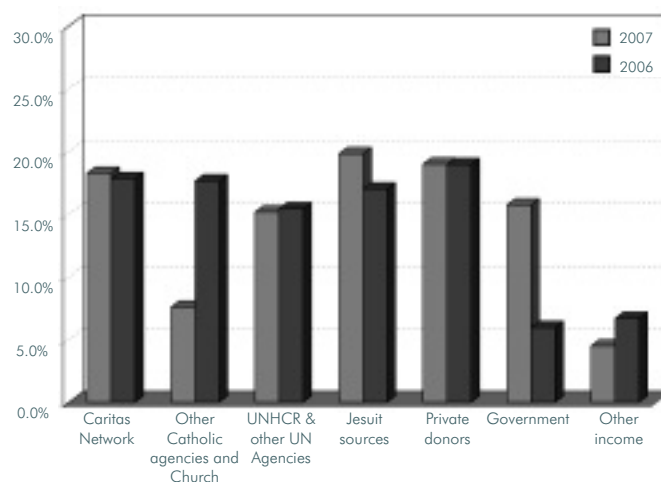
Percentage distribution of expenditure by region



Sources of funding world-wide (Amount in Euro)

Caritas Network	4,494,998
Other Catholic agencies and Church sources	1,866,659
UNHCR & other UN Agencies	3,731,189
Jesuit sources	4,876,246
Private donors	4,673,154
Government	3,872,990
Other income	1,105,550
Total Received	24,620,786

Sources of funding: comparison 2006-2007



JRS Publications



The JRS Web Site

Visit <http://www.jrs.net> — the JRS 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.



JRS 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.



In the footsteps of Pedro Arrupe *Ignatian spirituality lived in the service of refugees*

The hundredth anniversary of Pedro Arrupe's birth is a fitting moment to remember his vision for JRS and ensure that, even as the organisation grows and the world changes, its vitality is sustained into the future.

The reflections of Jesuits shared in this booklet testify to the enduring legacy of his vision. They reaffirm his prophetic hopes of the role Jesuits are called to play in alleviating the dramatically urgent needs of forcibly displaced people, and the spiritual benefits of this important modern apostolate.

Former Father General Kolvenbach described the work of JRS as one of planting "... a seed of hope in the aridness of refugee camps where people's future is so often in jeopardy. This is particularly the case of young refugees in despair, unable to gain access to education."

He urged JRS to carry out work that increasingly helps refugees have faith in themselves and their futures, describing JRS work as transforming "past and present hatred into life with the wisdom which enables reconciliation...."

Twenty-seven years after the establishment of JRS, the magnificent response to his initial appeal has not diminished, and the impact of this apostolate on Provinces who make men available, remains real and profound. Arrupe's vision has inspired so many Jesuits, lay people and religious who have worked with JRS and will continue to guide it in the future.

JRS 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>

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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	<input type="text"/>
My cheque is attached	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surname:	Name:
Address:	
City:	Post Code:
Country:	
Telephone:	Fax:
Email:	

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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

I consider this as a new modern apostolate for the Society as a whole, of great importance for today and the future, and of much spiritual benefit also to the Society.

Pedro Arrupe SJ, 14 November 1980

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Pedro Arrupe SJ', with a stylized flourish above the letters.



to accompany
to serve
to advocate

www.jrs.net



Annual Report 2007