



30TH
ANNIVERSARY



Jesuit Refugee Service
Annual Report 2010



Cover photo

Afghanistan: A dialogue in a JRS-run English class on the occasion of a visit from the JRS International Director.

📷 Peter Balleis SJ/JRS

Publisher

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The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organisation established in 1980 by Pedro Arrupe SJ. Its mission is to accompany, serve and defend the cause of forcibly displaced people.

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Acronyms frequently used in this issue:

CAR	Central African Republic
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
IDPs	Internally displaced people
JC-HEM	Jesuit Commons - Higher Education at the Margins
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Note:

Each region includes a table denoting the estimated number of people served in each country by project category. In some countries, people benefit from more than one service, even within the same project. This means there is sometimes an overlap, counting more than once those individuals who benefit from more than one service, making it practically impossible to estimate the number of actual people served overall.

JRS Publications

The JRS International Office has two regular publications: Dispatches, a twice monthly email bulletin with refugee news briefings and JRS project updates, and Servir, a magazine issued twice a year. Both are free-of-charge and available in English, Spanish, French and Italian. To receive Dispatches and Servir, please subscribe through the JRS website: <http://www.jrs.net/SignUp?&L=EN>



Rooted in the past to respond creatively to the new

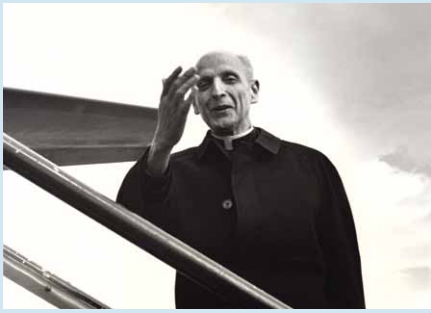
The year 2010 marked 30 years of JRS. It has been a time to look at the present with the perspective of the vision of the beginning. Pedro Arrupe SJ (Jesuit Superior General, 1965-1983) founded JRS in response to the crisis of the boat people of Vietnam and Cambodia. In his foundational letter, dated 14 November 1980, Fr Arrupe wrote: *The help needed is not only material: in a special way the Society [of Jesus] is being called to render a service that is human, pedagogical and spiritual. It is a difficult and complex challenge; the needs are dramatically urgent.* These words have profoundly shaped the development of JRS and its response to many refugee crises, starting from Asia Pacific, Latin America and Africa, to the Middle East and Central Asia in more recent times.

Today, the needs of forcibly displaced people, of those who are trafficked, of undocumented asylum seekers in detention, are just as *dramatically urgent*. It seems that the challenges are even more *difficult and complex* than 30 years ago. Advocating for the right to asylum is ever more a must in these times of the erosion of human and refugee rights. But JRS does this only when it is first engaged in services that are *human, pedagogical and spiritual*. Accompaniment has always been the cornerstone of the JRS mission, guaranteeing the human and spiritual nature of our being with and serving refugees and other forcibly displaced people.

The simple word *pedagogical* has unfolded in formal and informal education from pre-school, primary and secondary school to university, also embracing vocational training, life-skills, adult literacy and more. These services reach nearly 300,000 people. 2010 marked a major step as JRS launched, in collaboration with Jesuit universities, a pilot project of online higher education. Thanks to technological advances, refugees living on the margins of society can now access university education, something not possible 30 years ago. Education is a deeper source of hope for refugees, as Peter-Hans Kolvenbach SJ (Superior General, 1983-2008), always stressed.

Rooted in the founding vision, enriched by the experience of 30 years of accompaniment, service and advocacy, JRS looks to the future and asks, in the words of the Superior General Adolfo Nicolás SJ: *How we may, creatively, effectively and positively, influence the closed and unwelcoming values of the cultures in which we work?* In this endeavour, we are accompanied by friends and partner agencies, who have faithfully supported JRS throughout 2010 and in the years before. This annual report is an expression of my deepest gratitude to them all and to JRS staff who contributed to the good work described here, the majority of who are themselves refugees.

JRS International Director **Peter Balleis SJ**



Pedro Arrupe SJ 📷 ARSI Roma

Shocked by the plight of the Vietnamese boat people, Pedro Arrupe SJ announces the setting up of JRS on 14 November 1980. His appeal, *God is calling us through these helpless people*, is heeded by many Jesuits, who are soon joined by others – members of different congregations and lay people.

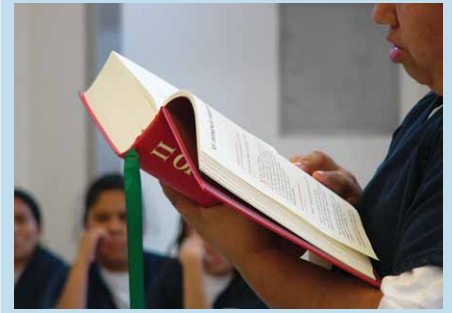
1980



Ethiopia 📷 Michael Coyne/JRS

In 1982, JRS starts to work in Ethiopia, providing emergency aid to people internally displaced by war and later by famine. Its presence quickly spreads across Eastern Africa, where a JRS region is established in 1990.

1982



United States 📷 JRS USA

In 1983, JRS USA opens to raise awareness among Jesuits, other religious and lay people, and to enlist their voluntary services. From the late 1990s onwards, a major focus of JRS has been on immigration detention.

1983

1980s/1990s

As the plight of the boat people worsens in the 1980s, JRS quickly sets up programmes in camps across Asia Pacific for refugees from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, and stays until the mid-1990s when all the camps have closed. The regional focus of JRS then shifts to Burmese refugees, and later to Timor and Indonesia.

Vietnamese boat people 📷 Phil Eggman



1982

In 1982, a commitment in Latin America develops out of the civil war in El Salvador, first with Salvadoran refugees in Honduras and, in 1984, in El Salvador itself. In the 1990s, JRS runs projects for Guatemalan refugees in Mexico and turns its attention to the Colombian war and the plight of the Haitian people.

El Salvador 📷 JRS



1992

In 1992, 13 Jesuit provinces are represented at the first meeting of JRS offices in Europe, where pioneers have been at work since 1988. JRS Europe is officially established in Brussels in 1994 as JRS expands to other European countries. Here too, immigration detention is a priority.

Germany 📷 Nina Ruecker

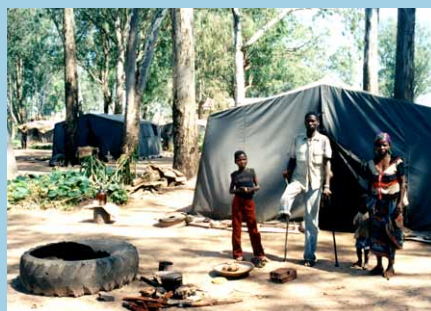




Bosnia Herzegovina 📷 Don Doll SJ/JRS

The violent break-up of the Social Federal Republic of Yugoslavia sparks a huge exodus. In 1993, JRS opens bases in Zagreb and Sarajevo, soon followed by others across the war-torn region. The JRS Southeast Europe region is merged with JRS Europe in 2006.

1993



Angola 📷 Don Doll SJ/JRS

In 1995, JRS establishes the Southern Africa region, where projects are under way in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia, including a unique schools project which follows the Mozambican refugees home from Malawi. The following year, JRS goes to Angola where civil war resumes in 1998.

1995



Chad 📷 Peter Balleis SJ/JRS

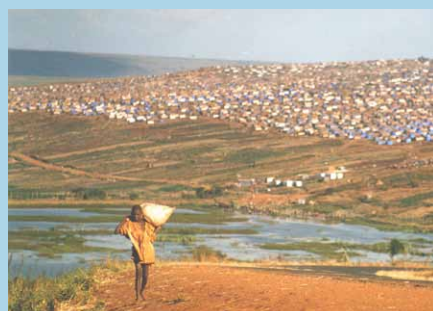
The JRS West Africa region is set up in 2001, with projects in Guinea and later in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire – places where JRS was formerly present. In 2004, JRS goes to Chad, following the crisis in Darfur, to reach out to IDPs and Sudanese refugees, and in 2008 to Central African Republic (CAR).

2001

1995

The JRS Great Lakes region is set up in 1995, in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide, with teams dispatched to Burundi, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). JRS is also present in border camps in Tanzania. In this year, one of the largest JRS programmes is education for Sudanese refugees in northern Uganda.

Tanzania 📷 Mark Raper SJ/JRS



1995

1995 sees expansion in South Asia where the regional office opens. JRS provides a director for the Bhutanese Refugee Education Programme in Nepal. Meanwhile, two Jesuits go to northern Sri Lanka under the JRS banner amid war and massive internal displacement. In 1996, JRS goes to the Tamil Nadu camps for Sri Lankan refugees.

Sri Lanka 📷 Don Doll SJ/JRS



2008

In late 2008, urged by the Jesuit Superior General, Adolfo Nicolás SJ, JRS sets up programmes for Iraqi urban refugees in Syria and Jordan in the Middle East. Expansion to Turkey follows in 2009.


Syria 📷 Don Doll SJ/JRS



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“In a special way the Society [of Jesus] is being called to render a service that is human, pedagogical and spiritual. It is a difficult and complex challenge; the needs are dramatically urgent.”

JRS founder Pedro Arrupe SJ, 1980

Malta: Ecumenical prayer service to remember those who drowned in the Mediterranean as they attempted to seek refuge in Europe.  Times of Malta



Ethiopia: Somali urban refugees in Addis Ababa. 📷 Angela Hellmuth/JRS

Refocusing on real accompaniment

When Pedro Arrupe SJ founded JRS 30 years ago, he put the central emphasis on accompaniment. Until today, our priority is to *be with* the people we support, guided by deep respect for their dignity and resilience.

I learned what real accompaniment means as a young Jesuit while working with refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. I was living in the refugee camp and had nothing to do, no money, nothing to distribute. What I had was time and I spent it with the people around me, joining their meetings, visiting their families, listening to and praying with them. At first I felt frustrated doing ‘nothing’ but later I realised how much the refugees appreciated my mere presence. And I began to understand what to *accompany* means.

In times of funding shortages, this experience becomes even more relevant. When budget constraints do not allow us to carry out our activities as planned we have to redefine our role. This is an opportunity to refocus on what it means to be with refugees, to share their hopes and to listen to their fears. Whether we are teaching women in Darfur how to read and write, or giving young refugees in a remote camp in Kenya access to higher education, or helping to build shelters for elderly people in northern Uganda, all our efforts aim to encourage people not to lose meaning in their lives, by giving them a future perspective and by walking with them in exile.

JRS Eastern Africa Director **Frido Pflueger SJ**

At a glance

	Ethiopia	Kenya	Sudan	Uganda
Community centre	1,078			
Education		225	54,900	512
Emergency aid	2,344	4,327		8,467
Pastoral			5,223	
Peace-building			9,227	7,147
Social services	148	11,296		2,405

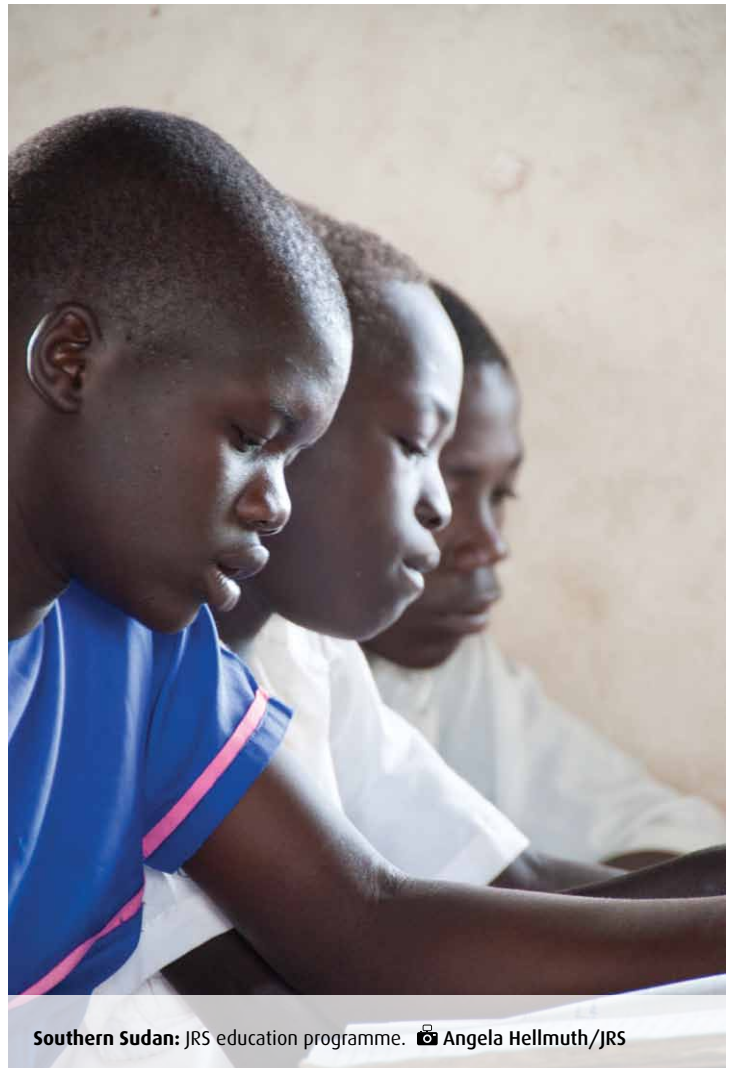
In 2010, JRS started a programme in Mai-Aini camp for Eritrean refugees in northern **Ethiopia**, setting up a community learning centre to offer training in sports, music, dance, drama and counselling skills. In Addis Ababa, JRS continued to help newly arrived asylum seekers and to run a popular community centre.


In Kakuma camp in north-western **Kenya**, JRS started a new distance-education project with Jesuit universities in the US. Meanwhile, long-running services continued: psychosocial support, a Safe Haven for survivors of gender-based violence, care and education for people with special needs. In Nairobi, the urban refugee programme offered emergency aid, education and small business loans.

Large JRS projects in **Southern Sudan** helped to rebuild the education system and to promote lasting peace as the region prepared for the independence referendum in 2011. JRS supported pre-, primary and secondary schools, trained teachers and ran adult literacy, pastoral and peace-building programmes. In 2010 classrooms, latrines and a science laboratory were constructed and a water harvesting system installed.


In northern **Sudan** JRS worked with community groups and Parent Teacher Associations to support pre- and primary schools and to run adult literacy classes for women in Mellit, Darfur.

As people left IDP camps for their home villages in Kitgum, northern **Uganda**, JRS offered a range of services including training in agricultural techniques and peace-building. In Kampala, JRS gave emergency aid, language classes and vocational training to newly arrived asylum seekers.



Southern Sudan: JRS education programme.  Angela Hellmuth/JRS



Sudan: Mellit, North Darfur.  JRS International

North Sudan

We need skills we can use in the future

JRS started working in Mellit, North Darfur, in 2005 among communities stricken by war and displacement. Particularly affected are children and teenagers who either could not start or had to stop school. In 2010, JRS ran two primary schools (one for boys and one for girls), one pre-school and two adult learning centres in Abbasi camp, the only official IDP site in the town of Mellit. JRS also supported primary and pre-schools and adult education centres in and around Mellit. The vast majority of learners in the centres were women, such as Huda Osman, who shares her story.

I am 37 years old and I have nine children with me. Before I was living in Talgona but I moved to Mellit with my family because of the war. At first, I didn't have much to do because there is no work in Mellit. I looked after my family and during the rainy season I would farm. My husband and I used to go searching for food but we didn't always find any. These days, only those living in the camp receive support.

In 2010 I started attending the adult education centre and discovered that learning is something good for me. I had not gone to school before the war started. I realised that I could take care of my family while attending classes. I like the REFLECT* method we use and we have a good teacher. We learn how to write the Arabic alphabet, how to read and how to recite the Qur'an. For instance, we draw a picture of a house and count the things inside, or we draw a picture of a school and show the direction to our homes. To know my way to school or to our vegetable plot is an excellent thing for me. Or we draw a picture of an object, such as a tree, and learn how we can make use of the object.

At home I use what I have learnt to teach the children the alphabet and how to recite the Qur'an. I want them to learn and it makes my husband happy to see me showing the children how to read and write. We need skills we can use in the future. JRS helped us a lot with the adult education centre by providing learning materials, furniture, books, mats and other things. We are pleased with the organisation.

* REFLECT is an approach to adult learning and social change, which aims to achieve literacy through participatory rural appraisal techniques and dialogue.

Kenya

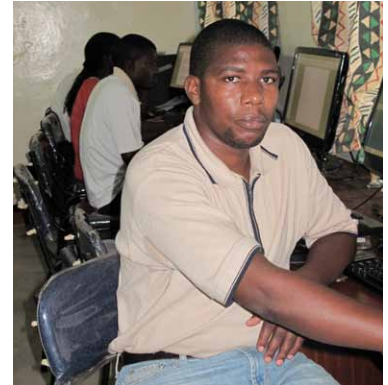
Leaving the camp with something

In 2010, a project was launched between JRS and JC (Jesuit Commons – a network of Jesuit education institutions), to offer tertiary or higher education to refugees through the internet and on-site with teachers, mentors and tutors. **Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margins (JC-HEM)** embarked on pilot programmes at Kakuma camp in Kenya and Dzaleka camp in Malawi. Thirty-one-year-old Rwandan refugee Joel was one of the first students to take part in this distance-learning programme in Kakuma.

I left Rwanda when I was 15 because of the war in 1994. There were massacres; it was terrible. I fled to Tanzania with my family but after two years the camp was closed and we were chased away. On 28 December 1996, it was announced on the radio that all Rwandan refugees had to leave by the end of the year, but most of us did not consider Rwanda safe enough to go back. However, most of my family returned and I have been on my own for the last 14 years. I moved to Kenya and lived in Nairobi where I worked as a night watchman from 6pm-6am and went to school from 8am until 1:30pm. But the money I earned was not enough to save anything.


In 2005 I moved to Kakuma camp. I started working in the camp hospital and later worked as a senior supervisor for disease surveillance in the community health programme. Then I got admitted for the new JC-HEM distance education programme and I like it because it doesn't force me to specialise in a specific area. I work seven hours per day. Balancing work and school is challenging. I want to hold on to my job, but I don't have much hope of doing so and studying at the same time. Learning is something I need for life because you can get different jobs if you are educated. Since September, when our preparation course with JC-HEM started, we've had some interesting assignments. First there was an introduction to Jesuit leadership and concepts. We had to write several papers, for example, on the concept of heroic leadership and how we would like to use our skills in the future. We had time to get familiar with computers and the internet. At the end we will get a certificate for liberal studies through Regis University in the US. We feel that we can leave the camp with something.

In a camp like Kakuma you never get what you want but can only deal with what you have. I didn't expect a chance like this. I had been out of school for so long and I was not happy with my situation. I take the JC-HEM course very seriously and I hope that one day I can acquire a university degree and live a better life.



Kenya: Kakuma camp. JRS International



DRC: Masisi in North Kivu province, where JRS started a project in 2010 to enhance the role of women in society.  JRS International

A year of transition

In many ways, 2010 was a year of transition.

In DRC, following the closure of five projects in Goma, we reinforced three in Rutshuru and started four in Masisi, a town with five IDP camps. We are going to start in Mweso and its surroundings where there are 38 IDP camps, only half of which are accessible due to security problems.

In Rwanda, we continued to improve secondary education in the refugee camps of Kiziba and Gihembe and started software training for camp leaders as well as our teachers and secondary school pupils who are learning about computers as part of their curriculum.

In Burundi, JRS is gradually withdrawing from projects supporting returnees. We have reached an agreement for the handover of these projects. In 2010, three were handed over. At the end of the year, our two offices relocated to a new building in Kiriri, Bujumbura. The move has facilitated our work and cut operational costs.

Affected, like the rest of the world, by the financial crisis, we have had to face many difficulties. However, even if we were compelled to slow down the pace of our projects, we were able to implement all our activities without closing any.

Finally, I would like to say a word of thanks to the nearly 600 people – refugees, nationals and expatriates – who accompany, serve and defend refugees in our region.

JRS Great Lakes Director **Tony Calleja SJ**

At a glance


	Burundi	DRC	Rwanda
Education	12,654	18,687	10,808
Food security	74,619		
Support (vulnerable refugees)		249	738
Youth/culture		140	9,000

In **Burundi**, a food security project in Gisuru was handed over in June to the Jesuit Development Office. In the east, JRS pressed ahead with food security projects in Giharo and Giteranyi and consolidated the support given to the Rutana Diocese through an education project.

Present in North Kivu in **DRC**, JRS launched new initiatives in Masisi in 2010: formal and informal education as well as protection of vulnerable people in five IDP camps. In Rutshuru too, priority was given to vulnerable people; meanwhile, reconstruction of and support for schools continued.

In **Rwanda**, JRS maintained its long-standing presence and projects in the camps of Kiziba (Kibuye), and Gihembe (Byumba). More than 30,000 refugees have been in these camps for over 16 years.



Rwanda: Filing into class in Kiziba camp, where JRS has provided formal education to Congolese refugees for several years.  JRS International



Espérance Dushime 📷 Inés Oleaga ACI

DRC Exclusively for women

In Masisi, a place prey to sexual violence, JRS organised literacy classes and training workshops exclusively for women, in a bid to enhance their role in society. The women – without ever having gone to school – set about learning with the greatest ease. Espérance Dushime, a displaced woman from Kibabi, Masisi, tells us how she got to know JRS and how she has benefited from our project.

I am married and had three children, but they all died, two when they were young and the other before birth. I don't know why. I believe the two who lived for a bit died because of the war; certainly they had some illness and we were unable to go to hospital. I live with my husband and now I am pregnant again thanks to the help of Maman Angélique, the Director of the JRS informal education programme in Masisi, who accompanied me to hospital so that I could tell them about my health problems.

I live in the IDP camp in Kilimani, Masisi, because there is armed conflict in the town where I come from. We have been here for four years. Even if this is not our town, we are safe here and don't know if we will ever go back home.

Until a year ago, I didn't have anything to do, and then one day I heard an announcement on Kalembera Radio: JRS was inviting all women to learn how to read and write. I went to the school next to the parish and there JRS started to teach us how to read and write and how to make bags. Divided into small groups, we women, many with children on their backs, attended a course from April to November 2010.

When the course was over, I received a certificate. To my immense joy, I was chosen to be one of 50 women who would help in the second round of the course, by showing how to make the bags. True, I was one of the more regular participants, and quick to implement what I had learned. What's more, not having children, I had more time on my hands than the others.

I thank JRS for this training and for helping us women to progress and to become more significant in our families and our country. For me, JRS is like having good parents.

Burundi

Encouraging education for girls

A JRS education project in Burundi's Rutana province has supported schools welcoming returnee children, encouraging especially the attendance of girls.


JRS Burundi has been working in partnership with the Diocese of Rutana to improve education. Many of the school-going children in this province used to live in Tanzania in the refugee camps of Nduta, Mutenderi, Mutabira and Karago.

"JRS supplies teaching materials, like books and dictionaries, and desks. Before, we used to sit on stones, but now we have desks even if six pupils sit at a desk for two," said pupils at Giharo school. "JRS also helps us to raise awareness about the importance of children going to school. In Giharo, parents believe that girls should not be educated and JRS helps to prevent this discrimination."

Béline Nijimbere, a sixth-year pupil at Mwango primary school, used to live in Mutenderi camp in Tanzania. "When I reached year five, my parents forbade me from continuing my studies because I am a girl. They wanted me to stay at home to help with the housework," she said. "After a year, I was told that I should return to school. I thank JRS which has put much effort into making parents aware that we should continue our education." But Béline thinks still more needs to be done. "Although JRS gives body and soul to improve our conditions of life, there are other steps that need to be taken. There is a lack of drinking water at school and we don't have enough classrooms because the number of pupils has increased with the returnees."

Manirakiza Obède was also in Mutenderi camp where he spent three years. He said: "When I returned to Burundi, life was not easy because I couldn't adapt at first, but JRS helped us to integrate better in the community." A teacher at Mwango primary school, Manirakiza agrees with Béline that more classrooms are needed and says others need to be repaired because they are in poor condition. However he is grateful for what JRS has done so far: "Education has improved here. JRS distributed books to teachers and pupils and enhanced our teaching skills so that we are up to date in our lessons."



Rwanda: Gihembe camp, where JRS has run schools and supported vulnerable refugees for several years.  JRS International



South Africa: JRS supports urban refugees with livelihood projects among others.  JRS International

Living peacefully together

Recently I was at the airport in Johannesburg to see some refugee friends off on their resettlement journey. Sadik, his wife Deka and three-year-old Daud had never been on a plane before. Naturally it was an emotional occasion as we exchanged farewells and promises to keep in touch while keeping an eye on Daud, who began playing with other children in the check-in line.

In the group seeing the family off was Adesso who was telling me about his attempts to set up a small café in central Johannesburg. He had come to South Africa as a refugee and had gradually got his family on its feet socially and economically. This came to a sudden halt when in 2008 people from the local community looted and destroyed his shop, forcing them to move again.

More and more the international community is, by its actions, asking poor communities on the urban fringe to extend hospitality to forced migrants who are in need – the very communities who are least resourced and prepared for this task. When they fail in some way or prioritise their own needs over those of refugees we are all too quick to lay blame at their feet.

Our work in Southern Africa attempts to help these communities find space and extend hospitality to refugees as they go through the times of the complex integration process that render the refugee especially vulnerable. Like young Daud and his new friends, we hope to play our small part in creating a new world where all peoples live peacefully together.

JRS Southern Africa Director **David Holdcroft SJ**

At a glance

	Angola	DRC	Malawi	South Africa	Zimbabwe
Advocacy	11,480				
Construction					15 houses
Cultural/social					23
Education		09/09 - 08/10: 4,000 09/10 - 08/11: 2,400	3,945	2,242	114
Emergency aid				12,000	1,249 persons 322 families
Healthcare				2,300	41
Psychosocial support			389		211
Livelihoods				1,053	47

JRS **Malawi** continued to provide access to quality pre-primary, primary, secondary and adult education in Dzaleka refugee camp and offered psychosocial support in the camp and to urban refugees in Lilongwe. In 2010, JRS Malawi became a pilot site for the innovative JC-HEM project (see Eastern Africa section – page 10).

In 2010, JRS in **South Africa** ran a comprehensive service for urban refugees in Pretoria and Johannesburg, with assistance in income-generation, healthcare and education. The Limpopo office helped forcibly displaced people newly arrived from Zimbabwe, offering care packages and social support.

In **Angola**, JRS gave free legal protection to asylum seekers and refugees in Luanda, Malange, Cabinda and Lunda Norte provinces. JRS also engaged in awareness-raising about refugees and refugee law and about sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). In 2010, a pressing need for intervention in the field of SGBV emerged, and JRS initiated a successful community counsellor training programme in Caxito, Bengo province, with the hope of expanding in 2011.

JRS **Zimbabwe** pressed ahead with a longstanding commitment in Tongogara refugee camp, providing a range of support services. JRS also distributed food and non-food items to IDPs and other vulnerable populations in Checheche and Chishawasha.

When Congolese refugees were repatriated from Zambia to Katanga province in **DRC**, JRS began a new project in eastern Katanga in late 2009 to accompany the returnees and aid their integration. This was done primarily through the construction and rehabilitation of schools in areas of return and upgrading teachers' skills.



Zimbabwe: JRS helps families – including some headed by children – living in Chishawasha just outside Harare; some were displaced from the farms where they worked due to the ‘land reform’ while others were displaced by political violence. 📷 JRS International

Zimbabwe

Scholarship leads to new start

Having witnessed one of the most ferocious atrocities of the 20th century, the Rwanda genocide, I managed to escape from my country. I sought refuge in Congo from 1994 to 1997 and then returned to Rwanda. Arriving home, I had no idea of the whereabouts of my relatives. Since it was routine for the regime to group returnees in camps known as Ingando, with the presumed intention of helping them to reintegrate into society, I was an obvious candidate. After four weeks, the camp was closed and I decided to go to the capital, hoping to reclaim the family house so that I could earn some money to survive and perhaps continue my education.

But it was not to be. Our house in Kigali had been occupied by a top military officer who categorically refused to vacate it; I later learnt that he was hatching a plan to get me arrested on charges that I was a member of the Interahamwe militia, which was considered a serious crime by the government. Given the circumstances, I realised that I had no security in my motherland and decided painfully to quit Rwanda for the second time. The journey was long and stressful, but eventually I arrived in Zimbabwe, where I was received by UNHCR and accorded refugee status. I lived in Tongogara camp but it became increasingly traumatising given the isolation and unsuitable location – just near an animal park. Nevertheless it was a better option than being in a Rwanda prison.

In 2005, with the help of JRS, I was awarded a scholarship to follow IT courses at a local college in Harare, where I graduated in 2008 with a diploma in network engineering. Today I am employed in Harare as a network administrator and I earn enough to survive. Indeed I am a living testimony of the good work that JRS is doing among refugees in Zimbabwe.

Angola

Being there in the difficulties


I am a refugee from Sierra Leone and I have lived in Angola since 2002. I am 40 years old and I left my country of origin because of the war there. Sierra Leone is desperate for funds and, immediately after the war, the government covered up the true story of what happened, to attract investors and international aid to the country.

Some colleagues and I were of the conviction that the true story must be told to achieve real reconciliation so we told it at national level. As a result we were persecuted by the local authorities and, to save our lives, we had to leave the country.


Angola, my current home, received us on humanitarian grounds and in recognition of their international obligations. It is a country that has gone through a prolonged war with its own problems to be solved domestically. So I can only say thank you to the people and the authorities of Angola for living with us with little or no discrimination.

That said, life as a refugee is not good in any part of the world and Angola is no exception. However, with the help of Legal Assistant Officers from JRS, we have been creating some stability between the refugees and the authorities on one hand, and within the refugee communities on the other. JRS teams, with all their limitations, have been with us in all the difficulties.



Malawi: The JC-HEM programme in action at Dzaleka camp.  JRS International



Côte d'Ivoire: One of the schools renovated by JRS in the north of the country.  JRS International

Education for a better future

They determined my past but cannot condition my future... we had hoped for a honeymoon after celebrations in 2010 to mark the 50th anniversary of independence of many African countries. But the flaws were quick to show through the so-called democracy. Still, we have good reason to hope. Despite political wrangling, the Millennium Development Goals are consolidating in more countries than one.

However there seems to be no progress for refugees and IDPs. Congolese refugees are going to CAR to escape the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) while others languish without aid in Congo Brazzaville. Refugees from Darfur are still, perhaps for a long time to come, in eastern Chad. IDPs in Chad and CAR wait to return to their deserted villages.

Faithful to its vision and mission, in spite of multiple difficulties, JRS West Africa is a silent witness of those who are forcibly displaced. A silent witness that extends support, by taking on the education of children, offering not only professional teaching but an education that embraces reconciliation with oneself and others for a better future. How can we help those we serve to harmonise their feelings of defeat, humiliation and rejection, with an achievable dream of reintegration in their society, of which they harbour nothing but nostalgia?

It is striking to realise that children, especially in the school environment, radiate joy, hope and vitality, which really consoles their parents, to see them spared the misery of refugee camps. Isn't this the real freedom and independence likely to bring peace in people's hearts?

JRS West Africa Director **Nzanzu Kapitula SJ**

At a glance

	CAR	Chad
Child soldiers		146
Education	37,047	60,000
Emergency aid	56,130	
Pastoral	7,746	
Peace education, advocacy	5,100*	


* This statistic does not take into account many other people benefiting indirectly from JRS efforts in this area.

In **CAR**, JRS continued to offer services with a strong community element in two war-affected provinces, Ouham and Haute-Kotto: education, social services, pastoral ministry, peace-building and advocacy. In the south of the country, JRS organised education and emergency aid for Congolese refugees fleeing attacks by the rebel LRA, distributing food and non-food items to IDPs and host communities too.

JRS ran 10 education projects in eastern **Chad**, in Sudanese refugee camps, in IDP settlements, among host communities, returnees and nomads. Apart from running pre-, primary and secondary schools, JRS sought to set quality standards. New projects included informal education and recreational activities for youth in four refugee camps. The projects had an integral protection element, focusing on schooling for girls, ex-child soldiers, orphans and others.

After being in **Côte d'Ivoire** since 2002, following the outbreak of fierce civil war, JRS brought its education project in the north to a close in 2010, in the hope that peace was returning to the country. In its eight years of presence, JRS implemented emergency aid, social services, healthcare and education projects across the country.



CAR: Praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent in Markoundia, Ouham province.  JRS International



Chad: A team of ex-child soldiers training for a football match in Abéché, part of a JRS reintegration project. 📷 JRS International

Chad

Studying has restored meaning to my life

One of the thousands of people to benefit from JRS projects in Chad is Mazda Y.A., a 16-year-old who lives in Mile camp for Sudanese refugees in Guéréda. She says school has made all the difference in her life.

I escaped from my country, Sudan, in 2008, from the region of Fachir in North Darfur. Going to Chad was not easy. I was with my father, mother and two older brothers; we had lost everything. I was a child and didn't really know what was going on but I quickly understood that nothing would ever be the same again.

My father immediately enrolled us in school in the refugee camp. My brothers had gone to school for a bit in Sudan but it wasn't up to much. I don't remember seeing them with books or copybooks. Back there, schools were fee-paying, with access often reserved only for the children of the rich; here they are free. School books and copybooks are distributed at the start of the year. My school is really a haven of peace, with big, beautiful classrooms with desks. I feel good there – it's sort of like being at home! When I started, I made sure I would never be absent because I love school. Right now, I am in grade four and my favourite subject is Arabic. Why Arabic? Because it's my mother tongue and I dream of mastering it so I can become a teacher later on. I hope to return to my country one day...

Two months ago, something happened that could have changed everything: I married a young trader. It was an arranged marriage but I knew my future husband and agreed. We get along well even if I am his second wife. He allowed me to continue my studies and, instead of being discouraged by my new situation, I felt supported at another level. "Nothing should keep me from my studies," I said to myself. The fact that I go to school doesn't prevent me from doing housework. I go every day to the river with my mother to search for water and to prepare food and I keep our place clean.

The conditions of life in the camp are not always the best and we must persevere. When I arrived here, I thought I would never survive but little by little I realised that I could start to hope again, to follow my dream day after day. I don't see myself staying in Mile camp. I'm going to do everything I can to succeed in life, to study, to work flat out every day, to get out of this situation and to help my family. Even if, with time, I have children, I will always continue school. I hope to educate my children too – they will be my family's future. I believe that an educated child has more opportunities than a child who is not. Knowing how to read, write, look after oneself, are indispensable tools to succeed in life today.

CAR

Things will never be the same again

In December 2009, in collaboration with the local Catholic parish priest, JRS set up an office in Zemio, in southern CAR, to help Congolese refugees fleeing attacks by the LRA. When the LRA attacks spilled over into CAR, JRS distributed aid to IDPs too. Mireille was one of them.

Since my childhood and for the past 38 years I have lived in Rafai, a quiet place where we didn't have any problems. We were never forced to leave our villages or run away from our homes. We are a hardworking people, going out to the fields to work, our men hunting and fishing; we had plenty to eat. It's a shame for me that I am now living in Zemio. I left Rafai for Zemio when the *tongo-tongo* (the LRA) came one night to my village. They waited for people to come home from the day's work. I don't really know how many they were. They caused fear, terrorizing everyone with their guns and shooting. They came to ask for food. Each house gave something. Then they asked our young boys to carry the food, taking four with them.

Because of the *tongo-tongo*, nearly everyone ran away from the village. No one felt safe. We know they will be back when the food finishes. The only option for me was to come to Zemio to be safer. There is a military camp here in Zemio and at least I can run to DRC, to some of my relatives, if things get bad. But I know they are also attacking villages in DRC because refugees came from there.

When we arrived in Zemio, we asked for help from the villagers here. They gave us shelter but we were many so some of us slept outside. And they struggled to give us food. These communities have taken care of us. We ran away with nothing and depended on their friendship. Shelter and food are important but more than that we were looking for security. Many organisations are now in Zemio. JRS was the first to arrive after we left Rafai. A Catholic priest explained that JRS would need names to get tents, blankets and other things from Bangui, from other organisations such as UNHCR and World Food Programme. We got blankets, tents and food. We are happy and so are the families that helped us. Those who are sick and vulnerable are given more which is good. With this bit of support at least we can adapt to the changes caused by the *tongo-tongo* but life will never be the same as before.



CAR: Mongoumba camp for Congolese refugees in the south. 📷 JRS International



Malta: This couple was among 84 Somalis rescued at sea by the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM). They were packed on a rubber dinghy and appealed for help through a satellite phone. A Somali in Malta alerted JRS, which passed on the information to UNHCR that alerted the AFM. 📷 Times of Malta

Bringing refugee voices to the fore

“It is death to go back home, and death to go to Europe.” Hassan Muhumet Saleban, a Somali refugee, said this to a room full of international journalists at a December press conference in Brussels about his journey to safety. His flight took him to Libya where he languished in a detention centre for months. Eventually he crossed the Mediterranean and found refuge in Malta.

In 2010 JRS Europe increased its efforts to bring refugee voices ever closer to policymakers in the European Union (EU). Throughout the continent we are present with refugees and witness their pain in detention centres, on the streets of our cities and on the borders of the EU. Yet to help European policymakers become aware of their plight, we have had to undertake systematic research to collect refugees’ voices in a way that we have never done before. The year was marked with the completion of our research on vulnerability in detention. The detainees’ stories have been circulated in newspapers, to EU officials and national government ministers. On the other side of Europe, we published the stories of refugees in Morocco and Algeria. An unforgettable moment was an encounter with refugees living amidst the rocks in the desert outside Tamanrasset, Algeria. “It’s only God keeping us alive,” a Liberian man told our researcher. “We cannot even come out to pray because of fear of the police. But every morning we try to pray here, under a tree.”

The willingness of refugees to share their lives has taught us that their innate humanity is the one never-ending constant despite the ongoing adversity in their lives.

JRS Europe Director **Michael Schöpf SJ**

At a glance

In 2010, JRS had 14 national offices across Europe and active contact persons in another seven countries. JRS teams in **Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Romania, the United Kingdom** and in the **western Balkans** regularly visited detention centres to offer psychosocial, pastoral and legal support. In Romania JRS worked with UNHCR and the local authorities in a new project to resettle Burmese refugees. Alongside their detention visiting, JRS in the UK started a spiritual companionship project to help refugees to cope with their adversity from a faith perspective. JRS **France** implemented the Welcome programme, which temporarily places asylum seekers in the homes of French families. In **Italy**, JRS offered medical and psychological rehabilitation support to asylum seeker victims of torture, in partnership with local healthcare providers.


The project in Casablanca, **Morocco**, provided a kindergarten for children and a safe place for their mothers. In Lviv, **Ukraine**, JRS organised meetings with national policymakers in order to improve social services for asylum seekers and refugees.

JRS Europe completed the Detention of Vulnerable Asylum Seekers (DEVAS) project, and organised an event in Brussels that attracted 100 people from EU institutions, local universities and civil society. The regional office oversaw the implementation of national events under the aegis of the Advocacy Network for Destitute Forced Migrants (ANDES), and also published a new report, *Living in Limbo*, on forced migrant destitution in 12 EU countries plus Ukraine. At the year's end, JRS published a booklet on the situation of migrants and refugees living in Morocco and Algeria, entitled *I Don't Know Where to Go*.

The regional office monitored and analysed EU laws on asylum and migration. In particular, JRS staff took part in several opportunities to speak about detention and destitution and to connect refugees' experiences to EU policymaking.



Portugal: JRS lawyer Ana Varela (right) tells Malanda Mananga that he has been granted a hearing to obtain a residency permit.

 Don Doll SJ/JRS



Portugal: Serghei Levcovici, originally from Moldavia, at an immigration detention centre. The barren rooms are devoid of any object with which detainees could commit suicide. 📷 Don Doll SJ/JRS

Becoming vulnerable in detention

In June, JRS completed its 18-month-long DEVAS project, done in collaboration with 23 NGO partners. At a launch event in Brussels, the regional office disseminated its final report, “Becoming Vulnerable in Detention”, based on interviews with 685 detained asylum seekers and irregular migrants in 21 European countries. Its central conclusion is that detention is a very negative measure that increases everyone’s susceptibility to further harm, not only persons with officially recognised vulnerabilities but otherwise healthy persons as well.

“In detention, the pain started to come because of the stress. The pain was all over my body. My heart, the stress, my head and the pain: that is my illness. I’m too stressed. There is too much pressure so I have to calm down.” These are the words of a 20-year-old asylum seeker from Sierra Leone interviewed by JRS at a Belgian detention centre. His experiences echo the many hundreds of others interviewed all across Europe: stories of unbearable stress, of separated families and unmet expectations, and of deep uncertainty.

Many interviewees talked about the impact of detention upon their physical and mental health. “I am in a cage, it’s hurting me,” said a Ukrainian man detained in the Czech Republic. Being separated from his family was especially painful: “The telephone is not enough to keep in touch. I feel like crying sometimes.” Others had great difficulty withstanding the prison-like environment. A woman detained in Ireland said, “I suffered depression in Zimbabwe but it is worse since I have been in prison.” For others the pain rests with coming to terms with an unwelcoming society. “I was happy to arrive to Europe,” said a Somali woman in Malta, “but then I was put into detention and after all the months here I received a rejection. I am very depressed. Sometimes I just cry the whole day.”

Most interviewees said that one of the greatest difficulties is not knowing when they will be released or even what will happen to them. One woman told us, “I cannot plan anything with my family. My mother is taking care of my baby now. I cannot arrange for a flat for myself, to pay for it, because I do not know for how long I am going to stay here.” A Palestinian man detained in Sweden declared, “My life is over,” after having been detained for 15 months at the time of his interview. The vast majority of interviewees described their circumstances in a very negative manner. But many became optimistic when asked to describe something about themselves. They described themselves as being resilient, friendly, kind, hard working and eager to learn. “I am someone with skills,” declared a man detained in Ireland. Another detained in Portugal said, “I am a person who likes to help and support.”

Becoming Vulnerable in Detention has been cited as a key reference document on vulnerability and detention in reports by UNHCR, the International Detention Coalition, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and the Council of Europe. JRS Europe will use it as a basis to develop its research on alternatives to detention.

Living on the margins

In March JRS published “Living in Limbo”, a report on the destitution of forced migrants in 13 EU countries as well as Ukraine. The research revealed that destitution is a European-wide problem; one that leaves forced migrants unable to enjoy their fundamental human rights. Thousands have little or no access to education, social welfare, housing, healthcare and employment. Importantly, the research shows that destitution is often caused by state policies that aim to exclude large categories of migrants from society.

Waris is a 39-year-old Ethiopian woman living in Italy. She had to leave her husband and two of her children behind in Ethiopia because the situation was too dangerous. Waris was pregnant when she arrived in Italy and for this reason was granted a temporary residence permit. She applied for asylum during her pregnancy, but was rejected twice. The Italian authorities doubted her Ethiopian nationality since she spoke a language they did not recognise. Waris could not believe this response because in Ethiopia more than 40 languages are spoken and the Italian authorities cannot expect to know all of them. She appealed against the negative decision but has been waiting over four years for a final outcome. She has no idea when a decision will be made.

During her first weeks in Italy, Waris was able to stay at a religious institute after she gave birth to her baby. A woman she met at the hospital arranged this accommodation. After six months she moved to a reception centre because she filed for asylum. She didn't receive any financial support from the state while she stayed there.

Waris remains in Italy without a legal status while she awaits the outcome of her appeal. She lost the right to stay in a reception centre because her asylum application is in the appeals phase. She does not receive any kind of support, and she cannot work in the formal labour market. Left without any income, Waris took up a job as a cleaner in the informal market. But it is very insecure: if she cannot work for one day, because she or her child is ill, then she is not paid at all. The work pays her just enough to rent a small apartment with other persons. Waris cannot lead a normal life in Italy. “I am very poor. I cannot do anything because I do not have a good job. Only people who have a good job can have friends.” She eventually took Italian language courses, but had to stop after experiencing mental health problems due to her desperate situation. “My head was not right and I could not study anymore. All my thoughts are always going to my children in Ethiopia. At night I cannot sleep.”

She perseveres with the thought that her son may someday be better off. “My life is always there and here. Now I am here. Life is never perfect. Maybe my son will have a better life. I am not happy but I have no other place to go.”



Italy: Hatigje from Kosovo feeds her 11-month-old son, Bebi Erwin, at the Pedro Arrupe Centre for families and minors run by JRS in Rome.

📷 Don Doll SJ/JRS



Jordan: Iraqis Wafi Youssif and his wife Jenan now live in Amman. They lost their daughter, 22-year-old Raghda, when extremists attacked the church of Our Lady of Salvation in Baghdad, on 1 November 2010. Raghda had been married in the church just 40 days earlier. 📷 Don Doll SJ/JRS

A new JRS region

In November 2010, marking the 30th anniversary of the foundation of JRS, Fr General Adolfo Nicolás SJ approved the creation of the new JRS region of the Middle East and North Africa. In doing so, Fr General wanted to encourage Jesuits and their co-workers in this region, which is complex and characterised by strong socio-political tensions, to be more aware of and engaged in the cause of refugees.

Already two years earlier, JRS International had paved the way by setting up projects in Aleppo and Damascus in Syria, in Amman in Jordan and, more recently, in Ankara in Turkey. The aim of these projects is mostly, but not only, to respond to the needs of Iraqi refugees. They suffer the wounds of war and the pain of social and cultural uprooting, just like others who are forcibly displaced, however Iraqi refugees are distinctive in that they all live in urban areas, in big cities where they are harshly exposed to marginalisation and all kinds of risks.

Many factors contribute to the positive development of our projects, not least the commitment of the Jesuits and their co-workers, the remarkable generosity of donors and the growing trust that the refugees put in us daily. With all this, we cannot but move forwards towards a better future, to search for other places where there is a true call to serve, accompany and defend our refugee brothers and sisters. *Inchallah*, as we say in our region.

JRS Middle East Director **Nawras Sammour SJ**

At a glance

Family visits, emergency aid,
social services

Informal education

Recreational, psychosocial
activities

Support (vulnerable refugees)


	Jordan	Syria	Turkey
Family visits, emergency aid, social services	500 families	87 families	22 persons 39 families
Informal education	408	539	71
Recreational, psychosocial activities	222	407	45
Support (vulnerable refugees)		142	

Another year passed for Iraqi refugees in **Syria** and **Jordan** where, although welcomed as guests, they experienced poverty and growing anxiety about the future. Return was still not a feasible option, local integration was ruled out for most, and longed-for resettlement the exception rather than the norm.

JRS accompanied Iraqis through home visits and in centres in Amman and Aleppo with informal education, recreational and psychosocial activities. The numbers of refugees attending courses in Amman rose in 2010 while the Deir St Vartan centre in Aleppo won an award from the Caritas International-Deckers Foundation in Belgium. In Damascus, JRS focused on vulnerable people – those with disabilities, the elderly and pregnant women.

2010 was the first full year of operation of JRS in **Turkey**, both a destination country and major crossroads for refugees hoping to reach Europe or awaiting resettlement. JRS started through the Ankara refugee support group – volunteers, mostly foreigners – based at the Catholic parish of Meryem Ana. A centre was opened to hold language classes and to serve as a meeting place for asylum seekers and refugees, mostly from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Sudan. JRS also distributed food and non-food items to vulnerable refugees.



Jordan: Iraqi refugees gather together for a traditional meal at the Jesuit centre in Amman.  Don Doll SJ/JRS



Turkey: Sandy Ford teaching English as a second language to asylum seekers and refugees in Ankara. 📷 Don Doll SJ/JRS

Turkey

The only thing I hang onto

Mojgan is an Iranian woman who went to Turkey hoping for resettlement in another country. She explains why she sought asylum abroad.

One day I was going home from work by bus and I met a nice man. We exchanged phone numbers, and soon started meeting, to sit and chat. After some time he invited me to his house to meet his parents. When we arrived, there was nobody there. He told me his parents would be arriving shortly and offered me tea. I drank the tea, started feeling dizzy and lost consciousness. When I woke up I realised what had happened and felt broken. I really liked and trusted this man; he had proposed marriage to me several times. I didn't know what to do. Once my very traditional family learned what happened, they could kill me. So I decided to run away because I knew I would never be able to live a normal life in Iran again.

With my savings, I bought a train ticket and went from Tehran to Ankara, where I didn't know anybody. First I found a cheap hotel and then rented a small apartment. It was not a good neighbourhood, especially for a single woman, and I was terrified. I met an Iranian man who told me about the JRS centre and I started attending the English and Turkish courses. It was the only warm place where I could stay and eat, a place where I felt and was treated like a human being with respect and dignity.

I moved to live with a Turkish family who offered me a room. This was not easy but at least I could speak Turkish knowing some basics from the course. The place was far from JRS and although JRS paid my transport, which is a huge help for refugees attending classes, I didn't want to spend two hours each way on the bus. Thanks to help from my sister in Austria, I found a new home near the JRS centre.

My time in Turkey has been lonely. The JRS centre in Ankara is a refuge for me; it is the only place where I can laugh. The people who work there don't make any distinction between nationalities, religious backgrounds and other things. They are there for us, to listen to us. I truly understood what JRS means to me when I was ordered by the Turkish authorities to go to a satellite city (asylum seekers are transferred out of Ankara to 'satellite cities' to await the resolution of their cases). I would have to start all over again, to leave my place and the few people I know, to go to a strange place. I suffer from depression, I am alone and the worst thing for me would be not to have the language classes, which keep me going. This is the only thing I hang onto. Going would kill me. If JRS opens a similar service in 'my' satellite city, I might manage, but until then I don't think I can find the strength to go.



📷 Sandra Ford

‘Old’ ways of working in a ‘new’ region

The yard of Deir St Vartan in Aleppo is full of teenagers and children playing basketball and football or just lounging and chatting. Then the teenage boys are called inside for an activity: *Moving towards the future together*. The JRS animator takes them through relaxation exercises; asks them to focus on different parts of their body, then on their feelings. The boys share pain, sorrow, anger, sadness. Most are refugees from Iraq, where kidnappings, ‘disappearances’, murders and bomb blasts have claimed countless loved ones. The aim of the group activity is to heal, to move away from the past. JRS organises such psychosocial activities for children, teenagers and women at the Deir St Vartan centre. Most of all, St Vartan is a place where the refugees can spend time together in a relaxed, safe atmosphere. They need this, as JRS discovered when it went to the Middle East in 2008. Encouraged by Fr General Adolfo Nicolás SJ, JRS was keen to go to this volatile region, which is highly affected by forced displacement. But it would be a new experience on many levels.

Initially JRS decided to reach out to Iraqi refugees in urban areas in Syria and Jordan. Iraqis are the second largest refugee group under UNHCR’s responsibility worldwide, 1.8 million primarily having sought refuge in neighbouring countries. The first challenge was to *find* the refugees, many of whom were unregistered and living in isolation, poverty and fear. This was possible thanks to local Jesuit communities and Christian Churches, which paved the way for JRS involvement by facilitating contact with the refugees and by providing a base from where JRS could operate. This has proved to be a considerable asset for JRS: in Aleppo, we work closely with the Chaldean Bishop, Antoine Audo SJ, and Deir St Vartan belongs to the Jesuits. In Amman, the community at the Jesuit centre – which became the JRS base – was already supporting Iraqi families. When JRS went to Turkey in 2009, a parish group served as the point of entry.


Meeting the scattered urban refugees and learning about their needs, JRS decided to bring them together in community, opening centres in Aleppo, Amman and Ankara, places described by the refugees as a “second home”. Another centre is due to open in Damascus. True to its pedagogical tradition, JRS started informal education in the centres – catch-up tuition, language and computer classes. For Nabil, in his forties, the English classes are practically his only social activity. The Iraqi man has lived in Amman for more than 18 years, together with his elderly mother, who has cancer, and his sister, who has mental health problems. Nabil hankers after a “normal” life, marriage, children, and a job, as his family waits to be resettled. They have been refused about eight times so far.

It is people like Nabil and his family that JRS wants to reach, who are somehow vulnerable and with little hope of moving on. There are plenty – the demand for resettlement is great compared to the relatively few places available. The Ignatian-inspired methodology of seeking out people in the greatest need and of pastoral accompaniment has served JRS well; visiting families at home has enabled our teams to discover and help those in urgent need. Some people they visit hardly ever go out. Like an elderly Iraqi couple in Amman who have lived for years in three tiny rooms with a leaking roof, with water stored in jerry cans and their belongings in suitcases. Living ‘invisible’ lives, they look forward to the visits, especially because a religious sister goes. They are happy not to be forgotten, eagerly offering drinks they can ill afford to spare.

Perhaps the most obvious challenge facing JRS, a faith-based organisation, is that religion plays such a significant role in the Middle East, often as a mark of difference, exploited to spark conflict. After the fall of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, Shiite and Sunnite fundamentalists turned on each other while Christians were targeted by both sides. “They sent me a letter with a bullet, saying ‘Get out of my country’. My country! Is Iraq not our country then?” asked an Iraqi Christian refugee in Damascus. Bringing people together is not easy in such a scenario. Yet building bridges is essential. The JRS teams are composed of Iraqis of different faiths, of national staff and international volunteers, who serve all without distinction. An Iraqi woman in Aleppo spoke for many when she said: “After all that happened I never thought we could be together again and yet here we are.”

For JRS, being in the Middle East is a challenge and learning process, discerning how to adapt our 30-year-old mission and traditional ways of working in a place totally ‘new’ to the organisation. We are discovering that JRS has much to learn and to give in this wounded region as our strengths enable us to reach thousands of refugees.



Papua New Guinea: A West Papuan refugee in Daru-Kiunga Diocese.  JRS International

Building something lasting

On a visit to Papua New Guinea, I was greeted by hundreds of refugees singing in a church during Advent. Their joy and hope were contagious and energised me to reflect on our work, which continues to grow and change. We have started new projects, for example with IDPs in the Philippines, and strengthened or sometimes revamped old ones. As our work evolves, our mission remains the same: to accompany people as friends, to serve with them and for them when they are in need, and to advocate for their rights. Intrinsic to this mission is to challenge forcibly displaced people to take responsibility for their lives and at once to ensure that their human dignity remains intact despite the sufferings endured.

In another visit to refugees in Thailand, a mother spoke proudly of her son, “I see that education has given him new self-worth and confidence.” We look forward to the day when JRS is no longer needed. We must make every effort to assist people in developing their skills and unlocking hidden talents that make them independent from NGO assistance. This means to build something lasting which strengthens the humanity of those with whom we work.

What I learned on those visits is that hope is what keeps people going, not just the refugees, but also those who serve them. To see and hear people expressing hope and joy in direct encounters makes the journey all the more worthwhile.

JRS Asia Pacific Director **Bernard Hyacinth Arputhasamy SJ**

At a glance

	Australia	Indonesia	Papua New Guinea	Philippines	Timor-Leste	Thailand
Advocacy			10,000	50**		274
Education		38				8,995
Emergency aid		128		30		222,338*
Healthcare				200	20	19,446
Livelihoods		12		150	31	614
Pastoral	3,307	111				6,215
Peace-building					37,744	
Psychosocial support						202
Shelter		25				85
Voluntary repatriation assistance						359

* Includes those who passed through immigration detention centres in Mae Sot and Bangkok.

** This refers to human rights training and does not take into account all the people who benefited indirectly.

In **Australia**, JRS continued supporting immigration detainees in Sydney and on Christmas Island and ran a community shelter project. JRS advocated for alternatives to detention and conducted research on refugees displaced by climatic changes.

In **Cambodia**, JRS promoted local integration and self-sufficiency for urban refugees and offered legal assistance. Durable solutions were sought for Montagnard refugees and communities evicted in land grabs were assisted.

In **Indonesia**, JRS reached out to asylum seekers in Bogor and in a detention centre in Medan. Community capacity-building continued in Aceh and, most recently, JRS assisted those displaced by the eruption of Mt Merapi in October.

In **Papua New Guinea**, JRS worked with the Daru-Kiunga Diocese to educate refugees about their rights and to build the capacity of diocesan staff in this area. In November, JRS evaluated progress to adjust the service to refugees living along the border with West Papua and those in the unwanted inlands; both groups are affected by heavy mining and by tensions with local communities and the government.

JRS started to work with other NGOs in the **Philippines'** Mindanao region, helping those displaced by the Moro conflict by funding livelihood activities, especially for women. With others, JRS sought to create a space for IDPs to advocate for their own cause with government and non-state actors.

In **Singapore**, JRS supported regional projects by raising public awareness about the plight of forcibly displaced people.

JRS **Thailand** implemented eight projects including four along the Thai-Burma border providing education and livelihood training in and out of refugee camps. In Bangkok, JRS gave meals, healthcare, legal counselling and voluntary return assistance in the immigration detention centre and supported urban refugees.

In **Timor-Leste**, JRS focused on rebuilding trust at local level and on urging the government and stakeholders to ensure that IDPs got protection and equal rights.

Thailand

A friend in need

In the name of Allah, the Gracious and Merciful!

In December 2010, I was arrested together with my wife and our three small children while sleeping at home, and taken to the Bangkok immigration detention centre (IDC). We were considered illegal migrants for overstaying our visa while seeking asylum.

I am an Ahmadi Muslim from Pakistan. Since 1974 we Ahmadis have lived with fewer rights than others. In 1984, constitutional amendments actually made us a persecuted group. According to Islam, Ahmadis are no different from other Muslims, but the government saw it differently and actively supported our persecution. Government officials, mullahs and average citizens of Pakistan have been making life almost impossible for the Ahmadis. For me, this daily persecution reached its peak when I was kidnapped. Religious extremists took me from my home, claiming they were the only true Muslims and that Ahmadis were heretics. They forced me to change my religion and held me prisoner for 30 days because no one could afford to pay the outrageous ransom demanded.

I knew then that being an Ahmadi Muslim in Pakistan was impossible and fled with my family. I came to Thailand because this is where the UNHCR regional headquarters is and so I thought that the resettlement process would be faster. I arrived in Bangkok in August 2009. After my initial interview with UNHCR, I discovered that surviving in this city would not be easy. It is expensive for a family of five especially when we are not legally allowed to work. UNHCR provided shelter and assisted us as much as they could. Unable to work and to support my family and my community I felt unhappy and worried for my future.

Then I met JRS through its urban refugee programme. I told the JRS staff how I and others in my community had nothing to do as we waited for news from UNHCR. JRS supported us with an Ahmadi community centre. I was in charge of education; our children came to the centre to learn English and for other basic studies during the week. We kept busy and hopeful. Since I could speak English, I got a job as an interpreter for the Pakistani community.

All this came to an end when my family, along with 50 other members of our community, was arrested. While some decided to return to Pakistan after they were arrested, I remain here with my family. And here in detention my best old friend, JRS, has been assisting us. The main problems in the IDC are health- and food-related, but JRS provides a medical clinic and supplementary food.

I'd like to thank all those of JRS who have supported my family: the legal officers who assisted me with my case and those who visit me in the IDC. Still today, after five months, people visit and I am thankful. May God grant you more and more blessings.

In March 2011, the author and his family were accepted as refugees and now await resettlement.



Thailand: JRS vocational training coordinator Rosalyn in a computer class in a Karenni refugee camp on the Thai-Burma border. JRS has been the principal source of support for education in the Karenni camps since 1997, in partnership with the Karenni Education Department. 📷 Don Doll SJ/JRS

Timor-Leste

New home leads to new future

Angelina Fernandes was born in 1970 in a district near Dili. When she got married she moved to Suco Camea, Dili. Her husband died, leaving her alone with her three children aged 15, 13 and two. During the 2006 unrest, she took refuge at the parish of Santa Teresinha in Camea, returning when the situation calmed down. Angelina found life difficult but she was determined to find a way to raise her children.

The only way I can feed my family is by running a small vegetable stand, which is the only source of income for our household. Sometimes I make tais (Timorese cloth) at home when I have enough money for supplies. By making tais, I can afford to buy noodles for my kids rather than feeding them rice and vegetables every day. Receiving support from JRS changed my life. With their help, I was able to get documents for my son, Juvito Nixson dos Santos, to get a government scholarship to attend school. Since then, my son has been receiving US\$80 a year for his studies. He can continue receiving a government subsidy if he keeps up the good grades. This offers me great hope. Now I can take some rest knowing that at least one of my children can finish secondary education. I see that he has a bright future ahead.


In 2010, a heavy rainstorm caused flooding that destroyed my house and my vending stall. My home was very small, and the conditions very poor, but still it was unbearable to see it washed away. I immediately went to the government and other organisations to ask for support to re-build my house so my children could have a place safe to live. The Ministry of Social Solidarity has programmes to help victims of natural disasters. However, I was not lucky enough to get support. In my village, many vulnerable people received assistance from the government and NGOs, but not me. Then JRS, in collaboration with local authorities, started a housing programme for needy families. JRS paid for some construction materials and funded a team to rebuild my house. It is sturdier and cleaner than my previous one and I'm happy for my children to call it home.

After receiving this assistance, I feel encouraged again. I have decided to expand my vegetable stand into a shop. This will hopefully generate a better income. With assistance and information from JRS, I was put in touch with Caritas Australia, which gave me funds to set up this small business. I have also joined an eight-member widow group supported by Caritas Australia. With a new home, a nicer shop and the support group, I am excited about the future for my children and me.



Timor-Leste: Isidoro Costa, JRS Director, visits the house of Rita Indau, for which JRS provided the building supplies while the community offered the labour. 📷 Don Doll SJ/JRS



Afghanistan: Pupils of the JRS-run school in Sohadat township.  JRS International

A rich tradition of service

In 2010, JRS South Asia continued its rich tradition of serving forcibly displaced people, choosing as a priority those most vulnerable and most discriminated against. Due to the nature of the situation, the programme in Sri Lanka continues to be the main concern of JRS South Asia. A team in Sri Lanka responds to people affected by war and disaster, forging ahead despite many constraints. Following closely on this is the JRS Tamil Nadu programme, implemented in camps housing more than 70,000 Sri Lankan refugees in India. Supplementary education plays a major role in this intervention, along with other capacity-building programmes. Afghanistan is emerging as another focus area of JRS. When the Jesuit Provincial of South Asia, the JRS International Director and I visited Afghanistan in September, it was decided that the Jesuit mission outreach there will become a fully fledged JRS programme in 2011. Meanwhile, JRS has been accompanying the Bhutanese refugees in Nepal and has been doing its utmost to help those who have opted for third-country resettlement.

Despite many challenges, JRS draws plenty of strength and sustenance in these tasks. We express our gratitude to the people who give us the opportunity to accompany them, to the staff who carry out the mission very well, to our benefactors, well-wishers and partner organisations. May God continue to bless us all.

JRS South Asia Director **Louis Prakash SJ**

At a glance

	Afghanistan	India	Nepal	Sri Lanka
Advocacy		644		530 families
Community development		18,651		382 persons 730 families
Education	2,765	19,993	31,108	22,214*
Emergency aid		313		21,017
Healthcare	1,000 per month	380		
Home visits		5,931 families		
Livelihoods	60			702 families
Psychosocial support		595		1,021
Support, vulnerable children				117
Youth centres			12,093	

* Does not cover some of the distribution of materials for school.

A team of South Asian Jesuits, serving under the banner of JRS in **Afghanistan**, accompanied returnees and implemented education initiatives. In the returnee township of Sohadat, near Herat city, JRS ran a school, a clinic and livelihood programmes. In Herat and Bamiyan, members of JRS lectured at university and conducted English language classes and teacher-training; the latter activity extended to Daikundi.

In 2010, the resettlement of Bhutanese refugees continued: nearly 15,000 left the camps in eastern **Nepal**, bringing to over 40,400 the total of refugees resettled since the start of the process in early 2008. Consequently the number of students and teachers on the Bhutanese Refugee Education Programme (BREP), run by JRS for Caritas Nepal, dropped and new teachers had to be recruited and trained.

In 2010, the government of **Sri Lanka** continued to release Tamil civilians from camps in which they had been housed after they fled the last round of the island's civil war, which ended in mid-2009. However many remained in IDP camps. Those who could, returned home or resettled, but many still lived in fear and in want. Present across seven districts in the north-east, JRS served IDPs and returnees by organising emergency aid, social services and community development, education and livelihood activities. Individual accompaniment was an integral part of the JRS presence.

At the end of 2010, there were more than 70,300 Sri Lankan refugees living in camps scattered across **Tamil Nadu** in southern India. The end of war in Sri Lanka did not prompt large-scale returns. While continuing its long-running education and community development services in the camps, JRS sought to encourage healthy debate about possible durable solutions among the refugees.



Sri Lanka: IDPs in the northern Mannar district. 📷 JRS International

Sri Lanka

Accompanying us through war and death

Shakti is one of thousands of Sri Lankans who were caught in the crossfire of the civil war between the Sri Lankan Armed Forces (SLAF) and the now defunct insurgent group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

I was born in the village of Kokkilaai in Mullaitivu district in 1983, the year of the “holocaust” for the Tamils in Sri Lanka, when they were targeted in widespread rioting, and also the time when the Tamil militancy was coming of age. Like the rest of the north-east, our village had militants and, when I was one year, it was evacuated by the SLAF at gunpoint. We reached Mullaitivu town and stayed with relatives. In 1990, when Mullaitivu was captured by the SLAF, we had to move again and this time settled in Mulliyawalai in the Vanni region. These were years of battles and we learnt to live in this situation.

In 1998, JRS extended its services to our area in the Vanni and my father became a close collaborator of theirs. This was my first encounter with JRS and I was taken by the commitment of the Jesuit priests, by their way of life of simplicity and generosity. Their presence and companionship was of great support to our family. When the Jesuits returned to the Vanni on a new mission in 2003, our relationship with them continued.

In March 2007, all hell broke loose in the Vanni with fierce warfare. Displacement was so rapid, we moved from village to village; a Jesuit father was accompanying and supporting us. Pounded by SLAF bombs and shells on the one hand and facing the forced recruitment and cruelties of the LTTE on the other, we were uncertain of our very existence. Death was almost at the ‘doorstep’. Sorry, makeshift tents didn’t have the luxury of doors.

On 18 May 2009, as we were escaping from the battle zone, my father stepped on a landmine and was bleeding profusely. I ran to help him and stepped on another landmine. Today, both of us have become ‘amputees’. The Jesuit father visited us in hospital and was a great consolation indeed. He continues to accompany us today.

Just when life was full of frustrations and uncertainties for me, JRS came forward and provided me with a computer. This has proved to be a big turning point. I am preparing for computer classes and have regained meaning in life once again. I am grateful to JRS for this act of generosity and understanding.

Meanwhile, we are still displaced and living under the tight control of the SLAF. We are not free to express our pain, to mourn the death of our beloved. Young people who had been in the Vanni, like me, are under surveillance (the Vanni region used to be under LTTE control). We feel that although the war is over, a different kind of war is being waged against the ‘conquered’ people.

Nepal

Shaping destiny through education

Leaving Nepal for resettlement, Tila Chan Dhimal recalls the years spent as a refugee in eastern Nepal. He says close involvement with the BREP made him the person he is today.

It is said that when a man is robbed of everything, it is education that allows him to stand once again to face the challenges of life. On the eve of moving to the US for resettlement, looking back at these 18 years of my refugee life, I have only gratitude to express to all those who supported us.

In this long journey, Caritas Nepal occupies a central position in giving hope to many. My gratitude begins from the day I carried a sack and entered the freshly cleared grassland in class three in Sector C of Khudunabari camp.

I watched the initiatives of Caritas evolving as I grew. I completed my secondary education and was lucky to get a partial scholarship from JRS for my higher secondary education. When I finished, to support my community, I became a science teacher in the school where I had studied.

My life's struggle would have become unbearable if I didn't continue my education. I decided to pursue tertiary education on my own and completed a Bachelor's course in Science (BSc) at a college in Siliguri in 2007. Back in the camp I rejoined the same school. In 2008 I was chosen to be science resource teacher, charged with updating the curriculum, monitoring teaching, and recruiting and training new teachers.

This appointment coincided with the third-country resettlement process. The teacher turnover in JRS/Caritas-run schools began to switch from problem to crisis mode. It was a critical moment: people who had despaired for so long were now galvanised by the glimmer of hope promised by resettlement and, at the same time, they had to run the education programme in such a fluid situation.

My association with Caritas and JRS helped me to evolve into a wiser human being. They nurtured me as a mother would her child. If Caritas and JRS had not been there my destiny would have been different – I shudder even to think of this – and I believe this view is shared by many compatriots.



Nepal: Bhutanese students in a refugee camp. © JRS International

Varkey Perekatt SJ, former JRS Nepal Director, writes about a visit to Bhutanese resettled in the US:

“I was given a warm welcome in New York by a group of 22 or so, most of them our teachers or students. A few days later a similar meeting took place in Chicago. Every refugee is grateful to Caritas and JRS for the quality education that we have been able to impart to them, the fruit of which they are reaping now. Their educational advantage has enabled the Bhutanese refugees to establish themselves more easily. The happiest news is that most of our students got admission in the same grade as they left the camp schools. The majority are continuing their studies while working. Our people are finding their way slowly but steadily.”



Colombia: Soacha, a suburb of Bogotá. 📷 Sergi Camara/JRS LAC

The urban face of displacement

In the Caribbean, after the January earthquake in Haiti, many are still living outdoors, at considerable risk. Human trafficking networks profit by trading on people's expectations. Active in seven camps for quake survivors, JRS offers pastoral guidance, and has formed camp leaders. Since the displaced people are constantly threatened with expulsion by landowners, JRS has developed arbitration and advocacy to generate fair solutions to the problem.

Working with Colombian IDPs and refugees, JRS is present not in camps but in city suburbs, where people displaced by violence in rural areas live in exclusion and at risk of natural disaster. In the Colombian cities of Buenaventura, Cúcuta and Soacha, IDPs accompanied by JRS faced not only conflict but also the natural phenomenon *la niña*, which left many homeless. A growing trend in the region to catch our attention is increased displacement caused by the development of mega-projects and by the greed of trans-national mining corporations, whose search for subsoil benefits has uprooted Indian and black communities from their ancestral lands. Poor people are being expelled from their land – however small, this is their greatest wealth – and forced to fill the deprived neighbourhoods on the outskirts of the big cities.

Our goal is to offer people companionship so that they can rebuild their lives, integrate in host communities, access the educational system, and generate income. This companionship is expressed in service and is the key element for advocacy at local, national and international levels.

JRS Latin America & the Caribbean Director **Alfredo Infante SJ**

At a glance

	Colombia	Ecuador	Haiti	Panamá	Venezuela
Education	1,501	477		450	672
Emergency aid	3,070		7,000	7,649	33
Pastoral	270			180	
Peace-building		1,398			1,342
Social services	1,443	6,848	12,000	612	2,079

In 2010, JRS **Colombia** advocated for the restitution of the rights of people displaced by the war and by mega-projects. Projects for local integration and the prevention of violence were developed and an office was opened in Cúcuta, capital of North Santander department and a battleground of paramilitary groups.

JRSM (Jesuit Refugee Service/Migrants) in **Ecuador** continued to offer legal and psychosocial support in rural areas, Spanish courses for immigrants, and protection and social assistance in difficult cases.

In **Panamá**, JRS advocated for the extension of Law 25, which allowed some refugees to apply for permanent residence status, however the law expired in November. An education project was launched to strengthen schools in the communities where JRS is present. And together with other agencies, JRS provided food to families in Rio Tuirá and Darién Centro, following a crisis brought about by border police restrictions on transport.

JRS **Venezuela** continued to accompany more than 50 communities in border areas. In mid-year, Colombia and Venezuela broke off diplomatic relations. Consequent militarization at the border, with more checkpoints, affected the mobility of asylum seekers.

After the 12 January earthquake in **Haiti**, JRS initially delivered emergency aid and, in March, opened an office in Port-au-Prince and focused its intervention of pastoral and psychosocial accompaniment in seven camps located in three sectors of the capital.

In **Dominican Republic**, following the Haiti quake, JRSM joined forces with other organisations to deliver an efficient, coordinated response. As repatriations of Haitians were constantly reported, JRSM called for “clear and effective mechanisms to ensure respect for human rights and access to legal advice”.



Haiti: Automeca camp. © JRS International

Haiti

We can count on JRS

Thirty-eight-year-old Marie Nesmy Nésdimond is a survivor of the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti on 12 January. She lives in Automeca, a camp in Port-au-Prince where JRS is present.

Before the earthquake, I lived in Carrefour (on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince). On 13 January, the day after the quake, like many other people who lost everything, I had to move here to the camp.

Life under the tents is stressful. We are exposed to rain, sun and dust. We suffer hunger and health problems, without access to basic services like first aid and drinking water. When it rains, our tents get flooded, and sometimes we have to sit in chairs all night long until the rain stops. At times it gets very hot after the rain and this causes headache and eye problems. Since October we have been concerned about a cholera epidemic in the camp. I am a nurse in charge of prevention for the Red Cross.

JRS has been doing great work in the camp and I am very happy about it. They created a small prayer area and religious sisters come, inviting young people to participate in meetings, talking to the women's groups. JRS is the only organisation to visit. When there is some need or problem in the camp, we turn to JRS; no other institution, governmental or otherwise, helps us. We have had many problems in the camp: hurricanes, cholera and threats of expulsion from the owner of the land on which the camp stands.

No government representative has come to ask us how we feel and how we manage to survive. Having JRS near has helped enormously; being alone and unable to count on anyone is frustrating. We count on JRS and don't feel alone; we have faith that JRS will stay.



Panamá: Colombian refugee hut in Darién province. © Lucy Haley/JRS USA

Panamá JRS needs to be here

In November, Shaina Aber, JRS USA Associate Advocacy Director, went to Panamá with a delegation of Refugee Council USA members and a representative from the Canadian Council for Refugees. While there, she wrote:

I'm about to get onto a plane to visit the Darién jungle where JRS serves a group of Colombian refugees living in the most abject of conditions. This jungle region of Panamá is impassable by car; the only way to get from one village to another is by boat. Children have no access to secondary school education, healthcare is minimal and many children suffer from parasitic diseases. Of the Colombian refugees living in this jungle region, 863 are under a special state of confinement imposed on them by the Panamanian government called Temporary Humanitarian Protection. They are not allowed to leave their village, to work, to access even the most basic of services. These refugees have been living in this state of legal limbo, confinement, and social exclusion for 10 to 13 years. The Bishop's Vicariate reported that some of the refugees living with this status have died for lack of medical care... The government has promised to regularise their status on multiple occasions, recognising that they cannot go back to Colombia because their lands have been seized by paramilitaries and guerrillas, but has yet to follow through on this promise.

...Our meetings left us very concerned about the situation of Colombian refugees. In a year when 400 refugees apply for asylum in Panamá, only eight are given recognition. Only 1,000 refugees have ever been recognised by the government and just over 500 are currently applying. UNHCR estimates that there are 15,000 Colombian refugees living in Panamá who have not approached the authorities because they rightly fear they will not receive positive results... All this simply emphasised why JRS needs to be down here. We need to raise the profile of this population of refugees.

"I am a 47-year-old Colombian woman. I live with my partner, who is a Panamanian transport worker, and seven sons. I left my country because of paramilitary violence. They killed my 17-year-old son and, after receiving death threats, we decided to move in 2002 to Jaqué community in Panamá. Over there we were threatened by the paramilitary again, they showed us a list that included the names of all the members of our family, so we decided to move to Panamá city, where we have been living for the past four years. I have been granted Temporary Humanitarian Protection. I went to JRS Panamá to ask how all my sons could be included in this status. And I needed to know how my children could study, how I could enrol them in school. JRS also follows the asylum claim, still pending, which I filed at the national office for refugees."



Mexico: Men just deported from the USA take a hot meal at the Aid Centre for Deported Migrants which is just across the border.

📷 Robert Dolan SJ/JRS USA

Supporting those in crisis

JRS USA provides direct service via the detention chaplaincy programme, offering pastoral and religious services to meet the needs of non-citizens detained by the Department of Homeland Security. These programmes enable people of all faiths to have access to pastoral care and to religious services within their faith tradition. JRS USA chaplains and pastoral care workers also give support to those who find themselves suffering and in crisis.

During a visit to a detention centre in Arizona, the chaplains took us to a non-security residence. They were passing out bibles, rosaries and reading materials that had been requested by the residents. One man there was to be deported in a few days. His voice began to crack and he started to weep; he has children and a wife in Tucson who are legal residents. He has fought the deportation but to no avail. Immigration and detention are complex legal issues, but at the heart of these issues is the family, and the separation of a family is heartbreaking.

With the Kino Border Initiative (KBI), JRS USA has expanded the pastoral care that we have provided for undocumented non-citizens over the last 10 years in our chaplaincy programme. We are now reaching out to men, women and children who were detained by the US government and then deported. I am deeply moved by the work being done there.

JRS USA Director **Michael A. Evans SJ**

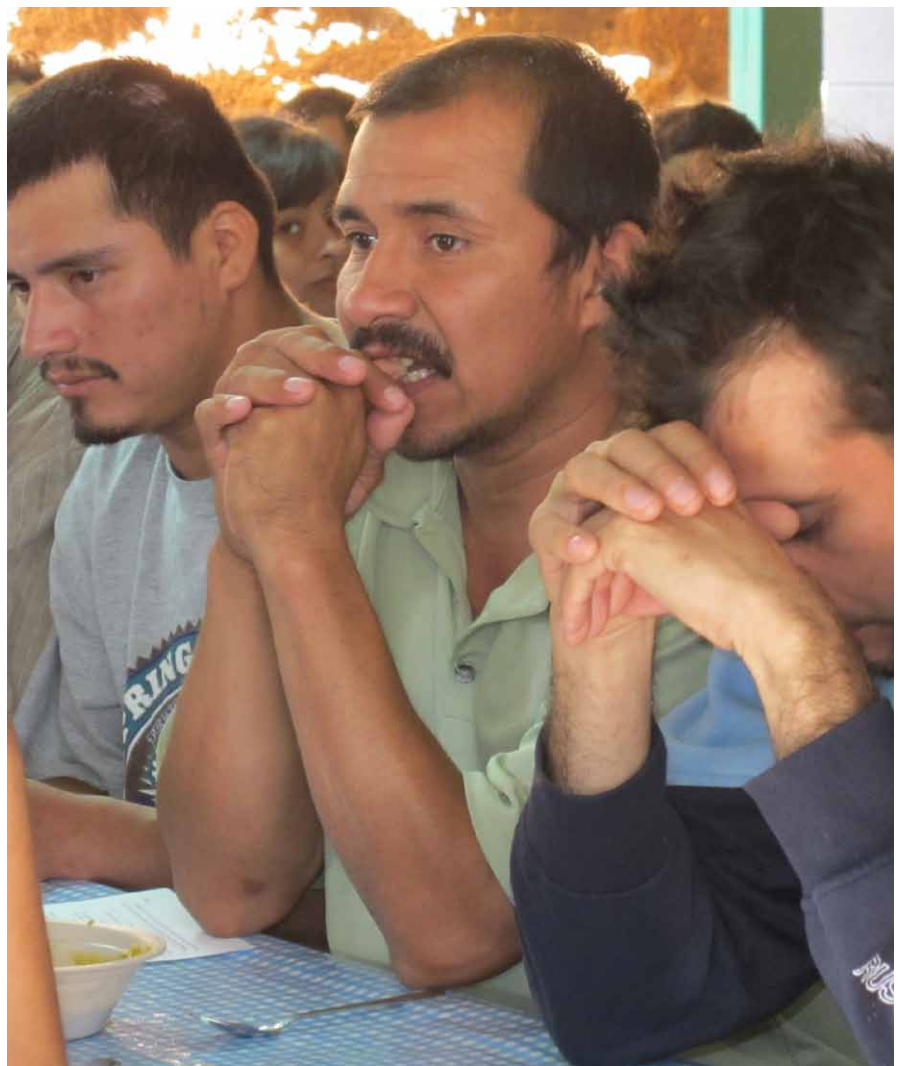
At a glance


	KBI	Detention Centres				
		Florence, Arizona	El Centro, California	Mira Loma, California	Batavia, New York	El Paso, Texas
Pastoral		10,894	17,718	51,512	10,889	18,462
Religious items distributed		15,000				
Shelter	307					
Urgent aid	55,800					

The KBI is a bi-national, collaborative ministry on the Arizona–Mexico border. In 2010 the KBI continued to run the Aid Centre for Deported Migrants (CAMDEP) and *Casa Nazaret*, an emergency shelter for deported women and children, in Nogales, Mexico. The KBI hosted a weekly average of three groups of visitors including journalists, volunteers from Church groups and university students.

JRS USA continued running a chaplaincy programme in five major detention centres, providing 109,475 multi-faith worship opportunities, including one-on-one spiritual counselling. The programme at Mira Loma in California was run as a joint effort of JRS, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the California Jesuit Province.

In Québec and Toronto in **Canada**, JRS advocated against bills of law that proposed to make life harder for asylum seekers. One was Bill C-11, the government’s planned revision of the refugee determination system, which aimed to speed up the process. JRS collaborated with other NGOs and lawyers to push for amendments that focused on fairness rather than speed alone, on individual claims as determining criteria as opposed to designated ‘countries of origin’. Many proposals made their way into the bill which was voted into law in June. JRS also lobbied successfully to quash another bill of law which proposed, among other things, to penalise asylum seekers who reached Canada with the help of smugglers.



Mexico: Pondering their future at the AID Centre for Deported Migrants in Nogales.
 Cindy Rice/JRS USA

USA

Walking with our detained brothers & sisters

Over five years ago I walked into a detention centre in El Paso, Texas. The experience opened up a whole new world for me. I felt trepidation when first passing the chain link fences topped with razor wire, and it took some time to find my role as assistant to the chaplain. What helped me to find my place among the 850 detainees and staff was the objective of JRS: *To show the compassionate face of God to those waiting for deportation.*

Throughout the years, I have seen my role more clearly in all its varied aspects, but one thing remains constant: I realise what a deep privilege it is to accompany my sisters and brothers from so many countries as they share their stories with me. As I listen, I try to give my full attention and above all, I empathise with each one and try to respond according to his or her specific needs.

Although I can't advocate directly I can make them aware of advocacy programmes in our locality. For some who are not familiar with our telephone systems, I explain how to respond to a recorded message. This can be daunting to a *campesino* from some rural area of Guatemala.

I try to find a quiet space where we can pray together. It may be a psalm or prayer asking for God's healing in their lives. I remember in particular one young woman from El Salvador who, as a teenager, was a victim of gang rape. She confided how she felt she was merely a "dirty rag" and was tempted to throw herself in front of a car or truck to end her suffering. I encouraged her to look deeply in herself and said: "You are like a beautiful lily that has been trampled in the mud but God sees you for what you are and loves you as His precious daughter." After several encounters, she told me how she felt it was providential that she was detained because now she would return to her country holding her head up, believing in her self-worth. Those on suicide watch need special help and I look for some gesture or prayer to bring them a spark of hope or light. More recently we are admitting more people seeking asylum from the violence across the border in Juárez. The stories of women who have seen their loved ones killed before their eyes has been an incentive to begin a new programme of self-healing called *Capacitar*.

Some days are truly difficult and, as I leave the facility, I would like to leave behind all the hard stories of the detainees. But I take them to prayer, asking God to hold each one in His compassionate hands.

Beatrice Costagliola FMM,
religious services specialist



To avoid burnout, Beatrice drives out to a ranch every Saturday.



Mexico: In January 2008, Gustavo's face appeared all across Ciudad Juárez in spectacular billboard ads promoting the 'New system of penal justice'. By May, he was receiving death threats.

Canada

Why don't you just go and see?

Involved in JRS advocacy in Toronto in 2010 was Luis Arriaga SJ, then Director of Centro Prodh in Mexico, who helped enormously to educate the Canadian people and politicians about human rights abuses in that country. He was also instrumental in JRS efforts to defend Gustavo Gutierrez Masareno, whose testimony we published in the 2009 report. Gustavo, a Mexican, fled his country in late 2008 after receiving death threats while working as a prominent police officer investigating 'feminicidios' – unsolved murders of women – in Ciudad Juárez. After Gustavo failed to be accepted into Canada at his first and second hearing, JRS started working on the final channels available to him and his family. Once again, Gustavo shared what he was going through as he waited:

I still think about the first waiting... not knowing anything of this new place, even how to catch a bus. Everything was new. But we lived in hope and it got us through that time. Then we were refused. We had lots of help from Romero House (a community home for asylum seekers, where JRS is involved). Everyone gathered round. Lourdes was expecting our new baby. We had to prepare again.

When I was refused at the second hearing I went into a different place in myself. I was working at two jobs; I had just been accepted for an internship for mentoring internationally trained psychologists. Our baby, Mary Joanna, was born. We had reasons to hope because of that. But I was feeling a lot of anger.

I remember at that second hearing looking at the person making a judgment on my life, my family's life, and feeling: "This is not justice, this is not fair. You understand nothing of what we've come from, come through. Why don't you just go to Ciudad Juárez and SEE?!! Everybody knows how bad it is. Why don't YOU?"

Now we are doing the H&C (Humanitarian and Compassionate Leave) application. And the PRRA (Pre-Removal Risk Assessment) application. More pages, more details. Everyone at Romero House cares so much for us. They are working hard on this but it is really tough. I am really tired.

Will this time be successful? I don't know. I don't know what to think anymore. It's really important to hope but sometimes I'm too tired to hope. We'll see, we'll see.

Glossary of project categories

Advocacy

Protecting the rights of refugees starts on the ground, with legal and other support for asylum applications, access to services, registration, return or resettlement. Another aspect is training or awareness seminars, for public officials, local NGOs and refugees.

Education

The mainstay of JRS activities in most regions, education covers a wide range of formal and informal schooling, including: pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary, special education (especially in Asia), distance education, scholarships, lifeskills, vocational training, adult literacy, computer and language classes, often for adults, extra tuition and revision classes, and education for peace and reconciliation. In Africa and Asia, JRS strengthens the educational system of communities by training teachers and providing them with incentives, by engaging in the construction and equipping of schools and by supporting Parent Teacher Associations.

Emergency relief

The distribution of food and non-food items, such as mattresses and blankets, clothes, seeds and tools; medical treatment; money for transport and referrals. Shelter – tents, housing arrangements, and the rehabilitation and maintenance of dwellings – forms part of this category.

Healthcare

Healthcare includes referrals and payment for medical treatment; services in detention centres; work in clinics and hospitals; food supplementation; health education; HIV/AIDS awareness-raising; staff training.

Livelihoods

This category incorporates activities geared towards self-reliance: ensuring access to employment and land; technical training and assistance; help to set up small businesses by making available funds, grants and credit, as well as tools and other resources. Such initiatives go beyond the economic (self-sufficiency, earning an income) aspect to encompass human (restoring dignity and hope) and social (integration, community) elements.

Pastoral

Pastoral care refers to targeted initiatives – capacity-building among catechists, youth, community leaders and Small Christian Communities – and to wider ministry that reaches thousands. The latter includes liturgical services, including administration of the Sacraments, and pastoral accompaniment, especially of people who are ill, traumatised and bereaved. In detention centres, JRS offers chaplaincy services.

Peace-building

This sector includes reconciliation and reconstruction. Both often – but not exclusively – take place in the context of return. Reconstruction is about restoring war-torn structures while reconciliation dismantles barriers and heals wounded relationships. Related activities include: peace education and training seminars, collaborative leadership workshops, promotion of the value of peace through sports, culture and other activities.

Psychosocial support

Psychosocial support refers to accompaniment and counselling, with the degree of involvement ranging from offering a listening ear to therapy for mental health problems. Landmine survivors, victims of abuse, ex-child soldiers and those who experienced trauma are among those supported. This category forms part of a broader category, Social Services & Community Development.

Research

The critical reflection that is JRS research addresses the root causes of conflicts and generates new information about possible durable solutions proposed by the communities concerned. JRS action-research emerges from the project cycle and aims at social and community change.

JRS Advocacy

When the first JRS workers went to camps in Asia Pacific in the 1980s, they soon became aware of the many abuses of refugees' human dignity and rights. Reflecting on those pioneer days, Andrew Hamilton SJ wrote: *The anguish of seeing these [abuses] and the realisation that they were bound to political interests led to frequent discussion about the proper ways of handling them... The movement towards a stronger stand on human rights was accompanied by the desire to seek more information and disseminate it, as well as by the impetus to develop an ethical voice to contribute to the largely pragmatic discussions which were conducted about the future of the refugees.*

Since then, advocacy has become a pillar of the JRS mission, developed at local, regional and international levels. Much has changed in the global scenario since the 1980s and JRS advocacy has responded accordingly. But the ultimate goal remains the same: to defend the threatened dignity and rights of forcibly displaced people.



Italy 📷 Centro Astalli

In recent years, and 2010 was no exception, the needs of and risks faced by **urban refugees** have constituted a key concern for JRS. However JRS has been reaching out to refugees in the city since the beginning: in 1981, JRS set up Centro Astalli in Rome to reach out to Ethiopian, Eritrean and Somali refugees. Pictured above is Pedro Arrupe SJ at Centro Astalli in 1982.



Thai-Cambodian border 📷 Kuangchi Programme Service

Since the 1980s, the presence of JRS workers has led to daily advocacy for the concrete implementation of the rights of forcibly displaced people. One major area of advocacy is **access to services**. In 2010, in places as diverse as Kakuma camp in Kenya, Australia, Sri Lanka, Haiti, the Thai-Burma border and Burundi, JRS called for access to basic services such as food, healthcare and social services. In Burundi, Chad and Sudan, JRS lobbied for access to education, especially for girls.



Chad 📷 JRS International

In 1998, JRS joined a group of five other NGOs to form the Coalition to the Stop the Use of **Child Soldiers**. In 2010, prevention of child recruitment was integral to projects in many places including Rwanda, Chad, CAR and Colombia.



Thailand

Detention is another sphere where JRS has been involved since the late 1980s, starting in Asia Pacific at the Bangkok immigration detention centre. In Europe, JRS has been active in this field from the early 1990s while JRS USA started its detention centre project in 1997. JRS is a member of the International Detention Coalition and, in 2010, the JRS presence in detention centres led to research and to advocacy for improved conditions, for access to religious services, and for alternatives to detention.



Thailand 📷 Don Doll SJ/JRS

Legal **protection** became a systematic part of JRS programmes in 1989, after governments giving asylum to Vietnamese refugees decided to institute a screening process and to repatriate 'non-refugees'. JRS started legal and social counselling to help refugees face the crucial process. Over the years, JRS developed similar casework programmes worldwide, together with wider advocacy for just laws and efficient, fair asylum procedures. Protection was a major focus of JRS advocacy in 2010 and a growing area of concern was SGBV, especially in the Great Lakes.



Cambodia

Even before the Cambodian refugees returned home in 1993, JRS programmes were begun in Cambodia. They built on many years experience in the camps, particularly with mine survivors, and were conceived as a service to national **reconciliation**. Reconciliation and peace-building remain strong components of JRS advocacy, carried out in 2010 in Sudan and northern Uganda, CAR, Haiti, Sri Lanka and Colombia, among other places. Advocacy for integration and conversely against xenophobia and discrimination is a related significant advocacy area.

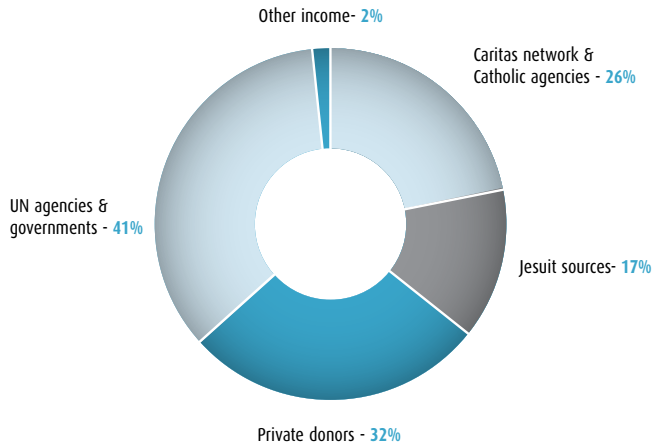


Cambodia

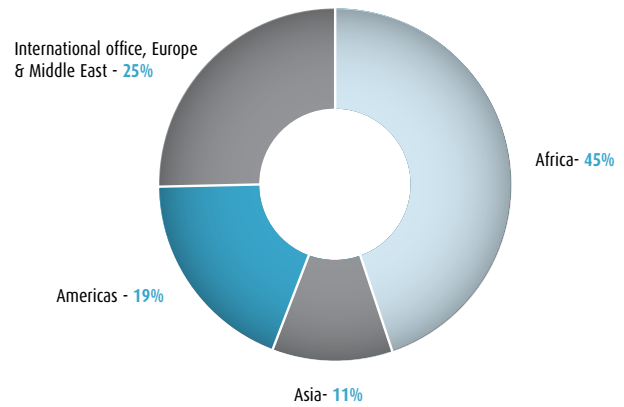
In 1994, JRS formally joined the International Campaign to Ban **Landmines**. JRS involvement was launched with an appeal from four survivors from Cambodia, including Tun Channareth, who later went on to receive the Nobel Peace prize on behalf of the campaign. JRS, particularly the Asia Pacific region, has been closely involved in this campaign over the years, also espousing the drive to ban cluster bombs. The year 2010 was marked by success: the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

JRS Donors

Sources of funding



Distribution of expenditure by continent



Sources of funding worldwide (amount in euro)

Caritas network & Catholic agencies	5,763,416
Jesuit sources	3,338,370
Private donors	7,083,671
UN agencies & governments	9,206,588
Other income	468,602

Total received 25,860,647

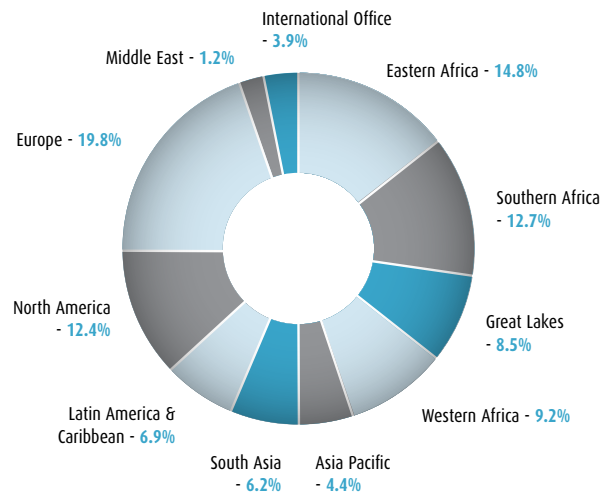
Caritas network & Catholic agencies refers to donations from Catholic Bishops' Conferences, dioceses, religious congregations and Catholic agencies;

Private donors include individuals and private foundations;

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

Jesuit sources refer to funds from Jesuit provinces, individual Jesuits and the Jesuit mission offices.

Distribution of expenditure by region



JRS International bank details

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IBAN: IT 86 Y 05696 03212 000003410X05
SWIFT CODE/BIC: POSOIT22

Account Number for US dollars:

IBAN: IT 97 O 05696 03212 VARUS0003410
SWIFT CODE/BIC: POSOIT22

"I am just 16 and the future is mine... thank you JRS"

Mazda Y.A., Chad



Thank you to all our donors & friends

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