





JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

Annual Report 2013

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Cover photo: A vocational training program in carpentry and electrical skills for young people in Masisi, eastern DRC. (Pádraic MacOireachtaigh)

EDITORIAL

The escalation of war in Syria, the eruption of violence in Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan, the death at sea of at least 630 asylum seekers within days... these are some tragedies that left an indelible mark on 2013. They show all too clearly why millions of people must flee their homes and the dangers they face on their journey to safety.

And they reveal “globalised indifference”, a term coined by Pope Francis when he visited Lampedusa in July. We can justifiably ask: has enough been done to stop the security meltdown in CAR? Where is the international will to bring about an end to the Syrian conflict? What measures have been taken to allow people fleeing such horrors to safely enter countries where they can seek asylum?

The answers are not encouraging. This is why advocating for refugee rights and for peace and reconciliation remains crucial to the JRS mission, as can be seen throughout this report. Equally important is our emphasis on accompanying refugees in their exile. Some, like the Sri Lankan refugees

in Tamil Nadu, have been displaced for years and years. Our presence brings a wide range of services, not only to help them to survive from one day to the next, but also to look beyond existing to living fuller lives – through psychosocial support, education and possibilities for work.

This year, we have taken our cue from the words of Pope Francis to write the annual report. In September, the pope visited JRS Centro Astalli in Rome and thanked those belonging to JRS for recognising refugees as people, for responding concretely to their needs, for defending their rights and for keeping their hope alive. This report shows how JRS teams around the world have done their utmost to do all this.

I extend a heartfelt word of thanks to every one and to our benefactors and friends for your indispensable support. By reaching out together to our refugee brothers and sisters, fighting the globalised indifference that ignores their suffering, we are responding to the question that God asks of each one of us: *‘Where is your brother?’*



SECTION 1

SURVIVAL

CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO

INDIA

INDONESIA

JORDAN

LEBANON

SOUTH AFRICA

SYRIA

TURKEY

To serve means to welcome people who arrive here with care; it means to bend down to one in need and to extend your hand to him, without reservations, without fear, with tenderness and understanding, as Jesus bent down to wash the feet of the apostles. To serve means to work alongside the neediest.

**POPE FRANCIS AT CENTRO ASTALLI,
ROME, 10 SEPTEMBER 2013**



1



People who are forced to leave their homes often go empty-handed. Others lose what they take on their journey to safety. Some refugees are poor to start out with; others become so because they cannot find work. Food, shelter and other essentials are far from assured, whether in a camp or a city, in a conflict zone or an indifferent host community. JRS emergency relief, including accommodation and the targeted distribution of food and essential items, enables refugees to survive from day to day. JRS works together with others, trying to fill gaps in services. Our teams focus on those in greatest need, among them new arrivals and vulnerable refugees like the elderly. Wherever possible, we do not distribute aid anonymously, but reach out to individuals, and offer emergency relief as part of a comprehensive package that includes means to earn a living.

URBAN AREAS

Refugees struggling to survive in urban areas face huge problems just to get by. In cities as diverse as Rome, London, Kampala or Delhi, refugees face strikingly similar challenges. In 2013, JRS ran projects in around 40 urban areas around the world, basing its intervention on home visits to get to know the refugees and to learn what their needs are.

In **India's** metropolis of Delhi, families of Chin refugees from Myanmar crammed into

one-room cubicles in poor neighbourhoods, sharing communal toilets. JRS helped widows, single mothers and others who were seriously ill to pay their rent and bills. Food, blankets and clothing were provided and healthcare arranged in emergency situations. Training in tailoring, computers, English and Hindi flanked material aid. The JRS team worked closely with community leaders and Chin university students to determine need and to implement its program.



In the city of Bogor in the West Java Province of **Indonesia**, JRS gave financial support to the most vulnerable refugee families – those awaiting registration or decisions on their refugee status, who meanwhile lived without money for food, housing, transport or communication with their loved ones. This support also covered medical needs, including asthma medication and fracture treatment. JRS helped refugees to cope with the constant uncertainty of the asylum process by giving information about the procedure, by making referrals to mental health and legal professionals, and by running English and sewing classes and fun activities. JRS was the only remaining service provider by the year's end, since all others withdrew.

For me, JRS is like family; they come to say hello, to invite me to chat and listen to my story. JRS provides financial support and pays for this room. JRS even comes when we are sick in hospital.

Mebratu Selam, Bogor

(left) Just arrived in Malta. Most refugees lose what they take on their journey to safety.

In **South Africa**, refugees who are chronically ill, old or who carry significant disability have few avenues through which to elicit vital assistance. In Johannesburg, two JRS nurses visited very isolated refugees to help them with their basic household or personal care. They extended a hand of friendship to people who otherwise had nobody. Fidelity is key to this small initiative, a vital part of JRS work among forgotten refugees who remain desperately poor.

My husband and I found out that we were infected by HIV when we were in South Africa. My husband was not taking medication properly and he died of AIDS. I was always in and out of hospital. When JRS found me I was no longer able to take care of my children. JRS helped me to buy food and medication and to pay transport to hospital because I was too weak to walk. Sometimes the people from JRS were cleaning and cooking for us and that is how I recovered.

Rosette, a Rwandan refugee, recovered to the extent that she started a micro-business thanks to a JRS grant.



Going on family visits in Jordan. Many refugees in urban areas lack the essentials to survive from day to day.

In 2013, JRS continued to respond to the urgent needs of people displaced by the chronic conflict in North Kivu in eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo** (DRC). Our teams regularly visited remote camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) scattered across Masisi, Mweso and Goma. They sought out especially vulnerable people and tried to make life easier for them, visiting and supplying medicines, clothes, cooking utensils, blankets and mats as needed. JRS built 30 wooden houses near the camps for people unlikely to return home due to extreme vulnerability or protection concerns. Having a real home, with a bit of land to grow food, gave the IDPs the chance to start a new life. Other interventions included the reconstruction of an entire section of a camp in Mweso following a disastrous fire and, elsewhere in the province, the supply of materials to rehabilitate camp huts. Following a wave of new displacement, JRS constructed two blocks in a camp together with the camp administrators and community leaders.

📷 An IDP camp in Sake near Goma, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.



Never an icon of stability, **Central African Republic** (CAR) fell apart in March when Seleka (mainly Muslim) rebels marched on Bangui, committing widespread human rights abuses and looting. Their brief hold on power ended when so-called Christian militia hit back. Hundreds of thousands of civilians were displaced in the tit-for-tat violence. The insecurity forced JRS to stop work in two provinces affected by previous conflicts. A core team opened an office in Bangui shortly after the city was attacked and distributed food in IDP sites there. In June, despite massive unrest, JRS launched a project in 26 schools, offering meals to draw children back to complete the academic year. In December, after another wave of displacement in the capital, JRS worked with other NGOs and the UN to help IDPs who fled to the Benedictine monastery of Boy Rabe.

The conflict in **Syria** increased in intensity in 2013 with over two million refugees in neighbouring countries and six million more displaced within the country. Violence escalated especially in residential areas, infrastructure collapsed, unemployment soared and food, fuel, electricity and water were in desperately short supply. JRS stepped up emergency aid to reach thousands of families that sought safety in the city centres of Damascus, Homs and Aleppo. Food security took priority as prices increased up to threefold for basic goods. JRS opened a field kitchen in Sahnaya, a suburb of Damascus, which churned out 5,000 cooked meals a day. The Aleppo field kitchen increased production, serving a daily average of 12,000 meals. In all, 300,000 people in Syria received emergency aid including mattresses, blankets, clothing, basic healthcare support, monthly food baskets, hygiene kits and help to pay rent. Similar assistance was delivered to 25,000 refugees in **Lebanon, Turkey** and **Jordan**; the refugees came from Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran.

I have become a victim of my own religion. I'm a Muslim; when terrorists dominated our neighbourhood in Aleppo, they forced me to close my bakery just because my wife didn't wear a veil. I left with my family to Damascus in August 2012. We lost all our dreams. It was very difficult to get money to share with my brother-in-law the expenditure of the house where we live. Today we face difficulties to get food, especially for my three-year-old son who has a backbone deformity and other health problems that need treatment. JRS helps us with food and with my son's medicines and treatments. This help means everything to us during these times. JRS gave us hope that there is still a lot of good in people.

🗨️ **Mohammed**



📍 Bangui, CAR.

SECTION 2

RELATIONSHIP

ASIA PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

ETHIOPIA

EUROPE

INDIA

PANAMA

USA

Thank you to Jesuits, JRS workers, volunteers, benefactors, who don't just give something or some time, but who try to enter into a relationship with asylum seekers and refugees, recognising them as people, committed to finding concrete responses to their needs. Always keep hope alive! Help to recover trust! Demonstrate that with welcome and fraternity a window to the future can be opened – more than a window, a door, and even more that it is possible to have a future!

2

**POPE FRANCIS AT CENTRO ASTALLI,
ROME, 10 SEPTEMBER 2013**



JRS has always encouraged its team members to be close to the refugees. We value this element of our work very highly; it is one of the pillars of our mission. The refugees value it too: responding to a survey carried out in 2013, Sri Lankan refugees in India gave JRS staff top marks for their “human and friendly approach”. In Australia, a young man told JRS: “Thank you for accepting me the way I am and for treating me as a human being.” A range of psychosocial support services is rooted in our closeness to the refugees, including professional and pastoral counselling and therapy for mental health problems.



VULNERABLE ASYLUM SEEKERS

In 2013, JRS **Australia** continued to run an accommodation and casework program that allowed unaccompanied minors, vulnerable men and families to live in community detention – a much more humane alternative to closed detention. Many of the vulnerable men entered their third year in Australia with their claims for protection still unresolved. Activities such as swimming lessons, soccer, art workshops and beekeeping brought respite from the pressure produced by constant uncertainty, while those attending English classes practised in the hope of a positive outcome. Some minors supported by JRS also faced insecurity due to the toughening of immigration policies. The young Hazaras from Afghanistan and Pakistan received intensive and individualised support as they attended mainstream school – many for the first time – and developed the self-confidence and skills to live independently.

📍 Tamil Nadu, India.

DETENTION

“When I was taken to prison, I felt like I was guilty, it was the first time for me and I hated my life. I felt so disappointed.” Amina, a 16-year-old Somali refugee, was detained when she landed in Malta after a long and dangerous journey. Her dismay mirrors the universal reaction of immigration detainees who face enormous stress and hardship while waiting for ‘freedom’. In the **USA**, **Asia Pacific** and **Europe**, JRS advocated for better conditions in detention and for alternatives to the practice. JRS argued that community-based alternatives are far less stressful for detainees and preserve human dignity.

In the USA, JRS continued a long-running chaplaincy program in three federal detention centres in Texas, Arizona and New York. These programs enabled people of all faiths to access pastoral care within their tradition. Meanwhile, JRS **Panama** became the latest of our teams to visit detainees. Going weekly to a detention centre for migrant women in Panama City, JRS ensured their rights were respected and helped those in need of protection to apply for asylum. The JRS team told the women about their rights under international law, prepared their asylum applications and served as a link with the national office for refugee services.

That's really what I do as a member of JRS... accompany people in their journey. The amazing thing is that in accompanying them, they accompany me; so it becomes this very mutual human relationship. Today is a bittersweet day. A detainee who has been here for two and a half years is leaving, and he is not being reunited with his family but returned to his home country. I have walked the journey of faith with him; I think as we said goodbye, he was more consoling to me than I was to him.

🗨️ **Richard Sotelo SJ, JRS USA chaplain**

📷 **Richard Sotelo SJ celebrates Mass at the Service Processing Centre for detained undocumented immigrants in El Paso, Texas.**



2013 was yet another year spent in limbo for more than 67,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees living in 110 camps in Tamil Nadu, southern **India**. Most have been in exile for one or two decades and are reluctant to return to Sri Lanka. However they remain isolated in their camps, which are in a poor state and prey to social ills. After serving the refugees in Tamil Nadu for more than 20 years, JRS conducted an impact study of its involvement in 2013. While education is the main focus (see page 24), the teams of Jesuits, religious sisters and lay people (who are mostly refugees) spend plenty of time on family visits, social work and counselling young people. The refugees interviewed said they felt at ease with JRS and described it as a trustworthy organisation that made a tangible difference. More than half said accompaniment had helped them to gain self-confidence to face their difficult situation and “strengthened us in our vulnerable existence as refugees”. The study found that JRS involvement had made a dent in statistics of social ills like alcoholism, sexual abuse, early marriage and school dropouts.

My family has been through displacement, disgrace and death. It is due to the intervention, passionate involvement and unfailing accompaniment of JRS that I have begun to live a life of dignity and hope. While others were cold and unconcerned, their goodness touched me. I have not only cleared my outstanding debts, but have enough to provide my children with a good education and my family with decent meals. I try to leave behind my traumatic past, which is difficult, and to look at life in its totality.

✉ Sivabalan had a serious drinking problem not least due to the death of his brother and rape of his niece at the hands of the Sri Lankan army. The JRS Tamil Nadu team helped him to overcome his addiction with counselling and rehabilitation. JRS accompanied not only Sivabalan but his whole family too.

📍 In limbo: a camp for Sri Lankan refugees, Tamil Nadu, India.





The famine in Eastern Africa that made international headlines in 2011 is only a vague memory. But tens of thousands of people uprooted by that natural disaster and by chronic conflict in southern Somalia are still refugees in Dollo Ado, southeast **Ethiopia**. Present in Melkadida camp since 2011, JRS replicated its services in a second camp in Dollo Ado at the invitation of the government refugee agency and UNHCR. An assessment revealed the urgent need for programs, like the one JRS runs in Melkadida, to give bored and frustrated youth a space where they can learn, relax with their friends, and find healing. JRS started a youth centre, adult education classes and individual and group counselling in Kobe camp. The refugees flocked for sports, music and films and proved hungry to learn: 250 refugees in Kobe attended literacy and numeracy classes in 2013. Vocational skills courses were offered too.

SECTION 3

EMPOWERING REFUGEES

AFGHANISTAN
CHAD
COLOMBIA
DRC
GERMANY
INDIA
ITALY
JORDAN
KENYA
LEBANON
MALAWI
SOUTH SUDAN
THAILAND | MYANMAR
UGANDA

“Hospitality in itself isn’t enough. It’s not enough to give a sandwich if it isn’t accompanied by the possibility of learning to stand on one’s own feet. Charity that does not change the situation of the poor isn’t enough. It calls for a situation where no one is in need of a soup kitchen, of a shelter for the homeless, of legal assistance to have his right to live and to work recognised, to be a whole person.”

**POPE FRANCIS AT CENTRO ASTALLI,
ROME, 10 SEPTEMBER 2013**

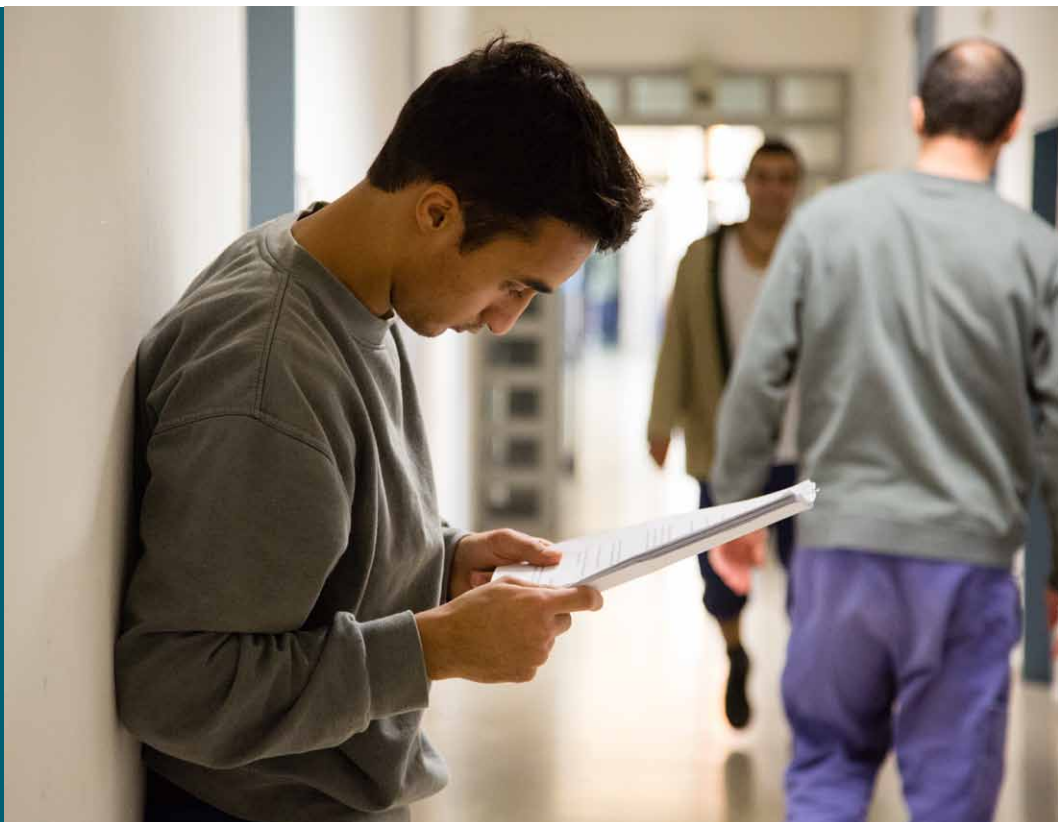


3





“Empowering refugees” sounds like a tired cliché that could say everything or nothing at all. And yet it is a good way of describing much of what JRS does, which is to “give power” to refugees who risk losing control over their lives, their wellbeing, the welfare of their families. We help refugees to manage their destiny by making them aware of their rights, sharing vital information about asylum procedures and helping applicants to be well prepared. We work with individuals and communities to challenge unjust laws, policies and decisions. We train refugees to share their stories, leaders to speak up for their people’s rights. We create opportunities for refugees to go to school, to university, to learn a trade, to find employment. And we organise language classes and other means to help them integrate in their host communities.



📍 (left) Christmas Eve: A refugee at the detention facility of Mühldorf, in the German state of Bavaria, tries to understand a legal letter about his detention written in German. JRS visits the centre each week. In 2013, JRS brought a steady stream of cases to the courts in Bavaria to challenge the detention of migrants and asylum seekers in ordinary prisons prior to deportation. In most cases, judges concluded that the practice was very likely a breach of EU law. This advocacy led to a major policy shift when Bavaria announced plans, in November, to stop the practice. A separate detention centre was opened in Mühldorf in December. Although still a detention facility, it allows more freedom than past prison conditions.



In 2013, 34 refugees shared their stories with more than 11,000 students in a school outreach project run by JRS **Italy**. The *Finestre* project went to 124 secondary schools, opening a window (*finestra* in Italian) for young students onto the reality of the refugees. The project aims not so much to show who the refugees are or what services they receive but above all to hear what individual refugees have to say.

I am part of the *Finestre* project. I'm happy that thanks to me, Italian youth can understand the value of hospitality and the pain of those who must flee their country. When Centro Astalli asked me to join *Finestre*, I was scared, but they reassured me, took me to schools to listen to other refugees, gave me reading material, until I decided: 'I'm ready!' When the day came, I was very nervous. But once I started, I couldn't stop talking: 'I am Rose, I'm 27 and I am a victim of torture and war in my country, Democratic Republic of Congo, which has very little that's democratic about it.' In a calm and firm voice, I told how plain-clothes soldiers came for me after I took part in a university students' rally, how they arrested me in my slippers and dressing gown. 'How many times I prayed to God to let me die... every time a soldier came in my cell to abuse me and I was spat at, beaten, kicked for refusing.' The students listened in stunned silence. When I left the school, I felt like a boulder had fallen from my shoulders, as if for the first time I had really shared my sorrow.

🗨️ **Rose**



TO SPEAK FOR THEIR RIGHTS

JRS helped to strengthen eight rural community organisations in the Magdalena Medio region of **Colombia**. These communal action committees are made up of representatives of displaced rural communities, returnees and vulnerable people. Through training and support, JRS encouraged local leaders to talk to the authorities, to advocate for their rights and for opportunities for a better quality of life. Themes tackled included access to education, community reconciliation, the legal rights of displaced people, and citizen participation. What's more, the JRS team organised literacy and basic IT classes to enable people to better engage in local policy. Another project component: developing livelihood activities and helping IDPs to enter the local labour market.

📍 Towards better representation: A community work session in San Pablo, Sur de Bolívar, organised by the Magdalena Medio team of JRS Colombia.

TO EARN A LIVING


JRS launched a program in Kampala, **Uganda**, to lessen dependency on material aid and to help refugees to become more self-sufficient, which is what they wanted. In all, 185 enrolled in courses in hairdressing, fashion and design, catering and handicrafts – trades the refugees felt would be viable. Most later started small businesses while others found employment. JRS followed up with visits, business-skills training and exhibitions to raise the refugees' profile. The refugees were delighted: "This is a great opportunity... JRS has moved from providing us with ready caught fish to teaching us how to catch the fish."

I went to JRS knowing nothing because I didn't get the chance to go far with my studies. JRS gave me what I needed to find the confidence I thought I had lost. All I have learned in hairdressing has been a big help. Now I can provide for my family, not enough, but better than before – I have three children. I am grateful to JRS staff, my teacher and colleagues, who gave me understanding, care and courage when I needed them most. I feel like someone is telling me every morning that I can do it. I also thank my husband who was there to understand and help me.

 **Wivine Gamwanya, Kampala**

In eastern **DRC**, JRS continued to offer women and youth in the volatile region of North Kivu the precious possibility of learning. Training was two-tiered: showing the displaced people how to read, write and count and teaching them a trade. In Masisi, JRS set up three nurseries that looked after nearly 100 children while their mothers learned.

I really enjoy the activities at the JRS centre. Earning something from weaving baskets helps to buy better clothes for my six-month-old son Charity. I am also learning to read and write, at last. I am eager to learn more. Once I have improved, I'd like to join the tailoring classes. If I work hard, I can buy my own sewing machine. That way, I can earn some money and build a future for Charity. I want to give him the opportunities I never had. I believe he will have the chance to finish school. That is the dream I am working towards.

 **16-year-old Tusifu with her son, Charity, in an IDP camp in North Kivu. Tusifu does not know Charity's father: he raped her when she went to look for wild vegetables outside the camp. Tusifu has only one leg so she couldn't run as fast as her friends when two men surprised them.**





TO GO TO SCHOOL

In eastern **Chad**, the number of Sudanese refugees in secondary schools run by JRS more than tripled, growing from 151 students in 2011-2012 to 520 in 2013-2014. JRS managed secondary schools in five camps, and faced the challenge of matching quality with quantity, as schools with many problems were taken over. The poor state of infrastructures and lack of well-trained teachers made it hard to expect good results despite the special tuition given to refugees sitting for their secondary-school leaving exams. In 2013, nearly one-third of the candidates presented by JRS passed. JRS worked to improve the quality of education by conducting teacher training, by developing a code of conduct for teachers and students, and by encouraging the schooling of girls.

📷 English language class in a secondary school built by JRS in Djabal refugee camp outside Goz Beida, eastern Chad.

In **Lebanon**, JRS rolled out an Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) in two areas – one in the Bekaa Valley and the other in Jbeil. The ALP aims to provide intensive English, French, Arabic, maths and core science to children aged 5 to 14. Many Syrian children cannot integrate into the Lebanese school system because they do not have a proficient level of English or French – the main languages of instruction in public schools. In 2013 JRS Lebanon reached 937 Syrian children.

I miss my home, I miss my friends, I miss my memories. Being able to go to school in Lebanon means everything to me. It's helped me to not feel so sad all the time.
 🗨️ **Rhada, Syria**



In 2013, JRS started an education project in Yambio County in Western Equatoria, **South Sudan**. The people of Yambio have been hard hit by decades of civil war and more recently by attacks from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan rebel group. JRS supported four primary and four secondary schools and especially encouraged girls to attend, paying tuition fees and providing sanitary kits. JRS also sponsored about 20 South Sudanese in teacher-training colleges in Uganda. Western Equatoria, a state whose estimated population exceeds 700,000, needs all the help it can get to build its education system: there are only 29 secondary schools, teachers are mostly untrained and schools are poorly equipped, without desks or chairs.

My lifetime is an experience of war. My time as a refugee gave me the opportunity to learn and desire to become a teacher. When our office in Yambio was about to close for Christmas, fighting broke out in Juba on 15 December. War did not extend to Western Equatoria but people were afraid. Our girl students were eager to find out if JRS would continue to support them: 'Sister, is JRS leaving Yambio because of this war? If JRS does not come back, we shall suffer because JRS came as a salvation for us girls.' The presence of JRS reminds me of a missionary sister who had rescued my family from hunger when we lived in a refugee camp in Central African Republic. For 10 days, we survived on water and small black fruits. Sr Camellia came out of nowhere, not only to give us food, but also to open the way for us to go to school.
 🗨️ **Sr Elizabeth Waraga, JRS Yambio education coordinator**

I need a chair, my mother does not have money to buy me a chair to bring to school, but I sit on a tree log in class.
 🗨️ **Mary**



TO GO TO SCHOOL

In more than 100 camps in Tamil Nadu, southern **India**, an external survey found that long-standing education programs for Sri Lankan refugees have brought about a marked difference. JRS supports refugee students by helping them gain admission in schools, and through full or partial payment of school fees, the supply of learning materials and extra tuition in Evening Coaching Centres. The survey revealed that refugee students were remarkably motivated, that more and more were reaching college and even university level, and that parents showed considerable interest and pride in their children's education, compared to previous indifference. Those who dropped out of school were encouraged to return or channelled to skills training. An emphasis on life-skills and counselling (see page 14) helped young people develop self-esteem and strong coping skills. Students who received support in turn volunteered to help others in the coaching centres.

📷 Inspired by a vision: the JRS commitment to education in camps for Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu has helped thousands of children to enjoy a better future.

TO THINK OF A FUTURE BACK HOME

In the camps on the **Thai-Myanmar border**, JRS has been the primary support for education for Karenni refugees since the mid-90s. As Myanmar emerged from decades of military dictatorship, JRS began to think about the eventuality of return, although it may be years before the refugees can safely go back home. Together with the Karenni Education Department (KnED) – the refugee body responsible for education in the camps where JRS works – JRS sought to ensure that the learning of refugees will be recognised once they re-enter the Myanmar education system. During 2013, reciprocal visits took place between NGO workers and officials from Kayah State and those working on education in the camps. An agreement was discussed, stipulating that camp students with report cards issued by KnED may be accepted at schools in Kayah State when and if they return to Myanmar. JRS also went to Kayah and Kachin States in **Myanmar** to assess needs and started to support education providers serving IDPs. JRS made preparations to run teacher-training for women in Kachin State and, in collaboration with others, started an extensive education-needs survey amongst IDPs in Kayah State.

I felt so happy because the state education officers warmly welcomed us to Kayah State. It was so good to hear them say they will help as much as they can in brotherhood and, if opportunities were given, they would like to visit us to see our education activities. We had a chance to visit government primary schools in remote areas. We learned that they don't have enough teachers and materials. I hope the camp teachers will be able to work as teachers in their village when they return. It is my wish but has yet to be realized.

 **Ei Ei Tin, KnED education coordinator**

 An IDP camp in Myitkyina, Kachin State; a JRS team visited Kachin and Kayah States in 2013 to assess education and psychosocial needs.



In September 2013, 42 students in two remote places in Africa obtained a Diploma in Liberal Arts from a US university. The graduates of the three-year course in Kakuma camp in **Kenya** and Dzaleka camp in **Malawi** were all refugees, except for two from Kenya's Turkana community. The graduations marked the success of an online tertiary education project pioneered by JRS and JC:HEM (Jesuit Commons – Higher Education at the Margins). Through

this project, refugees benefit from the resources of institutions all over the world, particularly the 28 Jesuit universities in the US. They may apply either for the diploma, awarded by Regis University in Denver, or for shorter community service learning tracks (CSLTs) that cater to chosen needs in the refugee communities. In other exciting developments in 2013, JC:HEM marked the first anniversary of the diploma in Amman, **Jordan**, with 12 students, while 55 students

began a CSLT in Advanced English and Interpretation. CSLTs in English also started in a refugee camp in Mae Hong Son in **Thailand**, on the border with Myanmar, and at the Herat Technical Institute in the city of Herat in **Afghanistan**. More than 270 students attended CSLTs in all five sites, including 30 in Thailand and 55 in Afghanistan. The number of diploma students in three sites, including graduates, reached 137.




© Kakuma camp, Kenya

Years of JRS commitment to education paved the way for JC:HEM in **Afghanistan**. Since going to Afghanistan in 2005, JRS has worked closely with local government and NGOs to enhance access to education, especially for girls, IDPs and returnees in great need. 2013 was no exception: in Herat Province, JRS opened its school in the returnee township of Sohadat to children from neighbouring villages, and started English language, computer and leadership courses for Hazara girls in the villages of Khoshrud and Jebreal. Students trained by JRS swelled the teachers' ranks, eager to share what they received. Meanwhile, JRS stepped up efforts to teach English to children living in very poor conditions in IDP settlements on the fringes of the capital Kabul.

JRS taught me English, starting with the alphabet. I learnt the basics in the English Access program. We were so enthusiastic about learning English, we prevailed on our teachers to continue our training, and they helped us to develop a greater fluency in English through Access Plus. JRS encouraged us to teach 5-7 students in our neighbourhood and, after four years, my friend and I were chosen to be coordinators of the Training Leaders for Tomorrow

program. We were also chosen to teach basic English to girls at Herat Technical Institute. At first I was terribly nervous. But I knew I could do it and so I made my lesson plans like JRS taught me. I gained confidence and enjoy teaching. So, JRS has trained me from the alphabet to becoming an English teacher.

 **Tabasum, Guzara**

 Farzana performs in a puppet show at the JRS school in the returnee township of Sohadat, Herat, Afghanistan. Farzana is very talented, and has anchored TV programs for children on Herat television.



📷 Syrian refugees arrive in Malta on 12 October after being rescued at sea by the local armed forces.

SECTION 4

RECONCILIATION

COLOMBIA

DRC

ITALY

MALTA

PHILIPPINES

PORTUGAL

SOUTH AFRICA

SYRIA

USA

The 'other' is no longer a brother or sister to be loved, but simply someone who disturbs my life and my comfort... The illusion of being powerful, of being as great as God, even of being God himself, leads to a whole series of errors, a chain of death, even to the spilling of a brother's blood... 'Where is your brother? His blood cries out to me,' says the Lord. This is a question directed to me, to you, to each of us.

**POPE FRANCIS, LAMPEDUSA,
8 JULY 2013**

4





In more than 30 years of accompanying refugees, one key lesson we have learned is that we need to strive constantly towards reconciliation. JRS works in radically different settings around the world. Most, if not all, share one thing in common. They are deeply marked by tensions: by inequality and injustice, by hostility between refugees and host communities, by ethnic and religious antagonism, by post-war resentment, even by outright conflict. JRS teams create corners of hope through healing, solidarity and working together. These efforts are linked to advocacy for truth, justice and respect for human rights. In June 2013, JRS and Boston College held a workshop in Cambodia, where staff shared with academics experiences from Cambodia, Colombia, Indonesia, Syria, the Philippines and DRC. A booklet, *Recreating right relationships – deepening the mission of reconciliation in the work of JRS*, captures the workshop's insights.

LIVELIHOODS

Livelihood activities can help promote healing and hope. After years of conflict in Mindanao in the **Philippines**, the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, one of the Muslim separatist groups, signed a Framework Agreement at the end of 2012 to move the peace process forward. In two provinces in Mindanao, JRS focused on sustainable livelihoods and the participation of returning IDPs, especially women, in the peace process. The project helped families – many headed by single mothers – to make a decent income, to resolve conflict and to rebuild their own peaceful society.

The people from my village who attended the education session of the Framework Agreement, where Alim Khair explained its content and the meaning of each article, could help explain it to other residents. Before we had so many questions and apprehensions. Different people had different interpretations and we really did not know which was true. We are so grateful it was explained to us because we are enlightened and we understand the agreement.

Noronisa Balwa, village leader, Lanao del Norte



HEALING

In Cucutá, **Colombia**, JRS and the parish committee for pastoral care in the Antonia Santos District held self-help group sessions for victims of the country's stubborn armed struggle. The committee is made up of women who have endured displacement, the disappearance of loved ones and the forced recruitment of their children. In 2013, they extended their mutual support to new members, who have also been hurt by the conflict. The idea was to create a space for listening and solidarity to mitigate the damaging emotional impact of violence suffered.

📷 (left) Way to go! Earning a living on a *tri-sikad* (passenger bike) provided by JRS.

CREATIVITY

Creative activities can really help to promote reconciliation. In eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo**, a puppet-show toured village schools in Masisi, a region pulled apart by deep tensions between the Hunde and Hutu tribes and by on-going war. Puppets proved to be an easily available and popular means of spreading positive messages and of addressing war wounds in an indirect and nonthreatening way. Villagers, no matter from which tribe, welcomed the multi-ethnic team. In some Hunde villages, the team were the first Hutus to visit in 20 years.

📷 Spreading the message: the JRS puppet show on tour in Masisi, eastern DRC.







Solidarity is “our word”, Pope Francis told refugees, JRS workers and volunteers when he met them at Centro Astalli and the nearby Gesù church in Rome on 10 September. In a spirit of inclusive solidarity that strives to break down the walls that separate people from one another, JRS brings together refugees and members of host communities to dispel mutual suspicion, myths and fears.

In **South Africa**, no stranger to xenophobic violence, poorer people may look upon assistance given to refugees as unfairly benefiting the “foreigner”. In 2013, JRS started the Arrupe Women’s Business Centre to help a group of 25 South African and refugee women under one roof. Participants were trained in craft, beadwork and dressmaking and encouraged to be creative in their own ethnic tradition. They also learnt English, the commercial language for most South Africans, and basic business skills. Their products were sold cooperatively at weekend markets. The centre sought to help women who were more vulnerable and who needed that bit of extra support to make their business a success.

In **Portugal**, JRS opened the eyes of more than 900 young people to the multicultural reality they live in, through an original project called *Sou como tou* (I’m like you). In 30 schools across Lisbon, students were prompted to realise just how much richness there is in diversity and that while we may be different from one another, no one is less equal. The project included a summer camp, an exhibition and a booklet featuring photos taken by the students.

This project made me realize that difference doesn’t mean distance. It has made me want to come closer.

🗨️ **Margarida, a student from Camões Secondary School, Lisbon**

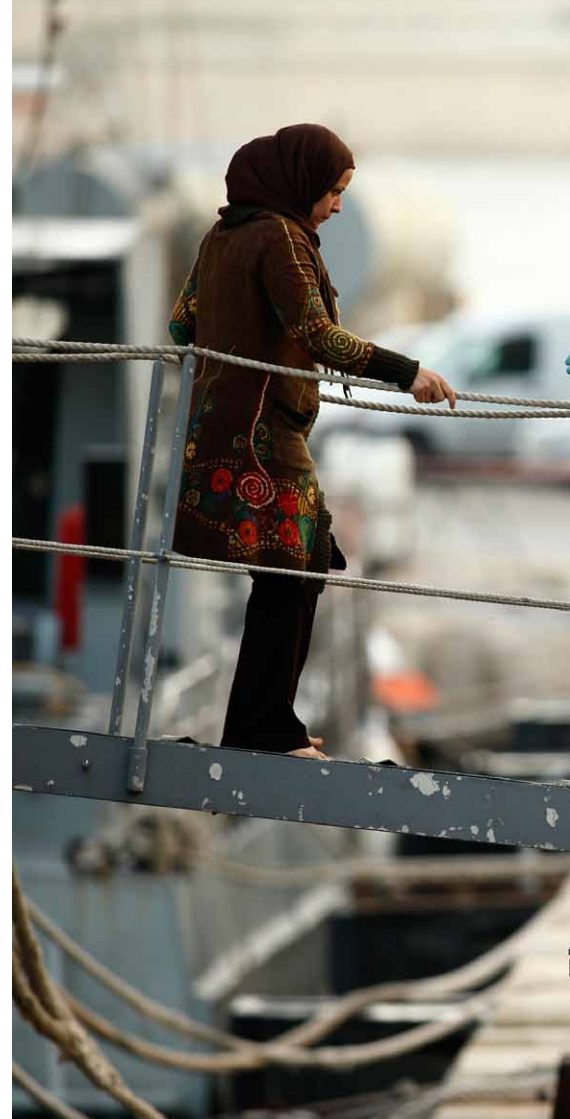
📷 Pope Francis meets refugees queuing outside Centro Astalli, a JRS centre in Rome, on 10 September.

A commitment to inclusive solidarity calls us to stand together, especially with the poor and marginalised. In the **USA**, the Kino Border Initiative (KBI) published a report, *Documented Failures: the Consequences of Immigration Policy on the U.S. Border*, in collaboration with JRS and the US Jesuit Conference. The report denounced a program that separated families during the deportation process. JRS worked closely with Congressional staff to develop the *Protect Family Values at the Border Act*, which integrates recommendations for safe repatriations developed by JRS and KBI, including strict limits on night-time deportations.

On 9 July, JRS **Malta** and other local NGOs filed an urgent application to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), to prevent the Maltese government from going ahead with plans to fly a group of Somali asylum seekers back to Libya. The asylum seekers had just arrived in Malta after crossing the Mediterranean Sea by boat. Echoing well-documented evidence, the NGOs said the Somalis risked torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment if returned to Libya and, what's more, would be unable to apply for protection. The ECHR issued an interim ruling against their return.

In **Italy**, where nearly 43,000 people arrived by boat in 2013, JRS drew attention to the terrifying risks facing asylum seekers who try to reach Europe by crossing the Mediterranean. Activities included a campaign, *Il mare unisce, la terra non divide* (The sea unites, the land does not divide), and an ecumenical service, *Morire di speranza* (Dying of hope). Pope Francis highlighted the tragedy of "Immigrants dying at sea, in boats which were vehicles of hope and became vehicles of death", when he visited the Italian island of Lampedusa on 8 July. Barely three months later, at least 630 people died when the boats they were travelling in capsized near Lampedusa. Among the victims were Eritreans, Somalis, Syrians and Palestinians. JRS joined the calls of Pope Francis and others urging the European Union to find safe and legal ways for refugees to reach Europe. Later JRS **Europe** criticised the EU Commission-led Taskforce Mediterranean set up to make proposals to lawmakers. JRS said the taskforce results contained little that would protect forced migrants at Europe's borders.

📷 A Syrian refugee arrives in Malta on 12 October after being rescued by the local armed forces. Around 260 of her fellow travellers died when their boat capsized.





'LIVE' RECONCILIATION

In **Syria**, JRS staff and volunteers from diverse faith and ethnic backgrounds gave a concrete example of reconciliation-in-action, working together to reach victims of the civil war. Their tireless service focused on need regardless of creed. To help heal the immense divide caused by three years of violence, JRS ran psychosocial programs in Damascus, Homs and Aleppo. Some 9,800 women and children expressed themselves, their experiences and emotions through interactive theatre, music, art, sports, dance and handicrafts. JRS has discovered that children are inherently more open and can overcome barriers more readily. Gaining children's trust has proved to be key to winning their parents' acceptance.

It's not so easy to talk about reconciliation while the bombs are falling all around us. So we have to find a way to live out reconciliation in our daily actions rather than to talk about it.

 **Heba, Damascus**

 JRS volunteers and children in the garden of the Franciscan convent in Aleppo.



	Education	Livelihoods	Psychosocial/ pastoral	Emergency	Advocacy/ protection	Healthcare	TOTAL
EASTERN AFRICA							
Sudan	7,813	992			607		9,412
Ethiopia	1,305	7,406	5,046	1,624	321	1,112	16,814
Kenya	888	336	14,648	2,783	5,032	1,883	25,570
South Sudan	2,509				30		2,539
Uganda	246	228		3,394	490	60	4,418
GRANDS LACS							
Congo (DRC)	11,372		582	2,500			14,454
Burundi	1,050	300	300	27			1,677
SOUTHERN AFRICA							
Angola	426	58	3,200		3,533	20	7,237
Malawi	10,864	40	1,017				1,1921
South Africa	1,973	263	95	1,634		679	4,644
Zimbabwe	3,564		214	400	54		4,232
WEST AFRICA							
CAR	12,412	1,800	7,484		17,000		38,696
Chad	120,239		205		560		121,004
ASIA PACIFIC							
Australia			4,998	92			5,090
Cambodia	3,239	88	3,540	76	6,477	37	13,457

	Education	Livelihoods	Psychosocial/ pastoral	Emergency	Advocacy/ protection	Healthcare	TOTAL
Indonesia	319	161	782		623	66	1,951
Philippines		583		237	1,024		1,844
Thailand	7,638	184	8,240	98,101	2,223	30,199	146,585
SOUTH ASIA							
Afghanistan	5,148					1,000	6,148
India	9,613	559	2,929	356	301	293	14,051
Nepal	14,716	766	1,113	566	2,100	427	19,688
Sri Lanka	7,541		1,000	100	400		9,041
MIDDLE EAST							
Jordan	2,453		1,055	1,055		13,500	18,063
Lebanon	1,050		1,000	4,635	200		6,885
Syria	6,970	3,875	67,384	123,500	7,022	2,800	211,551
Turkey	520	500	7,140	80,700	80	70	89,010
LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN							
Colombia	76	438	11,967	9,040	19,712	837	42,070
Ecuador	740	108	1,195	142	17,999		20,184
Panama	392	308	322	1,452	1,269	318	4,061
Venezuela	86	182	2,230	767	8,261	14	11,540

	Education	Livelihoods	Psychosocial/ pastoral	Emergency	Advocacy/ protection	Healthcare	TOTAL
NORTH AMERICA							
USA			19,634		500		20,134
EUROPE							
Belgium			625				625
France		8	150				158
Germany			1,000		908		1,908
Ireland	1,080		1,180		50		2,310
Italy	728	490	713	17,413	236	2,446	22,026
Malta		400	429	500	2,737		4,066
Morocco	270		270	270	21	256	1,087
Portugal		1,352	639	802	203	493	3,489
Romania	232	33	296	51	726	162	1,500
Slovenia	200		360		350		910
Southeast Europe	345		1,220	1,895		929	4,389
Sweden			140		10		150
Ukraine	8	2	4		20	4	38
UK		75	2,000	300			2,375
GRAND TOTAL	238,025	21,535	176,346	354,412	101,079	57,605	949,002

6% HEALTHCARE
57,605

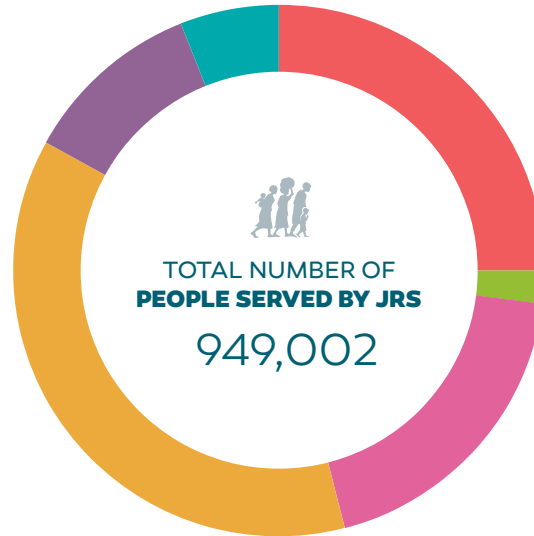
EDUCATION 238,025 25%

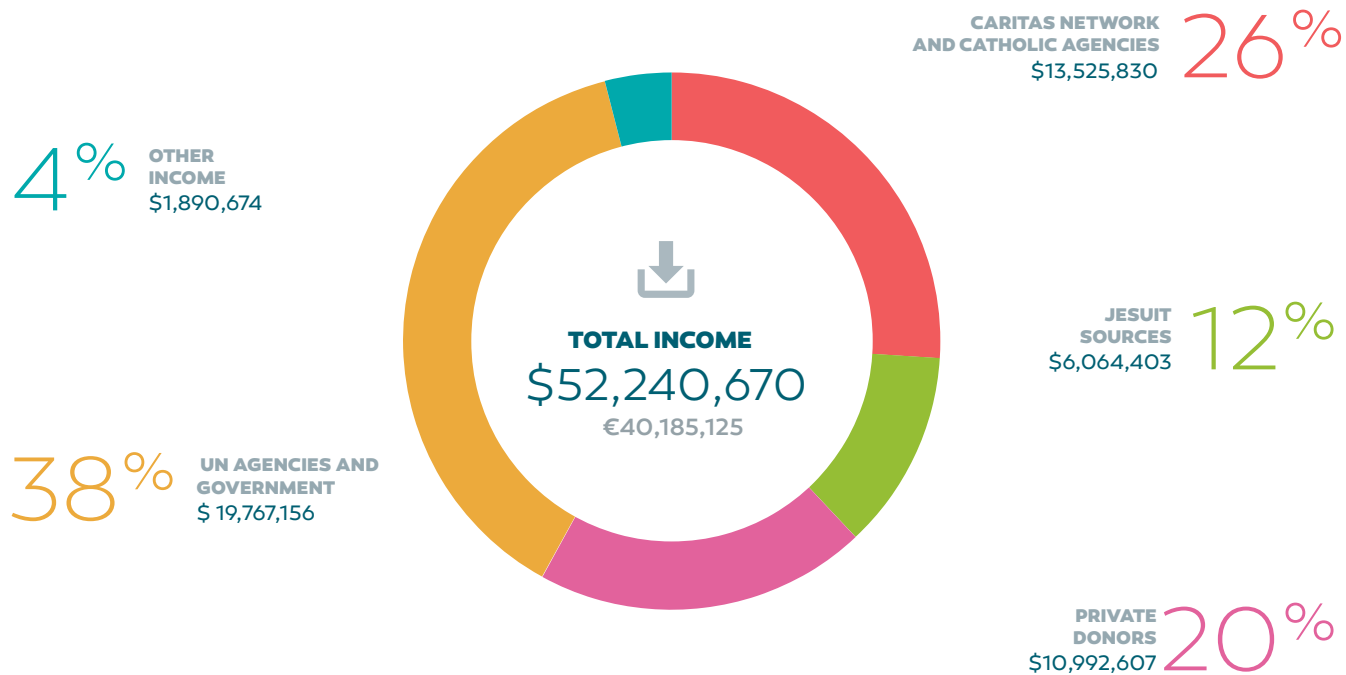
11% ADVOCACY/
PROTECTION
101,079

LIVELIHOODS 21,535 2%

37% EMERGENCY
354,412

PSYCHOSOCIAL/
PASTORAL 176,346 19%





17% EUROPE
\$8,617,362

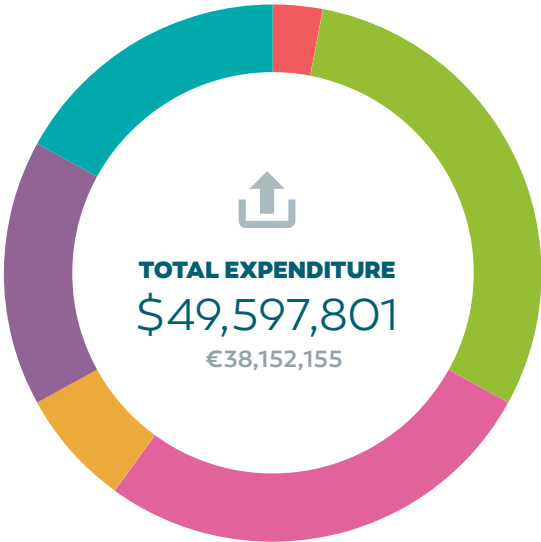
INTERNATIONAL OFFICE 3%
\$1,543,022

16% AMERICAS
\$7,944,163

AFRICA 30%
\$14,467,139

7% ASIA
\$ 3,650,634

MIDDLE EAST 27%
\$13,375,481



IN 2013, JRS SPENT
AN AVERAGE OF **\$52**
PER REFUGEE



\$47 DIRECT
COSTS



\$5 ADMINISTRATION
COSTS

INCLUDING:

1,810
CORE STAFF

1,700
LAY PEOPLE

110

JESUITS, MEMBERS OF
OTHER CONGREGATIONS,
DIOCESAN PRIESTS

OVER AND ABOVE, **4,400** REFUGEE
TEACHERS



TO ALL OUR DONORS
AND FRIENDS WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT
WITHOUT YOU **Thank you**

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In this globalised world,
we have fallen into globalised indifference.
We have become used to the suffering
of others: it doesn't affect me.

POPE FRANCIS, LAMPEDUSA, 8 JULY 2013