

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



FINDING HOPE
IN THE REALITY
AND **RESPONDING**
WITH **LOVE**

This is your Annual Report: staff, volunteers, partners and benefactors. Thank you for your commitment to our shared mission. Your solidarity, welcome, and constant generosity throughout 2023 allowed us to respond to some of the toughest situations of forced displacement around the world.

Let us continue, every day, to build a future where responding with love is the only answer in the face of indifference. Only together can we work to build a world rooted in unity.



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A participant to JRS vocational training courses in Bambari, Central African Republic.



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INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR'S LETTER

HOPE EXPRESSED AND LIVED

Dear Friends,

As we unveil our 2023 Global Annual Report – my first as JRS's International Director – **I reflect on what it means to respond with love to the reality of forced displacement.**

Throughout the past year we have witnessed increased geopolitical challenges, war and economic instability. I have seen firsthand the strain on peace and our sense of community as a global human family in places like Indonesia, Thailand, Poland, Ukraine, Australia.

Our forcibly displaced brothers and sisters are among those who bear the highest burden. Earthquakes in Syria and Afghanistan, increased violence in Congo, Myanmar, and Ukraine, the outbreak of conflict in Sudan and the rising aggression in the Middle East have all contributed to the ongoing humanitarian emergencies that threaten the lives and well-being of countless individuals. Increasingly stringent migration policies in Latin America, Europe, East Asia, and the United States force us to evaluate the future of our world. **Amidst these challenges and thanks to your support, JRS was able to remain alongside those who teach us how to respond with love.** Our interventions not only address immediate needs but also honor the resilience of displaced individuals, offering spaces of healing and belonging, and providing opportunities for them to rebuild their lives on their own terms.

Every day, **we make the decision to respond, guided by actions that carry intention.** As JRS reflects on the accomplishments and challenges of the past year, I ask you to join us to continue responding to this reality and not look away.

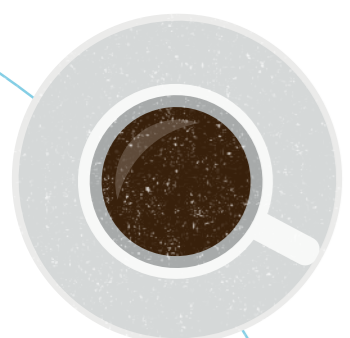


JRS International Director, Br Michael Schöpf SJ, meets with Rohingya refugees in Aceh, Indonesia

With your steadfast generosity, **we can craft a future where indifference does not rule reality, but where the response is guided by the understanding of one another's shared humanity as a call to action.**

Thank you for continuing to journey with us as ambassadors of peace in our mission,

*Br Michael Schöpf SJ
JRS International Director*



ACCOMPANYING FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD



JRS REGIONAL OFFICES AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS

—
JRS ASIA PACIFIC
 Louie Bacomo
 Bangkok, Thailand
 —

—
JRS EASTERN AFRICA
 André Atsu Agbogon
 Nairobi, Kenya
 —

—
JRS EUROPE
 Alberto Ares SJ
 Brussels, Belgium
 —

—
JRS LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
 Oscar Javier Calderón Barragán
 Bogotá, Colombia
 —

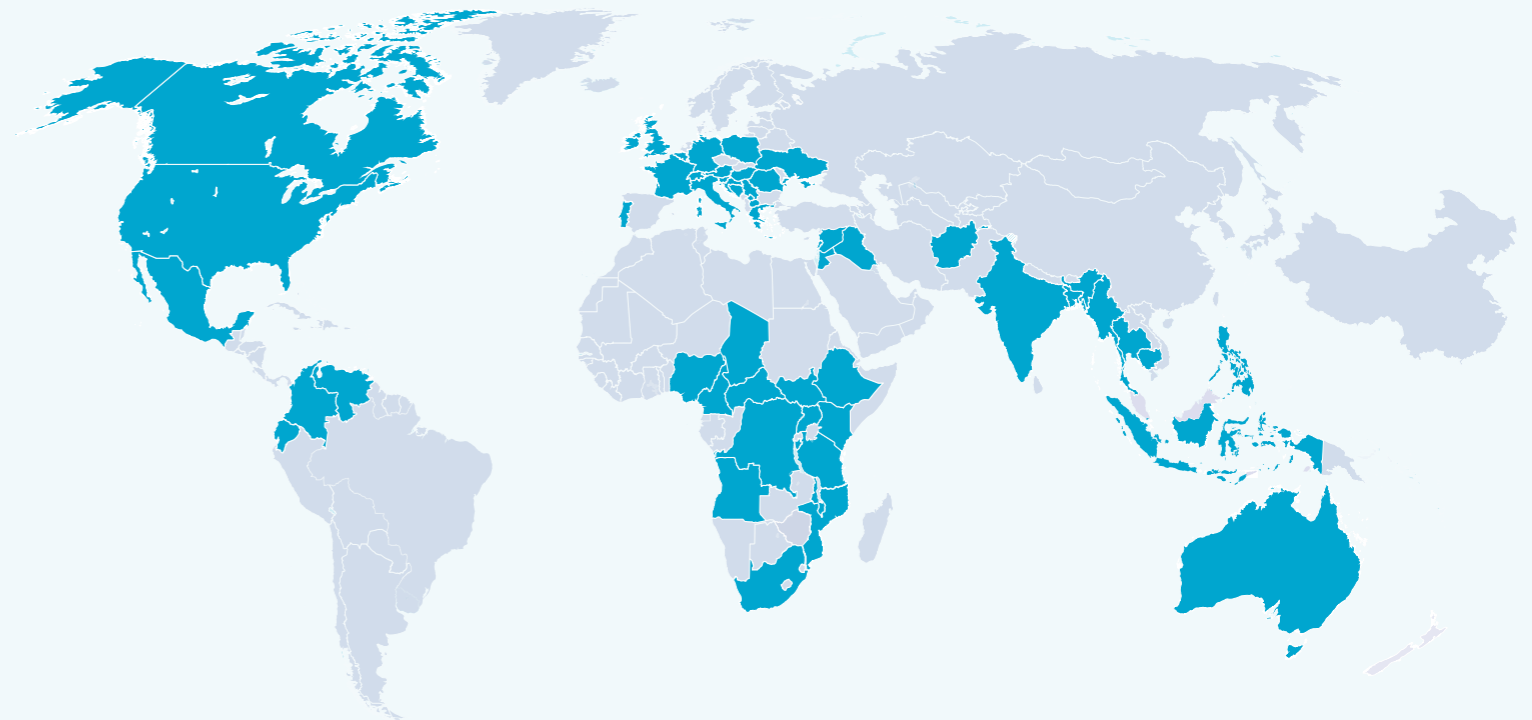
—
JRS SOUTH ASIA
 Antonysamy Stephenraj SJ
 New Delhi, India
 —

—
JRS MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
 Daniel Corrou SJ
 Beirut, Lebanon
 —

—
JRS NORTH AMERICA
 Joan Rosenhauer
 Washington DC, USA
 —

—
JRS SOUTHERN AFRICA
 Gibson Munyoro SJ
 Johannesburg, South Africa
 —

—
JRS WEST AFRICA AND GREAT LAKES
 Patrick Etamesor SJ
 Yaoundé, Cameroon
 —



JRS COUNTRY OFFICES

- ▶ Afghanistan
- ▶ Angola
- ▶ Australia
- ▶ Austria
- ▶ Bangladesh
- ▶ Belgium
- ▶ Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ▶ Burundi
- ▶ Cambodia
- ▶ Cameroon
- ▶ Canada
- ▶ Central African Republic
- ▶ Chad
- ▶ Colombia
- ▶ Croatia
- ▶ Democratic Republic of Congo
- ▶ Ecuador
- ▶ Ethiopia
- ▶ France
- ▶ Germany
- ▶ Greece
- ▶ Hungary
- ▶ India
- ▶ Indonesia
- ▶ Iraq
- ▶ Ireland
- ▶ Italy
- ▶ Jordan
- ▶ Kenya
- ▶ Kosovo
- ▶ Lebanon
- ▶ Luxembourg
- ▶ Malawi
- ▶ Malta
- ▶ Mexico
- ▶ Mozambique
- ▶ Myanmar
- ▶ Nigeria
- ▶ North Macedonia
- ▶ Philippines
- ▶ Poland
- ▶ Portugal
- ▶ Romania
- ▶ Serbia
- ▶ Singapore
- ▶ Slovenia
- ▶ South Africa
- ▶ South Sudan
- ▶ Switzerland
- ▶ Syria
- ▶ Tanzania
- ▶ Thailand
- ▶ Uganda
- ▶ Ukraine
- ▶ United Kingdom
- ▶ United States of America
- ▶ Venezuela

YOUR IMPACT

TOGETHER WE ARE BUILDING A MORE INCLUSIVE AND COMPASSIONATE WORLD

As we look back at the challenges we faced in 2023, we are profoundly grateful for your unwavering support.

Last year, your contribution fueled our mission and restored hope to millions worldwide.

Thanks to your invaluable generosity, we have been able to intervene in some of the most difficult crises and conflict scenarios, providing life-changing programmes to those who needed them most.

Last year, we reached the lives of over 1.2 million refugees and forcibly displaced people in 57 countries, providing mental health and psychosocial support, education and livelihoods, and reconciliation, enabling communities to rebuild their lives and envision a brighter future. From volunteers to staff members, from interns to those we serve and accompany, our global community is determined to build a more inclusive and compassionate world.



A young JRS student in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya.

PEOPLE SERVED BY PROGRAMME

*numbers are in thousands



EDUCATION & LIVELIHOODS

We improve access to education and livelihood opportunities for forcibly displaced people. Restoring their dignity, confidence, and hope, while promoting self-sufficiency and social cohesion.

FORGING A BETTER FUTURE IN THAILAND

“If you equip yourself with knowledge, you will eventually add value to yourself and become independent,” a saying Noor repeated to herself to stay focused on her studies.

Originally from Pakistan, at 10 years old she was forced to drop out of school and flee her home country because of persecution for her religious beliefs. She lives now with her family in Thailand, where displaced people face almost impossible restrictions and limitations to start a new life.

“Even if I finished my elementary education in Pakistan, when I first enrolled in the Thai schooling system, they required me to re-do several grades.” This was at first very tough because Noor was much older than her classmates. However, she pushed herself to pursue every possible opportunity, including higher education.

Many members of her community disagreed with her mother’s decision to allow her children to study in the local Thai school system. They believed that there was no hope for refugees in Thailand and that they would eventually be resettled in another country. Notwithstanding all obstacles, her mother insisted her children stay in school.

Thanks to your support of our work, we were able to address these challenges by assisting urban refugees and asylum seekers with financial support and educational training.

Through the JRS Urban Refugee Project, Noor and her family did not have to choose between paying rent or paying school fees. Together, we ensured that they were able to do both.

Noor’s hard work and her family’s sacrifice paid off having obtained a scholarship to study business in Bangkok. This opportunity would not have been possible without your steadfast accompaniment.

*Name has been changed to protect privacy.



A SAFE HAVEN FOR HEALING AND LEARNING IN LEBANON

“When it was time to go to bed, we clung to one another and feared that we wouldn’t wake up the next morning. The night was filled with sounds of military aircrafts, bombs, and rockets,” recalls Zahra*, a 14-year-old Syrian refugee girl. The constant fear of uncertain tomorrows plagued her thoughts.

Thanks to your unwavering support, she overcame adversity and discovered her true potential at the JRS Telyani School in Bar Elias, Lebanon, which soon became her sanctuary.

There, Zahra attended kindergarten and continued through grade 6. The school provided her with a safe environment where she learned Arabic, English, mathematics, and science, as well as engaged in creative activities. Zahra discovered her innate talent for art, using it as a means of escape and self-expression. “I began drawing to escape the world I was born into. I started painting to calm my soul. I’ve never stopped painting and continue to draw the people I care about daily,” she shares.

Whenever Zahra has faced disappointment or felt overwhelmed, the encouragement she received from her tutors and friends helped her persevere. “I realised that hope does not end at this school; JRS instilled in me the belief that my dreams are greater than my anxieties,” she affirms.

Zahra’s story serves as a reminder of the transformative power that education holds, the importance of safe learning environments, and the significance of fostering hope and confidence in every child.

Thank you for providing her and others like her with the hope for the future through your immense support of our education programmes.

*Name has been changed to protect privacy.





NURTURING CHILDREN'S RESILIENCE AMIDST CONFLICT IN NIGERIA

Amid the forgotten emergencies in Borno State, Nigeria, where armed conflicts tragically prevent education, JRS stands with internally displaced people, returnees, and host communities, providing safe learning environments.

In 2023, with the generous support of the European Union and jesuitenweltweit Germany, JRS launched a two-year project aimed at providing access to safe and quality education for over 23,000 vulnerable conflict-affected children in the remote areas of Dikwa and Monguno.

In the first three months of the project, over 3,800 children were served. Beyond the numbers, there remains the commitment to nurturing resilience, building the future, and fostering hope for a brighter tomorrow for every child and their families.



School and hygiene kits were distributed to young students in Borno State.



Digital skills enable women to carve out their independence in Kenya.



LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN KENYA

"The course helps both refugees and the local community to develop new skills and take on digital freelancing jobs both in-person and online," says Cheruto. She was one of the 35 women in her cohort participating in the JRS Pathfinder Digital Inclusion Programme (DIP), carried out in partnership with Konexio in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya.

Throughout the programme, participants learn digital skills and are guided to work on online job platforms. In addition, two people are trained as on-the-ground trainers to assist in the course while Konexio networks with tech companies to find opportunities for participants.

By championing the DIP programme in 2023, you helped Cheruto and many other refugee women in the camp to make a living out of their passion for technology. "Now, I am no longer dependent on others, but on myself, and I am also able to support others," says Cheruto.



**"Now, I am no longer dependent on others, but on myself, and I am also able to support others".
CHERUTO**



PEDALLING TOWARDS MORE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN UGANDA

Your generosity increased access to secondary school for many learners in Adjumani, Uganda, particularly girls who live far from the school and would otherwise find it difficult to attend regularly.

Girls are disproportionately responsible for household chores. In addition to their long journeys to and from school, their domestic responsibilities make it difficult for them to keep up with their studies.

In 2023, as part of a gender-responsive approach to education, JRS distributed bicycles to ensure that dozens of girls could reach school in time to attend classes and return home safely. "With each pedal stroke, the bikes paved the way for a brighter and more inclusive future for these young learners," commented Agnes Asimwe, Project Director for JRS Adjumani. Together we made sure that youth in Adjumani could access life-changing secondary school.



"With each pedal stroke, the bikes paved the way for a brighter and more inclusive future for these young learners".
AGNES ASIMWE



Reducing travel burdens contributes significantly to the wellbeing and access to education of refugee girls.



BUILDING CONFIDENCE THROUGH HOPE IN AFGHANISTAN

School was not on the table for 11-year-old Fawad*. He stays in one of the Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps in Kabul with his family, where they live by collecting and selling scraps. The volatile context in Afghanistan has severely impacted the education of children like him. The rising cost of living, lack of documentation, and discrimination of the children from IDP camps in formal schools are just some of the challenges forcibly displaced families face every day.

Yet, a ray of hope shone through for Fawad. By partnering in our mission, you provided him with the opportunity to attend an accelerated learning programme at the JRS education centre, which was offered with the aim of having children like him enroll in formal schools in the future. "My teachers were very kind. They checked my homework, helped us with extracurricular activities, and always appreciated our work. My teachers' appreciation gave me confidence and motivated me to study more and do all the assignments on time," he says.

Children can forge a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities if they can access education. Thank you for providing the opportunity for displaced children like Fawad to study.

*Name has been changed to protect privacy.

Children attend classes in a camp for IDPs in Kabul.



"My teachers' appreciation gave me confidence and motivated me to study more and do all the assignments on time".
FAWAD

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Our Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities are cross-cutting and multi-sectoral, recognising that well-being and good mental health are integral parts of all programming.



Azake can finally attend school and is welcomed in his community.



ASSISTING THE MOST VULNERABLE IN SOUTH SUDAN

“Azake used to spend all day at home lying down,” says his father. “Thanks to ongoing accompaniment and the wheelchair we received, he can now attend school.” Originally from Sudan, Azake’s family arrived in Maban, South Sudan in 2011, just before he was born. Their suspicions about Azake’s condition arose early, partly due to his premature birth during the stressful journey. As he grew, it became evident that Azake could not walk like his siblings; eventually, they understood he never would.

In some communities, having a child with special needs can be viewed as a divine punishment. Concealing these children at home, leaving them unattended without food or water while the mother collects firewood, or denying them access to education is not an uncommon practice.

You helped us address these challenges and facilitate the full inclusion of children like Azake into society with the JRS comprehensive Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programme, significantly impacting the wellbeing of the child, the caregiver, and the family.

Together, we provided rehabilitation and physiotherapy sessions for children with mobility and intellectual impairments, while also offering psychoeducational sessions, counseling, and awareness-raising activities to their caregivers, families, and communities.

JRS’s children rehabilitation centre in Maban refugee camp became a safe space where caregivers were not only trained on how to support their children by giving them massages and how to use mobility devices, but also learned how to create inclusive environments at home to enable their children to participate in daily life.

Now, Azake’s family has the same aspirations for him as they do for his siblings: education, completion of studies, and securing a job for a better future. Together, we made this transformation possible.



A JOURNEY TOWARDS WELLBEING IN POLAND

Once the war in Ukraine erupted, Kateryna and her daughter made the tough decision to leave their home and move to Poland. Before finding JRS, the burden of concern for her children and grandchildren, who stayed behind, weighed on Kateryna greatly. Yet she couldn’t bring herself to burden others with her fears. Deeply concerned for her mother’s wellbeing, Kateryna’s daughter sought help.

With your support and the help of a JRS psychiatrist, she managed to unlock the vault of bottled-up emotions. Kateryna has found her voice again, and the tears that once flowed uncontrollably have found a release in words. She recalls social events organized by JRS to bring Ukrainians together with great gratitude, and dreams of the day when she will be reunited with her family.

Thank you for holding her hand on her healing journey. Your contribution to “The One Proposal”, the coordinated Jesuit response to the Ukraine crisis, has helped more than 100.000 Ukrainian refugees, like Kateryna and her daughter.



Kateryna (on the right) together with Natalia, JRS Poland Nowy Sacz Coordinator.



FOCUSING ON MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH CONNECTION IN INDIA

In Mizoram and Manipur, in the northeast of India, our MHPSS approach to serve people fleeing from violence in Myanmar was integrated with other programming, including education and reconciliation.

Your trust allowed us to carry out activities such as psychoeducation, recreational and cultural activities for children and adults as well as positive parenting. We were also able to provide Psychological First Aid training for teachers so they could support students who experience difficult emotions or high levels of stress. "The bond that we created within our sessions is one of the things that makes me happy," says the JRS MHPSS coordinator.

In situations of much distress, your accompaniment provided a space of relief for those who needed it most. Thank you.

Recreational activities help displaced children cope with distress.



ACCOMPANYING ONE ANOTHER

We ran 9 in-person trainings on Psychological First Aid (PFA) to help our staff from different regions, backgrounds, and roles navigate the challenging situations that arise in this field of work. They developed a skillset to help people who are in distress with humane and practical support.

After the trainings, participants incorporated the PFA principles into their daily lives, keeping safety and personal care as a core principle towards carrying out the mission without harming others or themselves. Across many different JRS offices, MHPSS officers have requested PFA training which guaranteed the health of the team as well as the overall wellbeing of the work environment.

Thank you for ensuring that our services are delivered in a safe and dignified way and for helping us strengthen existing support systems to respond to the needs of our staff, allowing them to better serve, accompany, and advocate.

The JRS team in Romania during a simulation exercise in Psychological First Aid.



RECONCILIATION

Our reconciliation work creates right relationships among the refugees we serve, among refugees and host communities, and among our teams around the world. This integrated JRS programming promotes peace and fosters more united societies.

WEAVING THE SOCIAL FABRIC IN COLOMBIA

“I have been able to weave together our community with the diverse peoples,” says Pastora, a Community Leader in the Panorama neighbourhood in Soacha, a town on the outskirts of Bogotá, Colombia. In the JRS training centres, she works with other women leaders to create cohesion among community members from diverse backgrounds. With your generosity, JRS supported her in forming a community development plan that enabled them to identify their needs, share their challenges, and understand each other.

Panorama has long been a place of refuge for thousands of people like Pastora, as well as migrants and Afro populations, who have been forcibly displaced due to violence from the ongoing internal conflict.

When Pastora arrived, there were no services available in the area: no electricity, no running water, and no sewage system. She also witnessed gender-based violence and a lack of opportunities for children’s development. It was community leaders like her who worked hard to introduce essential services to enhance the quality of life in Panorama. Today, the neighbourhood is also home to many Venezuelan migrants who have integrated successfully in the centres’ activities and projects, and Pastora can count on the support of Venezuelan women leaders.

For Pastora, the journey has just begun. “I dream of my Panorama neighbourhood becoming a united community, and that all intolerance comes to an end, making it a territory of peace”, she says.

Thank you for being part of Pastora’s commitment to sow threads of unity in her community by bringing together people from different backgrounds.



Pastora is a community leader working for social cohesion in the Panorama neighbourhood.

DEVELOPING DIALOGUE FOR SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

Your generosity allowed us to dive deeper into dialogue about the many ways in which reconciliation could be “made real” in JRS’s mission.

Inspired by the call of the Abrahamic faiths to “welcome the stranger”, JRS teams in India, the UK, Malta, and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) reflected on reconciliation expressed through hospitality. This involves reaching out to members of local communities, listening to their stories, appreciating their efforts to welcome refugees, and seeking to understand the reasons why they don’t.

In LAC, JRS and the Jesuit Migrant Service (SJM) collaborated to host a workshop for 20 participants from eight countries entitled “Seeds of Reconciliation and Hospitality for Integral Protection”. The participants sought to develop strategies to accompany refugees who often face prejudice and violence. Building the capacity of our teams to mitigate in these precarious environments paves the way for hospitality. Thank you for strengthening these foundations through your trust in our shared mission.



Participants at the JRS and SJM workshop on Reconciliation and Hospitality.



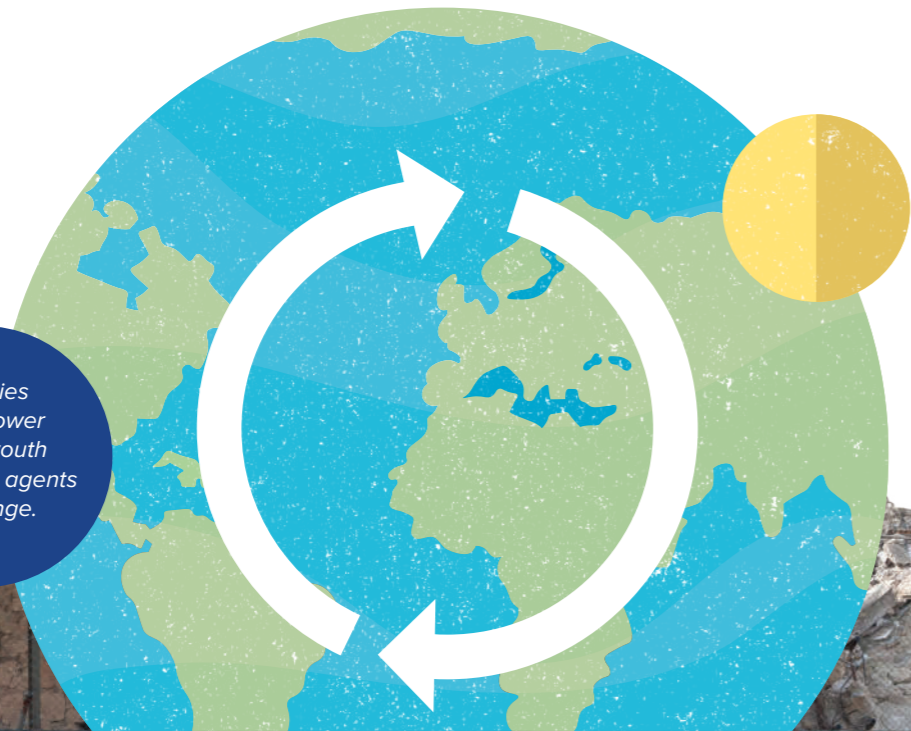
BUILDING BRIDGES IN THE WAKE OF DIVISION AND DESTRUCTION IN SYRIA

In 2023, we renewed our social cohesion and community-building project in Aleppo, Damascus, and Homs with the motto: “co-creating safe spaces for sustainable transformation”. The energy and effort by JRS teams to foster connections and cooperation among people from diverse identity groups who come to our centres for activities like parent counselling, literacy, youth leadership, conflict transformation, and social awareness is key to rebuilding hope and trust.

One team member said, “After the earthquake, some of us trusted and shared emotions and tears with one another, and it helped a lot. Then we did the same with all the team and figured out how we could share this experience with the community”.

Thank you for championing this approach of viewing people as resources, not mere recipients of aid.

Activities to empower Syrian youth to become agents of change.



ADVOCACY

Our advocacy seeks to ensure that the rights of displaced people and refugees are respected and fulfilled, to provide the necessary protection, and to promote the common good.



DISMANTLING HATE AND DIVISION IN INDONESIA

“The arrival of Rohingya refugees in Aceh Province, Indonesia, is not a new occurrence,” affirms Fr. Martinus Dam Febrianto SJ, director of JRS Indonesia. “Since 2009, landings have occurred annually with varying numbers; however, the boat arrivals at the end of 2023 have garnered special attention” he recounts.

Having faced forced displacement and discrimination for decades, the plight of the Rohingya has worsened further after the 2021 coup in Myanmar.

Your compassionate generosity has allowed us to be present in Aceh. Between December 2022 and November 2023, we participated in emergency response efforts, providing assistance to over 1,750 Rohingya, while also advocating for their right to protection.

“We have faced rejection due to widespread hate narratives and hoaxes in Indonesian social media about the Rohingya,” says Gading Putra, JRS Advocacy Officer in Indonesia. “Nevertheless, hope persists for those who seek it. The local Acehnese have a long tradition of hospitality, known as ‘Peumilia Jamee’ which means ‘welcoming and honouring guests regardless of their background’ he explained.

In collaboration with other organisations, we have worked to mitigate this climate of hate with webinars, joint statements, and other advocacy initiatives aimed at providing clear information about Rohingya refugees to the public and urging local and central governments to address this terrible humanitarian situation.

With you as a partner in our mission, we worked for a more inclusive world rooted in understanding and unity.



Feruzul, a Rohingya refugee, writes a statement of hope in Pidie camp, Aceh.



Feruzul Haque
Rohingya Refugee
enough is enough lets do something for
do something for Refugee!
We don't want to suffer anymore



ELEVATING TESTIMONIES THROUGH HUMAN FRATERNITY

In the presence of Pope Francis, the synodal participants and representatives of different Churches, two JRS colleagues from Colombia and Syria shared their journeys of displacement while advocating for the “gift of peace” in the pre-Synod ecumenical prayer “Together 2023” in Rome last September.

They reminded us of the difference working together makes. “Peacebuilding, in my experience, is not about constantly agreeing with others, but rather walking together, listening, recognising and learning what is often unknown to us. For this reason, ‘the other’ is a gift in this journey, capable of teaching us new ways of coexisting,” one said.

International advocacy for the forcibly displaced creates spaces of discussion and promotes policy change.

Thank you for enabling these opportunities through your abundant support.

JRS colleagues Daniela Alba, from Colombia, and Wael Holou, from Syria, share their testimonies at “Together 2023”.



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AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF REFUGEE ACTIVISTS

In December 2023, JRS participated in the Global Refugee Forum, aimed at developing a common and more effective response to refugee situations worldwide.

JRS signed pledges in education, mental health and psychosocial support, climate action, the Rohingya, and refugee participation.

Precisely to promote the meaningful participation of refugees, JRS’s delegation to Geneva was joined by Angie Torres, a young Afro-Colombian refugee and a human rights activist working with communities in Ecuador. “It is time for governments to take into account our voices and opinions, because we live and feel the reality of the migration process every day,” she stated.

Thank you for partnering with our refugee brothers and sisters in decision-making spaces where their voices are heard. Through your consistent support, you help promote necessary change.

Angie Torres, a young Afro-Colombian refugee, attended the Global Refugee Forum with JRS.



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

PRIORITISING THE DIGNITY AND SAFETY OF THOSE WE SERVE

Thank you for joining JRS in our commitment to continue integrating protection and safeguarding standards into our operations. Together we ensured that the people we serve felt safe, protected, and not exposed to further harm.

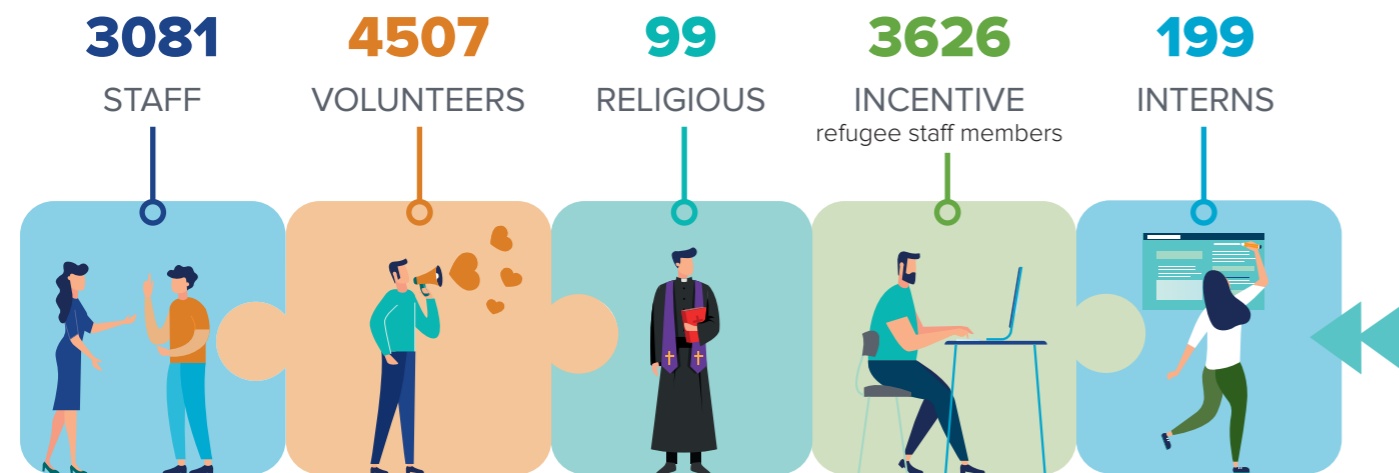
In 2023, we further entrenched our safeguarding measures through capacity-building trainings, including an orientation week for country directors focused on their leadership role in ensuring accountability and safeguarding.

Initiatives such as awareness raising, capacity building, and reporting systems were essential for the implementation of our safeguarding policies, which were carefully guided and monitored by our safeguarding officers around the world.

Safeguarding is a collective responsibility; thank you for being our trusted partners in this shared mission.



JRS STAFF



JOURNEYING WITH REFUGEES TOWARDS ACCOUNTABILITY

In 2023 we promoted a culture of accountability through online and onsite trainings to 280 JRS staff and volunteers working in 17 countries. Consultation and two-way communication between JRS and the people served are necessary to address the specific and real needs of the people served, observed Thiem Neihzo, the Assistant Project Director for JRS Northeast Project, JRS South Asia.

The trainings included sessions on the design of community feedback mechanisms on JRS's activities. Refugees from Congo, Afghanistan, and Myanmar were consulted in the assessments carried out in 2023.

We are truly grateful to your commitment to Accountability to Affected Populations, ensuring that the quality of our services is improved and enriched directly from the voices of the people we serve, strengthening their trust in our organisation.



ADVANCING THE MISSION THROUGH MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In 2023, our Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) made important progress in measuring the changes in the affected populations by assisting the JRS country offices piloted (Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria) in building their M&E capacity. We were able to make decisions based on accurate, trustworthy information, with data collected by interviewing 752 transformative agents, 617 beneficiaries, 100 school principals, 8 project directors, and 3 country directors.

We have also been developing an M&E framework to be used across the organization. The building of a common understanding of M&E, accountability towards affected populations and to you, our trusted partners, creates consistency in measuring changes. Thank you for holistically working with us as we evolve and improve.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



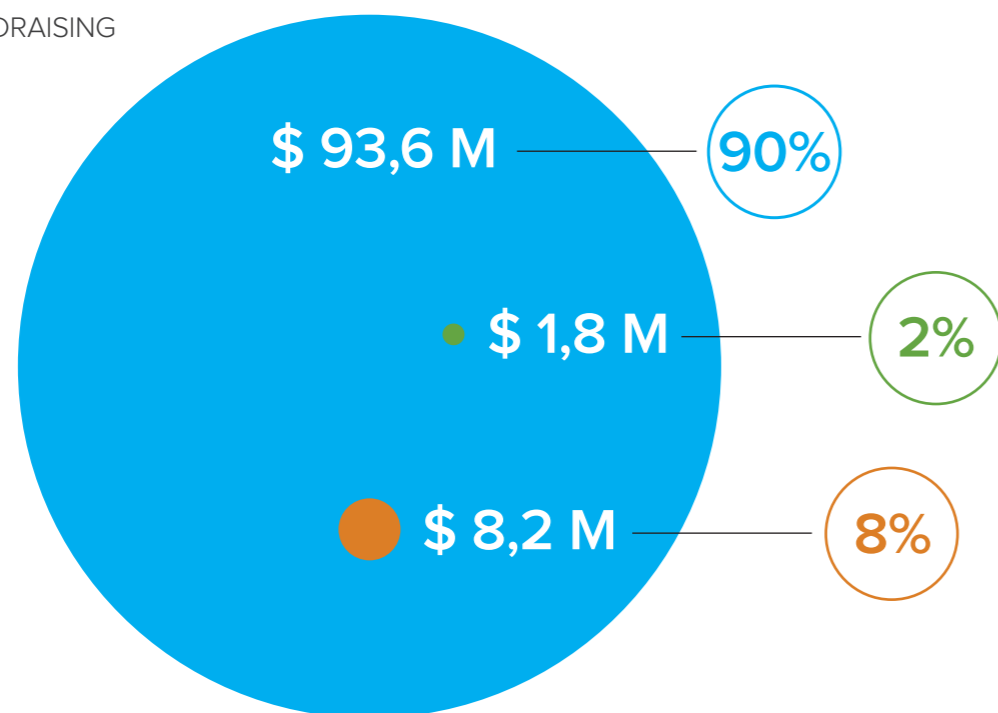
\$ 108.7 M
TOTAL INCOME



\$ 103.6 M
TOTAL EXPENDITURE

GLOBAL EXPENSES

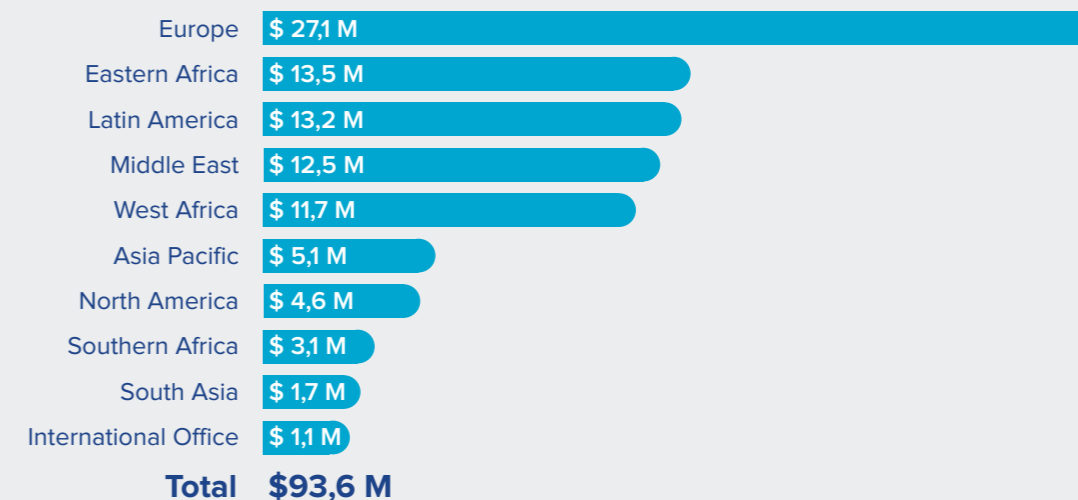
- PROGRAMMES
- MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
- FUNDRAISING



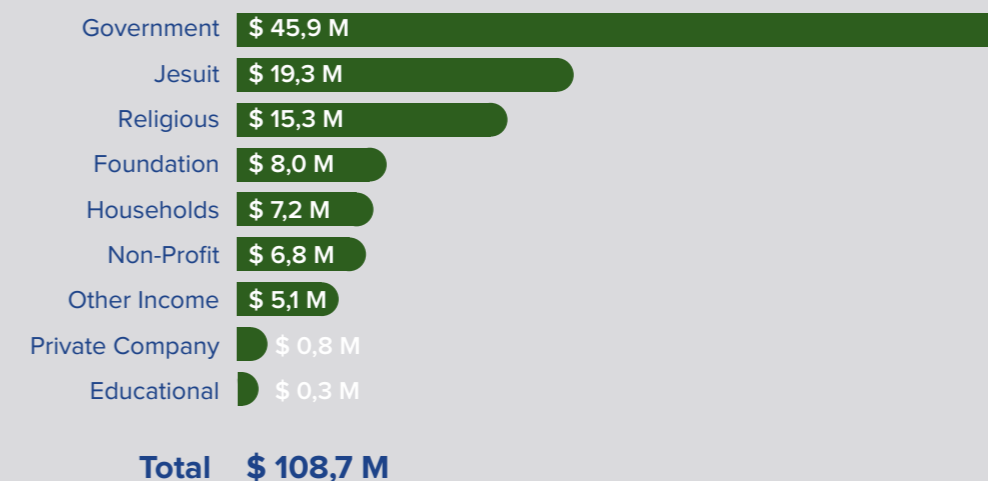
Expenses by programme



Expenses by JRS Regions



Source of Income



TAKE ACTION

RONALDO OR MESSI?



Growing up in a bilingual household my 3-year-old son, Romeo, struggled to learn to speak, so you can imagine my surprise when one of the first words he ever used was “Messi”.

Within months of this happening, I had the opportunity to visit a JRS school in Baalbek, close to the Lebanese border with Syria. When one of the first children I met, no more than 8 or 9 years of age, asked me, “Ronaldo or Messi?” I thought to myself, well, I must have misheard. These kids can’t be asking me who my favorite soccer player is? Or can they...?

That same day, I was overwhelmed with the idea that these young Syrian boys, who fled with their parents from an active war, bombs, with little to no access to education, their parents unable to provide a living – are just the same as my two young boys growing up in Italy.

I think it’s easy to cancel out the news, become numb to the overwhelming reality of the global climate we live in. I also believe it’s easy to forget about others, and without intending to, look at them as different. But with a simple question: Ronaldo or Messi, I am reminded that, deep down, we are all very much alike. Whether it be a young refugee in Syria, South Sudan, Myanmar, Mexico, or Italy. We all want to belong, find happiness, have a home, and feel safe and acknowledged within our societies.

I’m convinced a future where this is the reality is possible. Just as it was possible for Romeo to speak and for this young boy to access education in one of JRS’ schools. But it is only possible through you and with you.

Will you join forces with us in our mission to continue laying the foundations for a future where the only worry on a child’s mind is what soccer star to cheer for?

I hope you are up for the challenge and thank you for journeying with the forcibly displaced. Please continue to advocate, accompany, and serve. Together, we can build a future where responding with love is the only answer in the face of indifference and Messi is the only answer to that question!

With all my gratitude,

Madelaine R Kuns

Madelaine Kuns
International Director of Communications and Fundraising



*Madelaine Kuns,
JRS International Director
of Communications
and Fundraising,
with young students
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