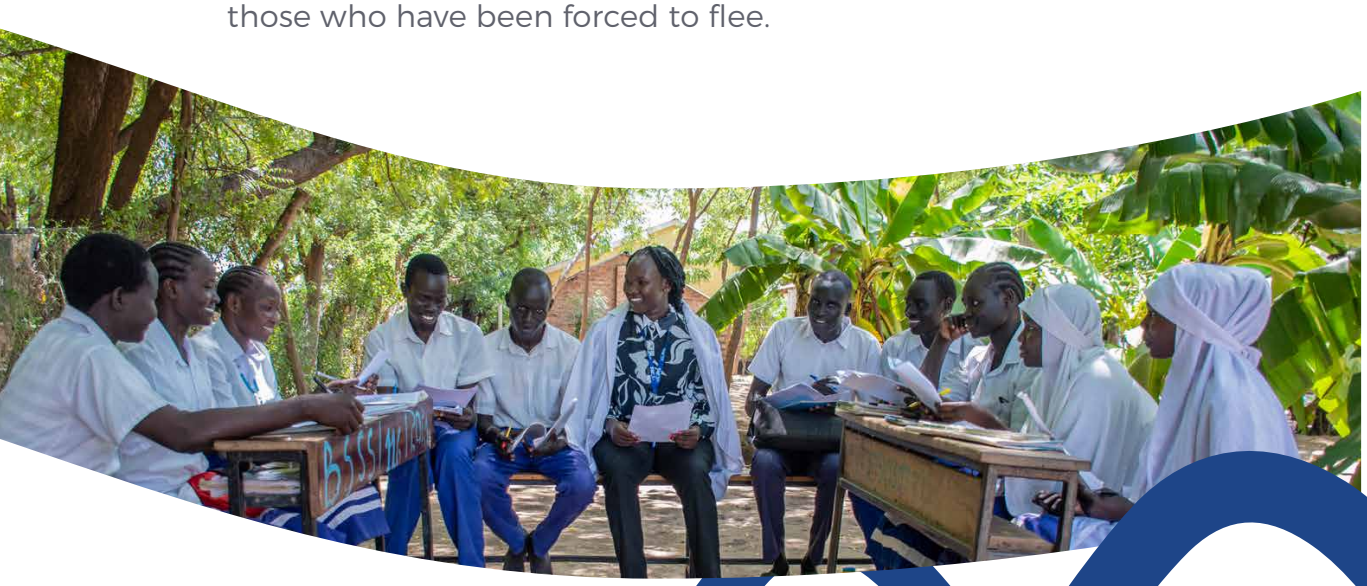
ANNUAL REPORT **2025**

WALKING WITH REFUGEES, **AGAINST THE ODDS**

JRS
JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

This Annual Report is for you - our JRS friends, staff, volunteers, partners in mission. In 2025, your engagement sustained our action, in the face of unprecedented threats to some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

As the needs of those we assist grow, we are grateful that you have chosen to continue walking with us and with the people we serve. You allow us to remain present where suffering is greatest and hope is most fragile. Together, we can continue to protect the life and dignity of those who have been forced to flee.



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COVER PHOTO
A Rohingya woman in Aceh, Indonesia, where women and children living in refugee camps face challenges including exposure to gender-based violence and access to basic needs, healthcare services and quality education.

PHOTO CREDITS
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JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

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LETTER FROM THE **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends,
2025 confronted refugees and forcibly displaced people around the world with a new reality: **sweeping funding cuts to aid by the United States Administration and a further decline in the budgets of other donor countries**. This came as a shock to everyone. At JRS, we witnessed the devastating, cascading effects on some of the world's most vulnerable communities: children in Chad at risk of not sitting their school exams; displaced Yazidi women in Iraq deprived of mental health support; families in Uganda uprooted by war struggling to meet the most basic needs.

An example that stands out for me comes from our work in Kenya. In Kakuma, a refugee camp hosting over 300,000 people, JRS supports education, protection and a number of other services – the type of programmes that risk being sidelined because they are not considered to be 'life-saving'. And yet, even areas such as food aid were not immune to cuts. In Kakuma, some refugees now spend their days trying to secure their next meal. Parents have resorted to taking on risky debt, while many children have been forced out of school or have engaged in harmful coping mechanisms.

My mind also turns to the vulnerable families in neighbouring South Sudan who had found stability through integrated psychosocial programming. Now that these services have been slashed, they are struggling to cope, leading to increased psychological distress and, most devastatingly, to suicide attempts – particularly among young people.

These are just two examples of many. Beyond simple budgetary constraints, they reveal an intentional elimination of care and solidarity. A message that has been heard loud and clear by refugees.

As we respond to these challenges, three key themes stand out for me: **agency, community, and partnerships**. In Kakuma, the JRS team has taken this opportunity to strengthen its ties with local authorities and other NGOs, working together to meet existing gaps, avoid duplication, and enhance sustainability and impact. In doing so, they relied on JRS's whole-person, integrated approach to education, which prioritises refugee agency, self-reliance, and meaningful integration in local realities.

In South Sudan, our response has been rooted in a local knowledge of resources, culture, and coping strategies. It is centred around the belief that communities themselves are the foremost experts in their own wellbeing and are best positioned to take control of their own futures.

In a multipolar world that normalises violence and disregards international frameworks, we cannot give up on rights-based protection mechanisms – however difficult this may be. We also need to strengthen communities, individuals, and large value-based partnerships to create agency and make sure that the voice of solidarity is heard.

In 2025, I drew immense hope from the resilience of our staff, as they faced forced programme closures, insecurity, and extremely difficult working conditions. I was also deeply moved by the outpouring of solidarity and friendship from partners, donors and our wider Jesuit family. **Your support is, for me, a clear sign that a different world is possible and wanted. It is possible for everyone: for refugees, and also for ourselves.**

As we navigate this new reality, one thing has become clearer than ever: JRS is not just a service provider. We are an organisation that walks with refugees. In 2025, you allowed us to do just this. **I hope that you will continue to walk with us, responding to the words of Pope Leo XIV: "only together can we build communities of solidarity capable of caring for everyone, in which wellbeing and peace can flourish for the benefit of all." This is the only way in which our societies can function.**

Br Michael Schöpf SJ
JRS International Director

2025: A YEAR IN REVIEW

SOLIDARITY UNDER THREAT

2025 marked a dangerous turning point for international solidarity. Starting in January, funding for humanitarian aid was slashed, vital programmes were shut down, and refugees and migrants were subjected to growing hostility and increasingly inhumane treatment. As a result, the world's most vulnerable people are now no longer simply neglected; they are being excluded by design.

This new reality can feel hopeless at times, particularly as conflict, natural disaster, and shrinking resources continue to drive thousands into displacement each day. In 2026, 136 million people are projected to be forcibly displaced or stateless (UNHCR 2025).

As soon as the cuts were announced, JRS and partner networks set up a dedicated taskforce. Under the circumstances, we understood that the work that we do is only possible if we are able to take clear, informed decisions and respond daily to the most urgent needs. This focus on regular planning and coordinated response sets our course for the years ahead.

In spring, with the passing of Pope Francis, refugees lost one of their most unwavering and passionate defenders. From the start of his papacy, he challenged each one of us to take responsibility, to care about the suffering of refugees, to cry over their untimely deaths at our borders and to have the courage to welcome them. At the Jubilee of Migrants in October 2025, this legacy took centre stage. Fortified by his words and example, JRS will continue to build on it, and to heed his call for fraternity, solidarity and equal dignity for all.

14 November 2025 marked 45 years since Fr Pedro Arrupe founded JRS. His vision of hope and commitment to serve, accompany and advocate endures. Throughout this challenging year, and across every context in which JRS works, we have witnessed communities and individuals refuse to be defined by the indifference of others. We were also moved by the outpouring of support in response to our emergency appeal.

Thanks to you, our global family, we raised almost four million dollars, allowing us to stay at the side of the forcibly displaced when they needed us the most.

Mental health and psychosocial support activities in Cúcuta, Colombia.

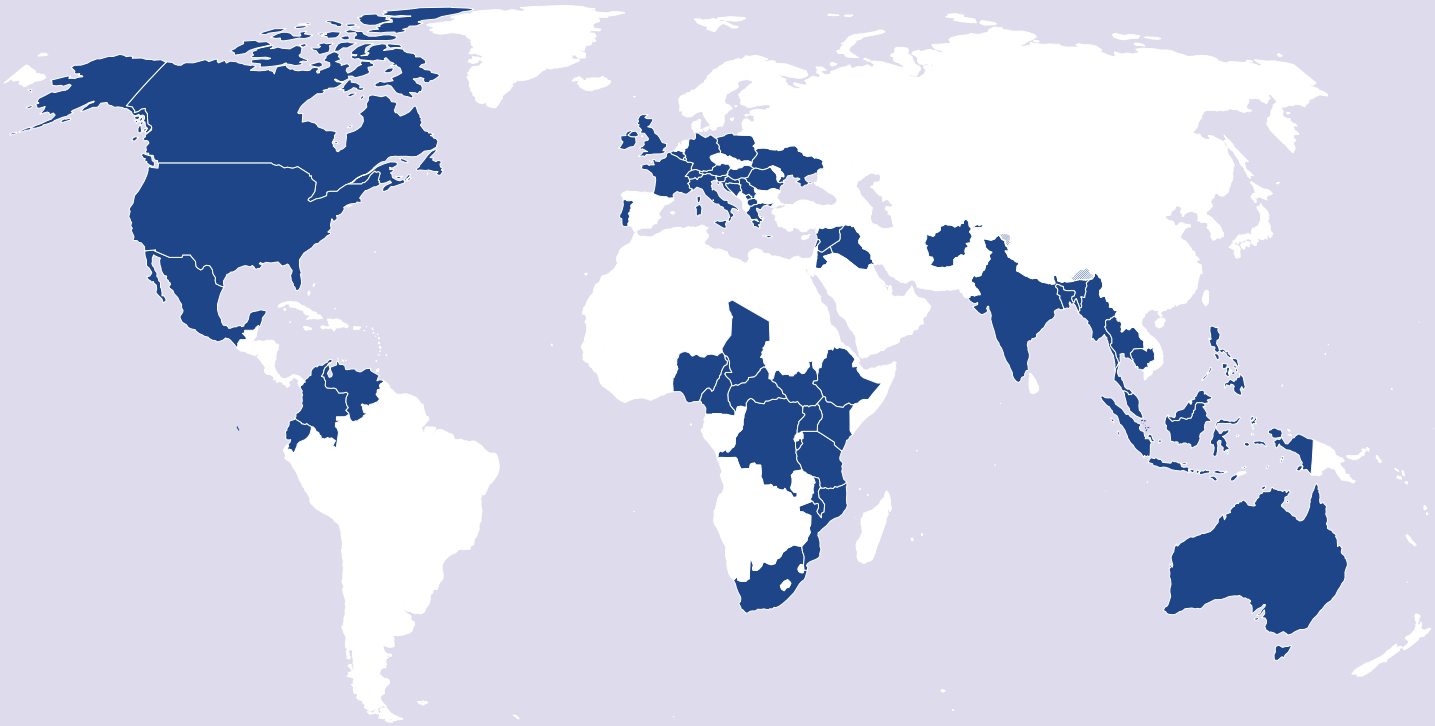
STANDING WITH REFUGEES IN COLOMBIA

Last year, JRS Colombia marked its 30th anniversary, and lived through one of its most painful chapters. One of JRS's largest country operations, with 14 projects across multiple locations, it relied heavily on US funding. When the cuts came, JRS was forced to close eight offices, letting go of many committed staff members virtually overnight. Instead of supporting 30,500 people as planned, JRS was able to accompany just 10,000.

Despite these painful circumstances, JRS Country Director Ximena Vidal sees hope for the future: "At the end of August 2025, JRS Colombia was able to restart implementation under new conditions. Now is when the presence of JRS in Colombia makes the most sense, and we understand that even though we won't have the financial resources that we had in recent years, it is always possible to continue bringing hope to those who need it so much."

ACCOMPANYING FORCIBLY DISPLACED **PEOPLE AROUND** THE WORLD

1,086,269
people served in
57
countries



JRS REGIONAL OFFICES AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS

JRS ASIA PACIFIC
Joseph Hampson SJ
Bangkok, Thailand

JRS EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
André Atsu Agbogan
Nairobi, Kenya,
Gibson Munyoro SJ
(Director for Southern Africa until August)

JRS EUROPE
Alberto Ares SJ
Brussels, Belgium

JRS LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Oscar Javier Calderón Barragán,
Alejandra Castellanos Breton (since August)
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
Kelly Ryan
Washington DC, USA

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

JRS COUNTRY OFFICES

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

YOUR IMPACT

Rohingya refugee children in Aceh, Indonesia.

Community and Solidarity in Challenging Times

Your support over the past year has again made all the difference to people forced to rebuild their lives after being displaced.

Under difficult circumstances, your commitment and generosity proved more essential than ever. Thanks to you, we continued our work with displaced people affected by conflict and inequality. Together, we enabled 1,086,269 displaced people in 57 countries to find stability and renewed hope.

We witnessed extraordinary resilience throughout the year: young people determined to continue their studies, parents committed to rebuilding a secure future for their children, and communities taking steps towards reconciliation. These stories reflect not only personal courage, but also the importance of inclusive environments where refugees can recover, rebuild and feel like an integral part of society.

In a world still marked by uncertainty and division, your support helps to uphold something essential: the belief that, even in the face of displacement, hope can endure and grow. Thank you for standing alongside refugees in building a fairer, more inclusive and compassionate world.

PEOPLE **SERVED** BY PROGRAMME

477,034
Education in Emergency Situations

134,921
MHPSS Mental Health & Psychosocial Support

96,642
Emergency Aid, Relief & Assistance

125,351
Protection & Legal Advice

89,695
Reconciliation

50,183
Advocacy & Communication

33,857
Health Care

54,984
Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion

23,602
Pastoral

1,086,269
TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED

EDUCATION

A class attending the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) conducted by JRS in Yambio, South Sudan. These classes equip students with educational skills to compensate for years of missed schooling due to crisis-related disruptions.

JRS Education in 2025

In 2025, there were 234 million crisis-affected learners around the world in need of urgent support — 35 million more than three years prior. Funding cuts to aid hit this sector particularly hard: refugee teachers were faced with the choice of working without pay or abandoning their students, while reduced food support saw children leave school to help with household chores or income-generating activities. UNICEF warns that, without urgent action, six million more students could be forced out of education by the end of 2026.

Despite this pressure, JRS education staff — with your support — have remained at children's sides, offering safe spaces and opportunities for the future. Community involvement has been key: parents' associations have played a vital role in raising funds to sustain teacher salaries and school running costs.

In the face of ever-growing challenges, JRS's whole-person approach becomes all the more important. Our education programmes create safe, welcoming learning environments. They integrate mental health and psychosocial support, foster meaningful relationships, and open pathways to livelihoods — walking alongside refugee students while supporting the families, teachers and communities around them.

> "With shrinking humanitarian aid funding, I see signs of hope in JRS's commitment to investing in local capacities. These kinds of initiatives not only improve the quality of education we provide, but also build sustainable expertise that can continue to serve children despite external uncertainties. At a graduation event in July, our graduates shared powerful testimonies about how the diploma will enable them to pass on this knowledge to their peers within their communities."

Batoul Moussa: *Regional Education Officer, JRS Middle East & North Africa*

A lesson at a JRS-run school in Bar Elias, Lebanon.

Pencils Not Knives: Children Writing Their Own Future in Nigeria

In September 2025, JRS launched a two-year EU-funded project dedicated to enhancing and consolidating access to safe, quality education for conflict-affected children in Borno State, Nigeria. The project, aimed at IDPs, returnees and host community members, aims to serve more than 50,000 children aged between six and 17. Simeon, a JRS staff member in Nigeria, reflects on the value that JRS can bring:

A girl attending classes in Borno State, Nigeria.

"One morning, while I was on my way to work, I saw two children arguing. They couldn't have been more than ten years old. Within seconds, one of them had reached into his pocket and pulled out a knife, pointing it at the other boy's stomach. I rushed over, sat down with him and spoke to him about the dangers and the consequences of using that knife.

As a humanitarian worker, I reflected on how scenes like this have become normal in communities that are frightened and overwhelmed by violence. Children learn far too early how to fight, how to defend themselves, how to survive. Very few are given the chance simply to learn how to be children. Education is not only about learning to read or to write; it gives hope. It restores a sense of normality in places where everything seems to have been destroyed.

As I walked away from that boy, with a heavy heart, I imagined him holding a pencil instead of a knife, curiosity replacing anger, and despair giving way to a world of possibilities ahead of him. Children deserve safe spaces where they can dream and write their own future."

Children at a JRS-supported school in Yambio, South Sudan.

LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Women weaving carpets at a "Skilling Circles" workshop supported by JRS in Afghanistan.

JRS Economic Inclusion in 2025

For an estimated 117.3 million forcibly displaced people worldwide (UNHCR, 2025), livelihoods are often insufficient and unstable as a result of systemic exclusion from labour markets. In 2025, the living conditions of these communities were placed under further strain by funding cuts, which restricted access to food, shelter, and other basic services for the most vulnerable.

For JRS, the resulting crisis highlighted the importance of Economic Inclusion as a means of reducing dependency and building long-term sustainability within displaced communities. Our livelihoods projects are active in 38 countries and, in 2025, empowered 55,000 people. The average cost in 2024 was of USD 203 per person per year. The JRS approach is embodied by inspirational refugees such as the JRS graduate in Kenya who, after receiving support in securing a space for his shop, now runs a business that employs more than 20 people and has trained 140 more in social media marketing.

We adopt a market-system approach, which acts by creating opportunities for work and business for displaced people in their local context and equipping them with the required tools to make meaningful contributions to their new communities. Our programmes are grounded in a real understanding of resilience and coping strategies, and how these can be translated into practices which foster sustainability beyond funding.

Voices of Resilience from Europe

> The employability programme I participated in was incredibly helpful during my job interviews and while creating my CV. The skills I gained at JRS are the ones I now apply daily in my workplace.

Refugee accompanied by JRS Portugal

> I am originally from Albania, and I arrived in France in March 2021 with subsidiary protection status. With support from JRS, I completed internships that led to stable employment. I recently finished my training and signed a permanent contract as a housekeeper.

Refugee accompanied by JRS France

> The JRS livelihoods programme has helped me achieve my objectives by providing accommodation for a year. This support allowed me to focus on building skills and seeking employment, without the immediate pressure of housing concerns.

Refugee accompanied by JRS Romania

JRS Portugal economic inclusion activities.

The Road Less Travelled: Women Stitching Stories in Afghanistan

In community workshops across Afghanistan, women come together to learn, share, and create. Mothers, daughters, sisters, and wives sit side by side — novices guided by skilled artisans, with laughter and stories woven into every stitch. Through the JRS Skilling Circles project, these women are doing more than just crafting beautiful handmade items: they are building dignity for themselves and their loved ones.

Women sewing together at a "Skilling Circles" workshop supported by JRS in Afghanistan.

Life for Aziza* and Fardina* has yielded more than its fair share of challenges: an impoverished background, family responsibilities, and social stigma. "In our community, engaging in training and education is viewed as a taboo," says Aziza, reflecting on how far they have come: "now, a lot of previously unheard voices have begun to express their admiration for the work I do, and they are eager for their daughters to follow in my footsteps."

Their journey began with their involvement in the skill training programme at the JRS Youth Centre. JRS empowered them to transition from a training phase into marketing their own products. "The challenges we faced, such as travel restrictions, financial limitations, unfamiliarity with the market, and communicating with male vendors, made our journey difficult, but also sparked creativity" says Fardina, who is proud of the contribution she is now able to make to her family: "although our income is limited, we persist in our journey and one day, by taking the road less travelled, we will reach our goal."

*Names have been changed to protect identities.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

A staff member with an Afghan woman taking part in a community empowerment project run by JRS in Cirasua, Indonesia.

JRS Mental Health and Psychological Support in 2025

Over the course of the year, JRS Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) teams across multiple regions reported rising levels of suicidal ideation, attempts, and deaths — including among children. In one project, there had been no recorded suicide attempts in 2024; in 2025, there were at least six, among them a child of nine. At a staff level, funding cuts also raised the risk of burnout and secondary traumatisation, placing the fundamental obligation to do no harm under significant strain.

If JRS has been able to stay at people's sides, it is largely thanks to the local capacity and commitment built up over many years. Staff continue to show up, sometimes volunteering without pay. The loss of funding has accelerated a shift already underway in many countries: the transfer of lower-intensity psychosocial work to trained refugee and volunteer community workers.

The reality is that JRS is now doing more with less. When adequately supported and supervised, this approach can be highly effective and reflects JRS's long-standing commitment to localisation: working with and through local communities. Yet it also carries real risks. Without proper training, supervision, and ongoing support, community-level workers can be exposed to secondary trauma and may inadvertently cause harm. As we navigate these new challenges, we are grateful for the support we continue to receive from you, our JRS family.

MHPSS activities conducted by JRS in Renk, South Sudan.

> "When work was suspended, it felt like hope had been lost. It was emotionally heavy, knowing that people trusted us and we couldn't be there for them anymore. We felt we had betrayed the people who had opened up to us, who had confided their stories. There's an obligation you have as a counsellor, and we felt we had breached that obligation. We received a lot of phone calls; there was a lot of distress. There were a lot of people who felt like they had reached the end of their journeys. Now, we are doing what we can with the little that we have. We're trying to strengthen our community-based approaches. But the need is still so high."

***Angeline Namulanda**, MHPSS Coordinator JRS Eastern Africa, on funding cuts in South Sudan*

Transforming Lives Through Community-Based Support in Tamil Nadu

Dinesh*, a Tamil refugee from Sri Lanka, fled the civil war in 1990 and settled in Thottanuthu Rehabilitation Camp in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu (India), where he lives with his wife and two sons and works as a taxi driver.

When his struggles with substance use began, the life he had built began to unravel. Financial hardship followed, then painful family tension and severe psychological and physical deterioration. His children began attending school irregularly and were at risk of dropping out altogether.

It was through JRS's home visit programme that the family's situation came to light. With their consent, we initiated a holistic support process: specialists based in the camp provided family-focused psychosocial support and guidance on recovery options.

Dinesh has now completed the JRS rehabilitation programme. He receives continued accompaniment within his community — provided by para-counsellors whom he trusts and who understand his cultural background and needs. This has been central to his recovery. Gradually, he has regained his sense of self — rebuilding his relationship with his family, sharing leisure time with them and making decisions collectively. He has also taken the initiative to raise awareness among fellow refugees about the risks of substance use, a pressing issue in the camp.

His wife reflects that support provided at the right time made all the difference. Where there was once distress and uncertainty, there is now stability, improved health, and hope – a family moving forward together, in dignity.

*Names have been changed to protect identities.

Dinesh, a Tamil refugee from Sri Lanka.

RECONCILIATION

A woman at the annual Festival of Encounter organised by JRS in Jordan.

JRS Reconciliation in 2025

In 2025, increasingly limited funding placed a severe strain on available resources, heightening tensions within communities and making conflict sensitivity and mitigation skills even more critical. Throughout this difficult period, JRS reconciliation staff supported local teams in assessments, planning, and capacity-building.

Visits to countries affected by violence — including Syria, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, and Sri Lanka — underscored the need to distinguish between levels of reconciliation work: personal, organisational, communal, cultural, and structural. Learning where to focus our interventions, context by context, was in itself a source of hope — a reminder that we are far from powerless.

Reconciliation calls us to place just relationships at the heart of everything we do. It is rooted in respect for our shared humanity and the "truth about the equal dignity of every human being" (Pope Francis, 2025). By acknowledging divides and the harm they cause, we draw closer to those most affected — listening to their stories, understanding their needs, and working alongside their communities towards peace and justice. This shapes not just what we do, but how we do it.

Challenging Refugee Narratives

> This show is dedicated to changing your stereotypical ideas about the refugee community in Jordan. We're excited for the first episode, to get to know different cultures!

Creators, Re:Diaries Podcast.

The Re:Diaries is a podcast conceived with the aim of elevating the voices of refugee communities in Jordan. It is a collection of stories, both joyful and heartbreaking, marked by displacement and hardship yet driven by a deep longing for community and understanding. The project — which challenges narratives about refugees shaped by global politics and the media — is a collaboration between CRP – Collateral Repair Project, JRS Jordan, and Liwan Youth Space.

The three podcast creators.

Scan to listen

Restoring Right Relationships Through Shared Moments in East London

In the UK, JRS creates spaces of genuine encounter, dialogue, and shared humanity through efforts to bring refugees and host communities together.

One such example is our partnership with a resident-led litter-picking group in East London. Every month, JRS-led refugees join local volunteers in caring for their shared environment — a simple but powerful act of belonging. The initiative allows refugees and community members to meet as equals, work side by side, and get to know one another as people. Chats over tea, coffee, and biscuits have become as valued as the clean-up itself, offering an informal space where relationships are quietly built and narratives shifted.

A group of refugees join a resident-led litter-picking group in East London.

What began as a litter pick has grown into something far greater. The group, run entirely by volunteers, has made community-building its central purpose — and JRS has been proud to be part of it, regularly swelling volunteer numbers by double figures each month.

For Daniel, a group organiser, the benefits are clear: “We feel a tremendous sense of achievement when we observe groups of like-minded people who have come to the East End from different parts of the world, just as they have for generations. By giving their time to take part in our monthly events, they contribute not only to the care and improvement of our environment, but also to a truly inspiring and positive experience. Thank you everyone!”

This is what reconciliation looks like in practice — restoring right relationships between refugees and host communities, one shared moment at a time.

ADVOCACY

JRS colleagues in St Peter's Square for the 2025 Jubilee audience with Pope Leo XIV.

JRS Advocacy in 2025

2025 marked a turning point for the global humanitarian system. As governments increasingly restricted their funding to what they described as 'live-saving activities', JRS's advocacy focused on expanding this definition to include education, mental health and psychosocial support, and the safeguarding of rights — in line with our whole-person approach.

Over the course of the year, JRS championed a multilateral funding mechanism to integrate refugee education into national systems, ensuring children retain access to schooling. We also developed a formal position highlighting the role of local faith-based actors in displacement responses. Presented at the Global Refugee Forum progress review, it sparked significant interest among peers and opened dialogue with UNHCR.

As several governments moved to challenge the 1951 Refugee Convention, JRS joined a civil society coalition to defend its principles — building a strategy around the Convention's 75th anniversary on 28 July 2026 to galvanise renewed commitment to refugee protection.

The Jubilee of Migrants

> In the face of hostility and numbness, what saves us is community. Solidarity lived out at the local level is what restores dignity, hope, and even policy.

Br Michael Schöpf SJ,
JRS International Director.

On 4 and 5 October 2025, JRS joined displaced communities around the world to celebrate the Jubilee of Migrants, themed "Migrants, Missionaries of Hope." From Uganda to Italy, from the United States to the Ecuador-Peru border, JRS offices organised pilgrimages, processions, Masses, and public prayers — symbolic acts of solidarity that brought communities together across continents. We were honoured to join Pope Leo XIV in reflecting on the fact that migrants, refugees and the communities that welcome them are privileged witnesses of hope.

JRS delegation at the 2025 Global Refugee Forum progress review in Geneva, Switzerland.

Turning Pain into Purpose: A Ukrainian Refugee Speaks Out

Until 24 February 2022, Viktoriia, 24, lived with her parents in Ukraine's Kherson region. She was in the 4th year of a Law degree, having dreamt of becoming a judge since she was a child. "It was supposed to be my day off, and I was really looking forward to going to the shopping mall and watching a movie. But that morning, my mother's screams woke me up — "Get up, it's war." I jumped up and saw huge explosions in the sky. In 30 minutes, I had to fit my entire life into a few suitcases."

Victoriia fled the bombs with her family, traveling via Poland to Lithuania. "I continued my studies and stopped feeling like a refugee here. I was a student. And studying really healed me. I became deeply interested in international humanitarian law, refugee law, and human rights protection.

At that moment, an inner transformation took place, and I realised that I wanted to help forcibly displaced people worldwide. I know what it's like to be in a foreign country without knowledge of the laws, regulations and your rights, without money, and without knowing the local language, sometimes even without documents. Hope for me is the power to turn my pain into purpose, and my fear into service for others.

In the EU, I saw the problem of the rise of hostile narratives - Us vs. Them. We must fight together against stereotypes, stigma and growing xenophobia regarding refugees and migrants in the EU. I believe hope today means building bridges instead of fences, choosing solidarity over fear, and seeing each other's humanity before anything else."

Viktoriia, a former JRS Advocacy intern, shared her testimony during "Migrants & Refugees in Our Common Home," an event led by Villanova University with participation from JRS in October 2025.

Viktoriia speaking at the event.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Communities suffering the effects of climate change in Burundi.

JRS Climate Response in 2025

Climate change is no longer a distant threat — it is a present global emergency. Across the world, its impacts are destroying livelihoods, deepening inequalities, and forcing millions of people to leave their homes. Prolonged droughts, devastating floods, and rising sea levels have become daily realities for communities already burdened by poverty and conflict. Climate change multiplies these vulnerabilities, eroding food security, intensifying competition for scarce resources, and undermining peace.

JRS serves as a bridge between local realities and global policy, ensuring that climate-induced displacement is seen, understood, and addressed. We advocate for national and international policies that recognise and protect those most affected.

> When I was young, the catch was plenty. But now, there's a big change. Long before we were born, fishing has always been the main livelihood. Is our island sinking? We fear for our children. To them it is normal. They have no idea what the weather change means. It is clear to me that we need to move. But I grew up here, my work is here. So I leave it to fate.

***Julius, Fisherman on Nocnocan Island, Bohol, Philippines**, one of the communities observed by RACPA (Research and Advocacy for Climate Policy and Action), a JRS joint initiative examining the link between climate change and human mobility.*

> What I love most about my school is that the environment is so green. It is conducive for learning: sometimes, when the temperatures rise outside, we come into our school and we feel comfortable, we revise without any interference.

***Member of the Green Youth Club in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya,** on the environmental project spearheaded by former JRS teacher Racho Kibet, who was named as one of the country's 2025 national heroes.between climate change and human mobility.*

Children attending classes in a flooded Batasan Elementary School, Philippines.

BASIC NEEDS

JRS is present at the transit centre in Renk, South Sudan, and in other parts of the country. We offer support to people fleeing the ongoing conflict in Sudan, which marked its two-year anniversary in April 2025.

JRS Basic Needs Assistance in 2025

Aid cuts by some of the world's wealthiest countries have compounded the effects of ongoing emergencies and conflicts, from Sudan to Myanmar, Afghanistan and the Middle East. Refugees often flee their home with few or no possessions, no income, and limited access to services. Meeting these core needs is about more than survival: it reduces protection risks, safeguards dignity, and creates the conditions for participation in community life. In 2025, this lifeline was interrupted for millions of displaced people around the world.

"The Acehnese people are kind. During the shrimp and fish harvest, they shared some with us" says Abdullah, a Rohingya refugee who arrived in **Aceh, Indonesia**, with his wife and two sons after a long and dangerous journey. The hospitality they encountered reflects the Acehnese tradition of "Peumulia Jamee," which means honouring or welcoming guests – a local wisdom that remains an important part of Acehnese culture, even towards refugees. Abdullah's family feels safer in Aceh. However, as refugees, they are not allowed to work for wages. They rely on aid from humanitarian organisations such as JRS, as well as on the generosity of local residents.

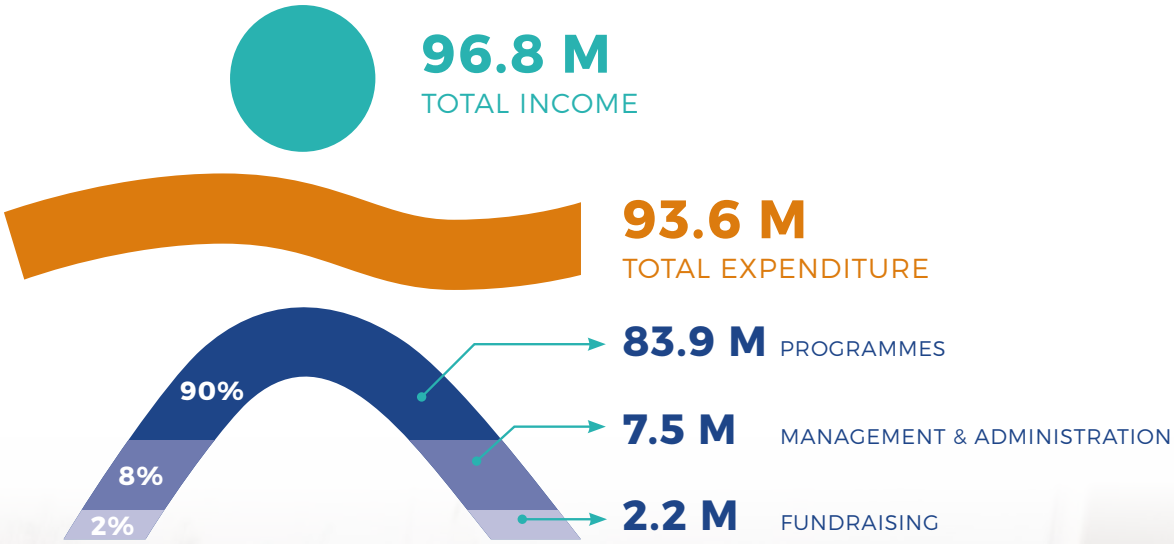
Following the escalation of violence and the collapse of medical services in **Gaza**, in 2025 dozens of severely injured Palestinian children and their caregivers were medically evacuated to **Romania**. They arrived with life-threatening injuries, cancer, amputations, infections, and profound psychological trauma. The evacuation saved their lives, but their humanitarian needs remained urgent and unmet. Since April 2025, JRS Romania has been supporting evacuees from Gaza by providing accommodation assistance as well as urgent needs support.

In 2025, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** was affected by escalating conflict and violence, forcing families to flee and deepening the suffering of communities already facing limited access to food, healthcare, and education. Thanks to the generous support of 8xmille CEI (the Italian Bishops' Conference), JRS was able to bring hope where it was most needed. More than 3,000 children received school supplies and continued their educational journeys in newly updated classrooms. The most vulnerable among them were offered mental health support, while parents and teachers joined group therapy sessions designed to rebuild trust and resilience and trace a shared path toward healing and hope.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you, for supporting refugees and those forced to flee their homes in search of safety and a brighter future. Thanks to our Jesuit Mission Offices, Jesuit NGOs, the Xavier Network and all Jesuit Provinces for working together to build a more loving and compassionate world. We are grateful to all the institutional donors, religious partners, faith-based agencies, foundations, and companies that have fostered continuity for the programmes we run in 57 countries, even in challenging contexts.

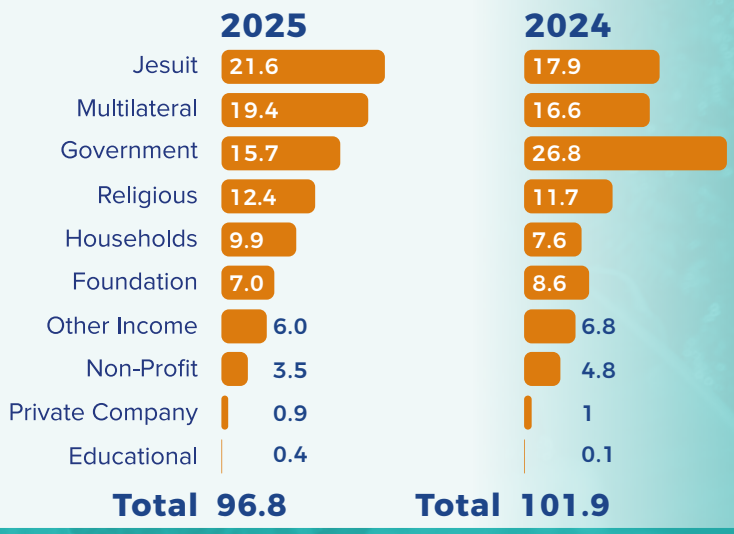
And we extend our deepest thanks to all the individuals who choose to walk with JRS and with the refugee sisters and brothers we accompany.



Expenses

Sources of Income *

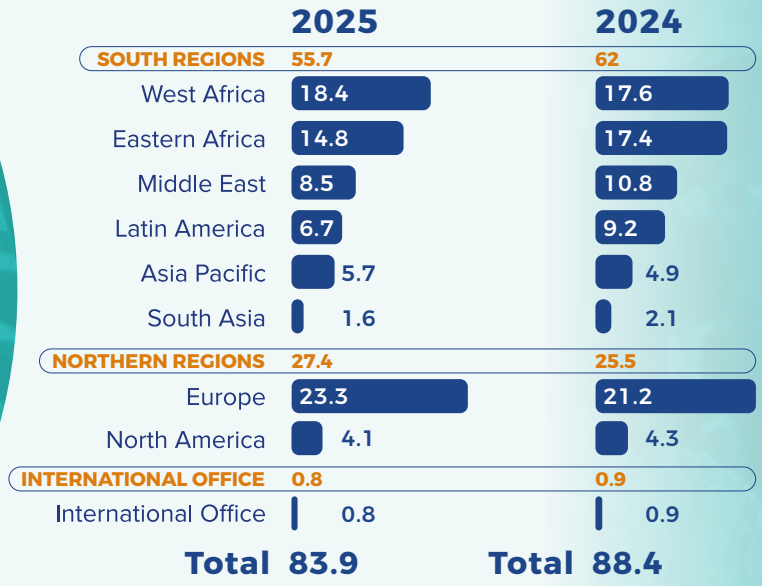
*Our 2025 income speaks to the solidarity shown by our donors and partners over the course of the year. It includes four million USD raised by JRS through the Global Appeal following government cuts.



Expenses by Programme *

Expenses by JRS Region *

*The humanitarian funding crisis disproportionately impacted countries in the Global South, which host a majority of refugees and asylum seekers. It is likely that this impact will be felt even more keenly in 2026.



*Amounts cited are in millions of US Dollars.

TAKE **ACTION**

TURNING EMPATHY INTO IMPACT

I recently met a young man named Mahamat, who fled his home in war-torn Darfur, Sudan, at the age of six. He grew up in refugee camps in eastern Chad, where daily life meant struggling for water, food, and medicine. It was there that he encountered JRS, received an education, and went on to earn a university degree.

His journey did not end there. He fled through the desert and ultimately made the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean Sea to Italy. Here, he has dedicated his life to speaking out on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced people.

What struck me most – what brought me to tears – was realising that Mahamat was the same age as my youngest son when he first had to flee his home. It's hard to picture *my little boy* living amongst bombs and gunfire. Seeing sights no child should see.

I found myself asking: *How can I help build a world where no six-year-old child has to live through such things? What would I do in Mahamat's place? How would I want the world to receive me?*

I would pray that people welcome me and help me get back on my feet. Share their homes and their humanity with me. Because the truth is that every single person forced to flee simply wants to live a life of dignity. To find hope where hope can be found and to contribute however they are able.

I invite you, then, to walk alongside refugees – to see the world through their eyes and meet them in their need. With your support, they can move forward; and in doing so, extend to others the same solidarity you have shown to them.

Love and generosity are the only things that can get us through these dark times, as government policies threaten to shut down the very JRS programmes that gave Mahamat renewed hope. Nothing can be lost with peace. Yet everything can be lost with hate and war.

Please join me. Make space in your heart for those who need your support – and your love – the most.

Madelaine R Kuns

Madelaine Kuns
International Director
of Communications and Fundraising

ALL THE WAYS **TO DONATE**

DONATE VIA BANK TRANSFER

Bank Name:
Banca Popolare di Sondrio

Account Name:
Servizio dei Gesuiti per i Rifugiati - JRS

Donations in EUR:
IBAN IT 86 Y 05696 03212 0000 03410 X05
SWIFT Code POSOIT22

Donations in USD:
IBAN IT 97 O 05696 03212 VARUS 0003410
SWIFT Code POSOIT22

DONATE ONLINE

Make a gift online at jrs.net/en/donate/

GET INFORMED
SIGN UP TO JRS NEWSLETTER:

jrs.net/en/newsletter/

Would you like to know more about how to support refugees or partner with JRS?

Please contact:

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