

# Annual Report-2020

Jesuit Refugee Service South Asia



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"Arise, Awake and Stop not till the goal is reached".

## Director's Message

Globally, we are struck by the pandemic which is causing incalculable disruptions and devastations particularly to the Low-and middle-income countries (LMIC). This includes all regions of JRS SAS intervention - India, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Surely, the unprecedented impact on the lives and livelihood of people especially the vulnerable will be longer than expected. Stay home, stay safe and follow social distancing make little sense to refugees as they continue to live in a poor, crowded and unhygienic conditions for many years. The pandemic has affected refugees and exacerbated their pre-existing vulnerabilities.

With firm conviction, far-sighted vision and pragmatic wisdom, the human society must create suitable and sustainable solutions. The forcibly displaced community faced and continues to face the wrath of COVID-19 in many fronts. With the outpouring support of partners and stakeholders in shared mission, JRS South Asia continues to accompany the forcibly displaced brothers and sisters. Through participation and an integrated approach, JRS tries to keep the hope of the ultravulnerable groups alive amidst widespread poverty, economic disparity, political instability and lack of coherent and consistent policy of governments.

Through an array of empowering measures, emergency relief support, educational interventions- online classes, life and soft skill workshops, radio class program, remote learning classes etc; promoting women's entrepreneurship, fostering youth clubs and offering psychosocial support, JRS has been striving to create a culture of peace.

Inclusion and solidarity are the corner stones of our projects and programs. COVID has taught a great lesson to humanity and still the humanity is turning a deaf ear to existential struggles of refugees and the forcibly displaced people. While contributing to the growth and development of the refugee community in a small way, JRS tries to advocate their inalienable rights. Their right to a decent and dignified living, their right to freedom and peace amidst uncertainties, the ever-increasing insecurities and ambiguities that surrounds them have to be guiding force of JRS and likeminded bodies. Let me conclude by recalling the famous words of Swami Vivekananda: "Arise, Awake and Stop not till the goal is reached".

Louie Albert SJ  
Regional Director,  
JRS South Asia.





## Who We Are

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organization founded in 1980 by Father Pedro Arrupe, the then Superior General of the Society of Jesus, to respond to the plight of Vietnamese refugees fleeing their war-ravaged homeland. JRS seeks to accompany, serve and advocate on behalf of refugees, asylum seekers, those internally displaced by conflict or disaster (IDPs), and those returning home after years seeking refuge abroad. JRS is engaged in 56 countries, working for the wellbeing and hope of refugees, and promoting education and livelihood programs to provide opportunities for integration into host communities.

## Our Context

While climate change, natural disasters, Covid-19 and other pandemics, unjust economic policies, and poor governance contribute to forced displacement, its main driver continues to be conflict and human violence, often rooted in complex competition for resources. The personal and communal traumas of violence-driven displacement have long-term effects. Millions of forcibly displaced persons, 80% of whom are women and children, have been in exile for more than 10 years. These protracted situations create barriers for education and livelihoods and exert immense pressure on host communities whose resources are often limited. In many parts of the world, political movements that feed on cultural and economic anxieties are moving refugee and other policies away from globalised justice and human rights. Never has the need for protection been more urgent. The legal, practical and spiritual frameworks of our work are provided by the Global Compacts on Migrants and Refugees, the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'*, the Holy See's policies on migration and forcibly displaced people, and the Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus.



## Our Way

### Journey With Displaced People

Accompaniment of forcibly displaced people to understand their aspirations, ensure their active participation, and support their hope.

### Promote Justice

Interventions rooted in justice, discovered in dialogue among diverse cultures and religions, and established in projects that promote the common good.

### Integrated Approach

A holistic service, with psychosocial well-being, gender responsiveness, safeguarding, community empowerment, and environmental stewardship as key for rebuilding lives and preserving dignity.



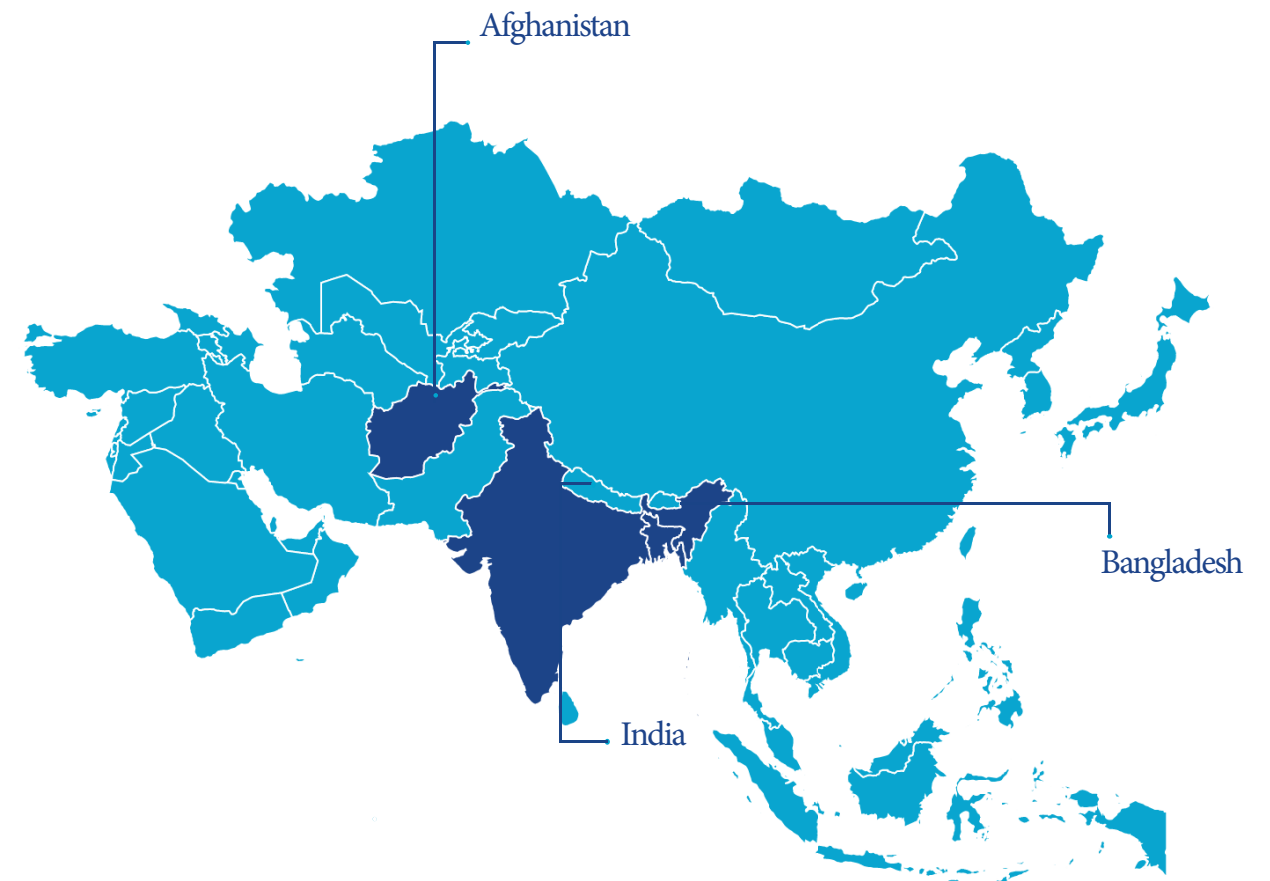
## Our Presence

The COVID19 has caused immense economic and social disruptions worldwide. Amidst the pandemic and its adverse effects, JRS South Asia continued to coordinate its projects in Afghanistan, India, and Bangladesh. JRS Afghanistan programs aim at supporting war-affected communities in Afghanistan for improving their access to quality education, promoting skill-based learning, fostering reconciliation within communities, providing psychosocial support and, strengthening local leadership. While ensuring educational accompaniment through digital platform and radio broadcasting. JRS even walked an extra mile in addressing humanitarian crises which are particularly exposed to the effects of COVID19.

In India, JRS strives to respond to emerging needs thrown up by new scenarios of displacement. Today, more than half of the world's refugees live 'invisibly' in cities rather than in camps. India hosts refugee population exiled in both types of settlements; their social environment is detrimental to their wellbeing. JRS Urban Refugee project supports the most disadvantaged Chin and Afghan refugees settled in the peripheries of New Delhi through livelihood programs, computer and language skill training and peace education.

JRS Tamil Nadu project serves the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in camps of Tamil Nadu whose woes have been intensified by the Easter Sunday blasts in Sri Lanka in April 2019, the enactment of the Indian Citizenship Amendment Act (2019) in December 2019 and the onset of pandemic in early 2020. To capacitate them for a self-reliant, dignified and peaceful future, JRS offers support through Complementary Education Centre's (CEC), peacebuilding and reconciliation programs, livelihood trainings, psychosocial support, emergency aid and advocacy initiatives. In hostile times of COVID19, both the projects provided the emergency assistance to the greater refugee population in distress and introduced innovative solutions for continuing essential JRS services.

With its proximity to Myanmar, Bangladesh observes a high influx of Rohingya refugees fleeing religious and ethnic persecution. Today, about 602,400 Rohingyas live in makeshift overcrowded shelters in world's largest refugee settlement in Cox's Bazar. JRS - Caritas Bangladesh collaboration has supported the psychosocial wellbeing Rohingya children in camps through 11 Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS). However as deemed necessary, JRS now reaches out to a larger group of Rohingya people in distress by upgrading CFS into Multi-Purpose Child and Adolescent Centers (MCAC). The MCACs enables improvement in social, emotional, and cognitive wellbeing of the Rohingya children; resilience building of adolescents vulnerable against physical, social or mental exploitation, violence and discrimination and capacitate them in potential skills to address the children with heightened protection risks. Here, the Rohingya parents especially the expecting and lactating mothers, and larger community gain knowledge on child care practices; through MCACs they also mobilize themselves to provide emergency assistance during disasters that has cross-cutting impacts on lives inside camps



### People Served by Programme:



18,070  
Reconciliation



5,647  
Mental Health &  
Psychosocial Support



25,377  
Education &  
Livelihoods



2,317  
Advocacy & Protection  
& Legal Advice



47,425  
Emergency Aid



5,571  
Health care





## RECONCILIATION

Promotion of reconciliation, understood as “recreating right relationships” among JRS teams, among the forcibly displaced we serve, and between them and their host communities

## India-New Delhi



The Urban Refugee project in New Delhi began its Peace and Reconciliation program in the year 2019 to break the vicious cycle of violence and encourage the practice of Peace and Reconciliation in the lives of the refugees we actively work with. Refugees often feel a sense of uneasiness and embarrassment to talk about violence they face at home or within their community. They often fear that others will discount or underestimate the significance of their feelings. The Peace and Reconciliation program gives refugees a space where they feel secure and free to share and learn ways to eradicate violence in their life.

In 2020, we began the Peace Education program with the Afghan vocational training group at the same time focusing on strengthening the Peace club at the Chin center, serving 25 children/youth and 27 women under the Peace and Reconciliation program in both the centers. The Peace club which was initiated among the Chin peace members has helped them in the process of reconciliation. The group participated in role plays and used music as a tool to build unity and oneness among each other. Through the peace sessions, peers were encouraged to listen, remain open and available, thus promoting the culture of positive thinking, learning and healing.

52

Children & youth were served under the Peace and Reconciliation program



## India-Tamil Nadu

There are about 59,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in the 100-plus refugee camps in Tamil Nadu and nearly 30,000 outside the camps. The war trauma, memories and wounds are still unhealed in the minds and hearts of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees. Defying logic, the Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees have been left out of the ambit of the Citizenship Amendment Bill. The refugees face a lot of challenges in the host community such as. Being denied admission to higher education especially for medical courses, jobs in the organized sector because of which they are forced to find work only in the informal sector. The refugees have had protracted stay in cramped camps that are isolated from the host community habitations. Those who have been born in India, have been branded as “illegal migrants” despite of their more than three-decade-long stay in the host country. Denial of natural integration has created a wide gap between the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees and the host community, making the former suffer discrimination and exclusion. To address these issues, Peace and Reconciliation programs were conducted through group discussion, storytelling, motivational songs and games for children, youth and adults in the refugee community. Sections of the host community also attended similar programs that gave them an overview of the refugee crisis and underscored the refugees’ need for social inclusion. The sessions among the refugee community focused also on strengthening right relationships, fostering an attitude of compassion, mercy, forgiveness and mutual support, facilitating critical thinking, inner healing, and promoting values like truth and justice. 4099 children (2092 Male and 2007 Female), 1085 youth (533 Male and 552 Female) and 5589 adult (1318 Male and 4271 Female) refugee community members attended sessions conducted by Complementary Education Teachers and Field officers. Along with that, 1359 (354 Male and 1005 Female) host community members took part in the sessions that underscored social cohesion.

These sessions have created a peaceful atmosphere in the refugee community and improved their relationship with the host community, Social cohesion is built with host community. Refugee youth voluntarily supported vulnerable deserted elders during the COVID-19 pandemic by offering them food packets. 11,403 reusable facemasks were provided to health workers, poor people in the host community. A peace manual named “Amaithi Vazhiyil Agilam Velveom” was published by December 2020, which will be used to conduct peace and reconciliation sessions in CECs and host community schools.



# 12,132

Were served in Tamil Nadu, including children, youth, adults and host community.





“

The Family Enrichment Program made me realise that when hatred and bitterness filled my heart, I lost happiness and peace of mind. But asking for forgiveness made all the difference. Now, as reconciled neighbours, we experience restoration of not only friendship but also peace and joy.

## Reconciliation Restores Peace And Joy

In August 2020, Mr. Rajnikanth's three sons were playing with his neighbour, Mrs. Vasanthakumari's two sons at Anaikuttam refugee camp, Viruthunagar district. While playing, the children got into a tussle over an allegation of foul play. Mrs. Vasanthakumari, who happened to pass by them,, defended her sons and started scolding Mr. Rajnikanth's children. Her interference cut Mr. Rajnikanth to the quick. When he questioned her meddling, there erupted a scrimmage between the two neighbours. Abusive words were exchanged and the two-decade-long kindly relationship between the two families ended abruptly.

In January 2021, a Family Enrichment Program was conducted by JRS Field Officer at the Complementary Education Centre in the camp. Stressing the need for forgiveness and reconciliation in the families, the JRS staffer narrated Leo Tolstoy's story: "Children are cleverer than adults". Among the many participants were Mr. Rajnikanth and Mrs. Vasanthakumari too.

Hearing the story, Mr. Rajnikanth felt as though his own skirmish with his neighbour was being retold in different words. At the end of the session, Mr. Rajnikanth apologized to Mrs. Vasanthakumari for having used offensive words during their quarrel in August. The latter, too, acknowledged her fault and both of them were happily reconciled in the presence of 60 participants whose faces brightened with joy.

Reflecting upon his experience, Mr. Rajnikanth, said, "The Family Enrichment Program made me realise that when hatred and bitterness filled my heart, I lost happiness and peace of mind. But asking for forgiveness made all the difference. Now, as reconciled neighbours, we experience restoration of not only friendship but also peace and joy."



## Afghanistan

The Afghan population of 38.04 million includes different ethnic and tribal groups that includes a huge diversity of ethnic and tribal groups comprising 42% Pashtun, 27% are Tajik, and 9% each are Hazara and Uzbek. The rest belong to smaller groups like Turkmen, Aimak, and Baloch. The country's legacy of war is evident in ongoing tensions and conflicts among these different ethnic groups, and sometimes even within the clans of particular groups. Religion also plays a part: although 99% Muslim, the divide between majority Sunni and minority Shia is felt. Superimposed on this identity factors are ideology and politics, with different factions of groups fighting for supremacy in a country where the rule of law is weak and compromised. Forced migration creates challenging situation for IDPs as well as returnees. The returnees bring back new cultural practices which may lead to confrontation with local traditions, resulting in inter-personal or inter-community conflicts. The arrival of IDPs increases the pressure on the local job market and the strain on infrastructure, creating a situation that frequently ignites conflict with the local population.

In 2020, Peace education sessions helped the teachers to accompany the students in their journey towards reconciliation and conflict resolution in Herat, Kabul, Bamiyan and Daikundi provinces of Afghanistan on a weekly basis. JRS Peace & Reconciliation manual and Sanayee Development Organization peace book series were the resources used to accompany the students through the training of the teachers. 115 teachers (71 female and 52 male) provided peace education, through group discussions, presentations, and group activities to 15,574 students (9,055 female and 6,519 male). The students participated actively and benefitted from the peace sessions. Due to COVID-19 lockdown, radio broadcasting and WhatsApp medium was also used to disseminate peace education along with the community celebrations prior to COVID-19 lockdown.



115

teachers provided peace education, through group discussions, presentations, and group activities

15,574

students were provided with peace education in Kabul, Herat, Bamiyan and Daikundi.





“  
Peace education helped me to realize inner peace and change my perspective toward life.

## I Felt Like Being Blamed For Any Actions Of Others

I am Nayema a student at JRS Education program. I dropped out of school after my 9th grade as I was forced to get married. Now at the age of 22, I am a mother of 2 children. My husband is also illiterate and working as a shopkeeper in a neighbouring shop.

As I was too young when I got married, I had some conflictual thoughts towards my family and in-laws due to my marriage at a very early age. These thoughts not only affected me but even my children. I always used to beat my children even for the mistakes which they did not do it. Being the youngest in both the families, I had no space to express my feelings and emotions. I felt like being blamed for any actions of others in the family and I had to bear it silently.

Due to the family responsibilities, I could not get opportunity to complete my studies soon after my marriage. As I was above the believed age of attending school, I could not attend to the regular school and had to enrol in a literacy school. When I heard of JRS program, I joined JRS English program and started learning English besides my other school subjects. After joining JRS program and attending in several peace education sessions, I realized transformation in my own behaviour. I was able to manage my anger and reconcile myself with the past. Peace trainings helped me to understand that all the wrongs or rights which happened in my life are not my children's fault. My children need love and support from their mother. I also learned to be forgiving because I cannot go back to my past and change the reality. I now realize that whoever has done wrong to me is already done. My perception to my life has changed and we live as a happy family.





## MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Provision of quality individual, family and community-based services to reduce suffering and improve mental health and psychosocial well-being.

## India-Tamil Nadu

The war in Sri Lanka ended by 2009, However, the refugees still continue to suffer from its trauma. Among the refugee population, 22,243 are children and adolescents. The trauma inherited by the younger generation manifests itself in the form of addiction, mental illness of various sorts, psychosomatic illness, self-sabotage and various forms of violence. Moreover, the number of challenges faced by them in the host country have driven them into a state of despair. The COVID-19 pandemic and the prolonged lockdown have upended their lives and livelihoods. Confinement in tiny, closely built shelters for several months increased their fear of Coronavirus infection and closure of educational institutions till the end of 2020 compounded their woes.

Counselling was offered to children in Complementary Education Centre and also to adults and the elderly. A 10-day long online counselling course was organized with the support of Anugraha, an Institute of Counselling and Psychotherapy, for 18 field officers and 4 project directors. The training enabled them to render psychosocial support to vulnerable families during the COVID-19 pandemic. A webinar on the theme- “Suicide is not a solution for problems” was organized for 22 staff members which enabled them to guide youth in camps. Apart from that, 43 vulnerable people (28 Male and 15 Female) were given financial assistance for medical treatment to ensure physical well-being. Awareness was generated among 5381 adult refugees (753 Male and 4628 Female) about the advantages of reusable anti- microbial sanitary pads which ensure menstrual hygiene among women. This program gave adolescent girls and women in refugee camps the hope of enjoying relief from menstrual stress.



# 5,381

Adult refugees recieved awareness session on advantages of reusable anti- microbial sanitary pads to ensure menstrual hygiene among women.





## I Feel As Though I Have Been Resurrected.

Mrs. Kavitha Vinoth, 38, got separated from her husband, an alcoholic, about 10 years ago. She then stayed with her parents in the Sri Lankan refugee camp in Okkur, Sivagangai district. In 2020, Mrs. Vinoth engaged herself at the camp-based tailoring course run by JRS, during the COVID lockdown. During that course, she also attended a counselling session conducted by JRS Field Officer. Mrs. Vinoth asked for a few more personal counselling sessions during which she spoke of untold physical and mental torture that she had suffered at the hands of her alcoholic husband and her in-laws. After several sessions, Mrs. Kavitha experienced an inner healing and became mentally prepared to reunite with her husband for the sake of her daughter who had been deprived of paternal love and affection.

Meanwhile, the JRS Field Officer tried to meet Mr. Vinoth his chronic addiction had resulted in deterioration of his health. However, he refused to meet the JRS Field Officer despite latter's several attempts. After consistent efforts, he opened up and confessed that he had no peace of mind following his wife's separation. Several rounds of counselling followed and finally, overcome by remorse, he was ready for a change. Mr. Vinoth underwent a de-addiction treatment at a rehabilitation centre in Okkur in the month of September.

Both Mrs. and Mr. Vinoth together attended a few counselling sessions at the end of which they chose to live together from 4th October, 2020. Since then, the couple has been happily living together along with their daughter. Talking to the JRS staffer on the eve of Christmas, Mrs. Vinoth shared, "Thanks to the counselling held by JRS, I have been relieved from decade-long stress and I am happily reunited with my husband." Meanwhile, Mr. Vinoth shared, "I feel as though I have been resurrected. I am extremely happy now. Moreover, I have become more responsible and economically more productive than ever, adding to the joy of my family."

"I feel as though I have been resurrected. I am extremely happy now. Moreover, I have become more responsible and economically more productive than ever, adding to the joy of my family."



## Bangladesh

The Rohingya people have faced decades of systematic discrimination, statelessness and targeted violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar. The continuous persecution has forced Rohingya people into Bangladesh for many years, with significant spikes following violent attacks in 1978, 1991-1992, and again in 2016. Yet it was August 2017 that triggered by far the largest and fastest refugee influx into Bangladesh. It was one of the biggest ethnic cleansing that the world had to witness. To save life from the brutality of the Army and the security force of Myanmar such as rape, death, loss of home, property and dear ones, the Rohingyas had to flee to Bangladesh. Since then, an estimated 7, 45,000 Rohingya's, including more than 400,000 children, .

Thereafter, the vulnerable children Rohingya and adolescents have been going through traumatic situations. In a rapid need assessment study jointly conducted by UNICEF, UNHCR and other child protection partners in 2017, it was found that fifty percent of respondents confirmed that they had noticed signs of distress, changes in children's behaviour in the last three months. The main reasons for these changes included recollection of violence (78% boys, 66% girls), separation from family (44% boys, 32% girls), fear of return (37.7% boys, 33.8% girls), exposure to sexual violence (44% girls, 10% boys) .

Hence it was particularly important to accompany them with psychosocial support. JRS, in collaboration with Caritas Bangladesh, responded to this need by supporting 11 CFS Centers which are upgraded into Multi-Purpose Child and Adolescent Centres (MCAC). Here children have been getting a safe space, healthy environment and psychosocial support in learning how to deal with their life.

The project has been providing direct primary level of Psychosocial Support (PSS) through the caseworkers and the volunteers. If case appears to be serious, the caseworkers refer to a professional psychiatrist. Along with that, an indirect psychosocial support is extended through Essence of Learning (EoL) method where children draw, paint, participate in role-play, learn rhymes, songs, express themselves by telling stories and sharing what they have learnt from the sessions. This is to support children to come out from their traumas. There was a time when children used to draw and play the role of violent scenes. However, now they come up with beauty of nature, society, and the positive things that they learn from sessions. It is to mention that the year 2020 was quite challenging to regulate sessions due to the pandemic. Therefore, JRS/Caritas followed an alternative way where sessions were taken in small groups for an hour or two per day for five days in a week.

All these activities were arranged for the children and the adolescent Rohingyas to support them psychosocially. The project accompanies them so that they can develop trust and hope in each other and may come out from darkness to light. The project achieves smiles that appear on the faces of the Rohingyas.



7, 45,000  
Rohingyas had to flee to Bangladesh  
including more than 400,000 children.





## Kindness & Accompaniment

"When we started living in Camp 4, there was no place for us to play or do anything. I used to spend time sitting or sleeping in our shelter. I was upset and restless as I had nowhere to go or do anything."

Hasina Begum, a child at Kutupalong camp, Bangladesh, has experienced more tragedies and trauma her age can withstand. Hasina required support and accompaniment to come back to her normal life. Through JRS-Caritas's joint collaboration of Multi-Purpose Child and Adolescent Centre (MCAC) project, Hasina was exposed to a friendly environment. After joining the regular sessions at MCAC, she got back her life again as it was shared by her mother Monowara Begum: "I feel so happy to see my daughter smiling and playing again. She can attend the session twice a week, but she wants to do it every day. I can see the same happiness she used to have, back in our village at Myanmar."

The immense happiness and optimism of Hasina Begum can be seen on her bright face. The JRS Caritas interventions ardently wish to continue this rejuvenated flow of learning and growth among the Rohingya children by adapting its activities according to the demand of time and protection trends. The MCAC team wants to see children like Hasina Begum who forgot to smile but got it back through the loving touch of kindness and accompaniment.



## Afghanistan

Decades of violent conflict and multiple displacements have deeply scarred the social, cultural, political and economic domains. Among the forcibly displaced, many are traumatized due to decades of countrywide conflicts. Multiple migration, having one's family uprooted and dispersed, unemployment, grief and exhaustion, lack of basic resources and overwhelming hopelessness easily lead to violence, drug addiction, tensions and hostilities within families and in overcrowded neighbourhoods. Such circumstances, especially over protracted periods, render children, youth and adults vulnerable to becoming losers in every way. Most, if not all need psycho-social care. This is a great challenge for the under-resourced welfare system of Afghanistan. More than half the Afghan population, including many survivors of conflict-related violence, struggle with depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress, but fewer than 10 percent receive adequate psychosocial support from the state, according to government documents. COVID-19 lockdown and the impact of the same on the families and the economy resulted in tremendous psychological impact on the individuals.

Hence, the Psycho-social training was conducted for 213 JRS teachers and staff (118 female and 95 male) in Herat, Kabul, Bamiyan and Daikundi provinces. The trainers were deputed from the International Psycho-Social Organization (IPSO) conducted training sessions in basic counselling skills to help JRS teachers to assist their students affected by traumatic experiences; and to identify serious cases for referral to IPSO's professional counsellors.

The teachers helped their students experience a sense of ease and develop resilience. The IPSO training helped teachers to provide accompaniment and support for the wellbeing of 17,668 students (10,369 female and 7,299 male) in their classes.

JRS COVID-19 response reached out to 7,551 families through ration support and 5,568 individuals (4018 female and 1550 male) in Herat, Kabul, Bamiyan and Daikundi provinces of Afghanistan. The support extended helped in meeting the basic needs of the families, aiding the primary psychosocial care.



# 213

JRS teachers and staff received Psycho-social training in four provinces & provided support to wellbeing of **17,668** students.



## Soman's Story Of Accompaniment

Soman is a 14 years' old girl from Afghanistan studying at JRS courses. Soman shared about the constant headache she suffered, whenever she wanted to study. Her father being the sole breadwinner for a family of 13 members, was not able to afford her treatment and consult a doctor to relieve of her health problem. The amount of income that her father has is not even enough for everyone in the family. Soman's ailment did not allow her to study and gradually lost interest in studies and other work she got involved into. Irrespective of her difficulties, she continued to be regular for her classes but had impacted her performance in classroom, including her relationship with other students. As she found no solution for her difficulty through her father, she approached her teacher to help her to overcome the problem she was facing.

The JRS teachers being accompanied by International Psychosocial Organization (IPSO) and other resource persons, the teacher was able to listen to the student and understand her problem. The approach of the teacher and the practice of confidentiality experienced by the student permitted her to open up frankly and express her mind, which revealed harsh realities experienced by her.

Due to the constraints of safe space in the school, the student expressed her feelings in writing to the teacher. After receiving the support from IPSO counsellors, the teacher was able to assist the student in a professional manner. The constant accompaniment of the teacher with the student increased the trust of the student on the teacher and express herself regularly. While accompanying the student, the teacher practiced principle of confidentiality and professionalism.

The support provided by the teacher helped the student to overcome her problem to a large extent. Soman feels the support provided by her teacher has helped her to concentrate on her studies without the challenge of health concerns, she experienced earlier. Soman continues to fare-well in her studies and enjoys a healthy relation with the other students too.





## EDUCATION & LIVELIHOODS

Delivery of education from early childhood to adult learning, with a special focus on holistic, inclusive education and livelihoods programmes that foster agency, impart valuable skills, and nurture hope.



## India- New Delhi

The COVID -19 pandemic has disrupted the normal lifestyle of people across the globe. Teachers lost their most important asset which was face-to-face contact with students and hands-on learning. For most teachers, the most challenging thing they have had to do is reinventing their curriculum into a new form, using the tools students had access to. During the lockdown, youth volunteers from the Chin and Afghan community were recruited for teaching children from the community through the Remote Learning Program on subjects such as storybooks, general knowledge, computer, practice workbooks, vocabulary, short essays, etc. serving 196 children and youth from the Chin and Afghan communities. The Remote Learning Program engages children in learning activities and provides them as well as their family members with some form of psychosocial support.

The beginning of the lockdown encouraged the collaboration of JRS, New Delhi with Books ForAll- Guzarish NGO to help bridge the educational gaps of refugee children. Through this collaboration, JRS was able to start the Remote Learning Program and open a library corner at the Chin Educational Centre which provides a space for children to learn and develop their skills, brought about a sense of hope and a culture of positive learning. Children were taught to develop a mind of their own and through the flexible curriculum, curiosity was promoted.

JRS also began its collaboration with Jesuit Worldwide Learning in the month of March offering three short- term Professional Courses to the Chin and Afghan community in New Delhi. The JWL Program engages 15 youth and adults from the Chin and Afghan Community and provides them with an opportunity to access free education that supports them and enhances their skills at work and their education.



The Livelihood program in 2020 was shifted from onsite to online program serving 36 women for the tailoring course, 7 students for the cooking and baking and 8 students for the beautician training. Refugees in New Delhi were most affected during the pandemic, since they were dependent on daily wages for their survival forcing them towards poverty and unemployment. During the initial stages of the lockdown, JRS's intervention was to ensure that the skills of the people remain utilized and took steps to help them cope with the challenges. JRS in collaboration with UNHCR and other partner agencies started a campaign called "Give as you take". JRS tailoring women from the Chin and Afghan community worked as a group to produce 25,000 masks for the refugees, Covid-warriors, and the most vulnerable host community members. Through this initiative, we were able to develop a more peaceful and positive relation with police officials, doctors, and the host community in general and encourage a more positive attitude and co-exist better with one another. The host community were able to look at refugees as more than just outsiders or an extra burden but as a group that contributed for a better cause.

The Afghan and Chin tailoring group began their group initiative under "Skilling Circles" producing Pajamas, Christmas ornaments and other home items during the COVID-19 pandemic and contributed to spreading hope and cheer during the times of struggle. Three of JRS's trained women were also referred to Fair Trade Forum-India for micro grant support during the lockdown. This support has not only encouraged positive networking with partner agencies but provided a platform for women to be able to sustain themselves and contribute to the sustainability of their community and the host community.



## A Story Of Hope And Resilience...

Tor Pekai is a girl from Afghanistan who missed out on the freedom of enjoying the beauty of life like other children of her age, given the dangerous circumstances in Afghanistan. She began her journey with JRS Afghanistan in the year 2013, by studying English. For her, that was the beginning of a life of hope. She spent time learning English and got a chance to engage and know how other children of her age were. As time passed, she and her family were forced to leave Afghanistan and begin their life as a refugee in New Delhi, India, forcing her to give away what she had just embraced and take up adult like responsibilities. Having sold everything they owned, starting a new life was rough for her and her family. Though she continued with her studies from BOSCO, she wanted to be independent and render support to her family.

Tor Pekai and her mother joined the JRS Tailoring and Embroidery class in 2019. She was an enthusiastic student who wanted to learn and grow personally and professionally, a student so cheerful and strong and this personality helped her to excel during her training. After a year of training, she was the first student who was referred to Fair Trade Forum India for a micro grant support and now Tor Pekai is able to use her skill to earn a living for her family. She now trains her younger siblings in embroidery and with their help she is able to expand her business. With the micro grant support, she feels a sense of accomplishment and pride that she is capable of building herself up and at the same time support her family and become self-reliant. Tor Pekai shares, "JRS gave me wings to fly and reach my potential."

"JRS gave me wings to fly  
and reach my potential."





## India- Tamil Nadu

37% of the Sri Lankan refugees in the camps are aged below 17 years. 80% of the children in camps study in Government schools. They do not have a conducive atmosphere for them to study seriously at home. They also require adult support for completing their homework. JRS Complementary Education Centres (CECs) offer a safe space for children to improve their skills for academic excellence and extracurricular activities. 4099 Children (2092 Male and 2007 Female) benefitted from regular CECs in 90 camps with the support of 159 teachers. Provision of school tuition fee to 20 students and college tuition fee to 105 students enabled them to continue their studies even during the COVID-19 pandemic through virtual classes. Having undergone Tamil medium schooling, the refugee students had difficulty following the English medium courses at the college level.

To enhance their English communication skills, ten-day-long online English training programs were organized for 86 youth (16 Male and 70 Female) and twenty-day-long camp-level English coaching classes were conducted for 233 college students (71 Male and 162 Female) and higher-grade students. A six-month-long intensive English training program is being conducted for 84 students in four camps. These trainees, in turn, will support the English language learning of CE children in their respective camps. Sessions on career counselling enabled 152 college students to set their goal towards academic excellence and dignified life, and to tap and utilize resources and opportunities around them. Technical tuition fees provided to 59 students provided them aid to continue/complete their diploma and technical courses.

1,512 young adults and women were offered livelihood training to improve their skills in tailoring, embroidery, beauty treatment, making disinfectants, eatables and bags. 45 women were empowered as social entrepreneurs to generate sustainable income through the production of reusable sanitary pads in three camps. Women in the refugee community have built good rapport with host community women and this enabled them to sell their products in shops and villages.

4,099

Children both male & female benefitted from regular CECs in 90 camps.



### Mrs. Graicy Uthayadhasan's Story of Empowerment

During the months following the COVID lockdown, life was at a low ebb for Mrs. Graicy Uthayadhasan (28) and her family at Thumbalahalli Dam refugee camp, Krishnagiri district. Her husband, a daily wage earner was unable to find a job back then and with little money in hand, they had a tough time feeding their three sons, all aged below 5 years. The young couple was on the verge of depression.

In July 2020, JRS launched a three-month-long, camp-based training program in tailoring, with Mrs. Graicy being one of the trainees. She was an ardent and quick learner. However, she had no sewing machine of her own to practice the skills that were taught. Seeing her interest, one of her kind neighbours allowed Mrs. Graicy to use her machine for practice. Impressed by her workmanship, the neighbour gave her some of the stitching orders that she had received from her clients. Thus, during the second month of her training, Mrs. Graicy started earning about Rs 500 per week. By the end of September 2020, when the training was concluded, Mrs. Graicy became an accomplished tailor.

Advised by her neighbor, Mrs. Graicy took a loan and bought a sewing machine of her own in October. She threw her heart and soul into her work. Soon, her workmanship brought many clients from the host community as well. She managed to repay her loan by the end of December. Talking of her new capability, Mrs. Graicy says, "Thanks to JRS training, I have acquired new skills which I could hone to perfection; I have become self-employed and gainfully so, to the point of earning Rs 10,000 a month and above all else, I have helped my family break free of the lockdown-induced depression. I am astonished at what I have become now, an empowered person."



## Bangladesh

Globally, refugee children are twice as likely to be out of school as other children. For Rohingya refugee children, this disparity is even more severe. Over 3,26,000 Rohingya refugee children (ages 0–18), adolescents (ages 10–19) and youth (ages 15–24) are in need of education services, including early childhood development (ECD), basic education, and youth vocational training. Approximately 83 percent of adolescents and youth in Cox’s Bazar have no access to any educational or skills development activities – many of whom have already had their educational development interrupted by displacement from Myanmar .

The JRS/-/Caritas Multi-purpose Child and Adolescent Centre program is providing life-skill trainings mainly for the female Rohingya adolescents. The students are generated awareness about various forms of abuse, gender discrimination, child marriage, physical changes that happen after child marriage and also the COVID-19 pandemic. At this stage of life, it is very important for a person to know about oneself. The knowledge that was gained from the various sessions has been helping the adolescents to cope with life. Gladly, now the students have learnt to say ‘NO’ to child marriage. The adolescent girls are able to comprehend wrong behaviour/act in case they are being sexually harassed, abused and trafficked.

Beside these sessions, the project has been rendering vocational training for adolescent girls. The girls are able to produce hundreds of face masks during the pandemic. Now, they can also make hand fans to earn their livelihood. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MCACs were closed but the adolescents had their vocational training in small groups of four to five in which the vocational instructors used to choose the houses of one of the adolescents to conduct the session. JRS-Caritas is providing informal education and trainings for children and vocational training for adolescents to make them self-reliant and empowered.



### Now I Feel I Can Do Something In Life

Mohammad Ayub’s family had a bad time getting a proper shelter in the camps. For the first two months, they lived in a tent near Balukhali area which was soon washed away by heavy rain. The family then moved to Camp 7 but misfortune did not leave them there. Land slide destroyed their shelter and eventually they were moved to Camp 4 Extension. As one asked Mohammad, who is 4, about his areas of interest in studies,

he shared, “I wasn’t interested about studies much. I was happy learning Arabic. My siblings used to go to schools but I preferred spending time with my friends after my Arabic lessons. After coming to Camp 4 Extension, I didn’t even join the learning centres because I didn’t like studying. However, as I begin to attend the Multi-purpose Child and Adolescent Centre (MCAC) awareness sessions, I was moved by Apa, (facilitator) the way she told us that one can change life in a better way, can have a job and will be able to gain the knowledge of the world if he/she becomes educated. Then onwards, I begin to realize the importance of education that motivated me to joined a learning centre and started taking private tuition.”

Besides the awareness class, one had to motivate him to realize the importance of education and its positive effects. Mohammad finally shared, “Now I feel I can do something in life. I want to learn some vocational skills so that in future I can earn a living and live a decent life.”The team has plans to start skill building activities more elaborately and capacitate such youth (male adolescents) like Ayub.



## Afghanistan

Among the 3.7 million children out of school, 2.2 million are school-aged girls. The education for children of the returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) have much higher percentage of drop out of school children. The main issue with the children of these families has been reconnecting or joining the mainstream education system, not so much at the elementary levels but at the high school and post-high school levels. The remoteness of the locations, poor infrastructure and the attacks on the education institutes have been a cause of concern for lower literacy rate and out of school students. The substandard quality of education adds to the lack of interest among the students.

In Afghanistan, ensuring opportunities for gainful employment remains one of Afghanistan's biggest challenges for the young population. Almost three-quarters of the Afghan population live below or close to the poverty line (USD 2/day). On average 25% of Afghanistan's potential labour force is unemployed, and 80% of employment is vulnerable and insecure, day labour or unpaid work, as job creation has been unable to keep up with population growth.

The Education interventions of JRS AFG has impacted the secondary and higher education sectors. The intervention in training students in English and Computer education has built up the confidence among the youth to access higher education opportunities in Afghanistan as well as abroad. The Konkur examination preparation provided the students in remote locations opportunities to qualify for the University studies in Afghanistan. The online/onsite education, Each One Teach Some (EOTS) and allied program have helped in building the capacity of the students in initiating the community interventions. Radio broadcasting of education resources was an alternative to online education provided by JRS AFG during the COVID-19 lockdown. Through the JRS education programs 17,668 students (10,369 female and 7,299 male) have enriched their capacities in various fields.

The interventions in field of livelihoods provided economic opportunities for the youth/adults from Afghan communities. The trainings in building up the capacity were provided to the Herat Technical School (HTI) staff and students through industrial demand-based trainings, kitchen garden training in Daikundi and Kabul, skilling and business training for men/women in Herat, Kabul, Bamiyan and Daikundi. In addition, female students were provided education support for higher education and professional skill development in midwifery, nursing, medicine, computers etc. A total of 897 individuals (292 male 605 female) benefitted from the livelihood programs.



# 17,668

students have enriched their capacities in various fields through JRS education programs.





## I Came With Lots Of Hopes And Aspiration

Fazluddin Mawododi was born in Musafir, a small village of Herat province, in a farmer's family of 7 siblings. Fazluddin studied till grade 9, while helping his father in his agricultural work every day. At home, from an early age, he was fascinated by electrical works and fixing solar panels at home.

Fazluddin cleared the entrance exam, and studied at HTI from grade 10 to 14, through the support of his elder brother. He shares, "Moving from the village to Herat city was a big change for me and my family. I came with lots of hopes and aspirations," he shares.

It was difficult for his father to support the large family, hence Fazluddin had to work while he studied. He worked with a property dealer as an office helper- cooking and cleaning for the office employees. Due to financial constraints, he could not afford to appear for Konkur examination. After grade 12, all of his family members, except his mother, pushed him to discontinue his studies and work full time so that he could support his family. She recognized his interest and urged him to continue studying and make a life for himself. He completed his studies through the work undertaken through the basic electrical knowledge he had and some monetary support from his brother.

After graduating from grade 14, Fazluddin went home for a month, which he describes as 'one of the longest months of his life'. He explains, "I wanted to work and support my family but at HTI we were taught theory in the classroom, hence no companies were ready to employ me. I was heartbroken and then decided to work in a restaurant to earn something." Fazluddiin worked in the restaurant for the next four months, until he could get a month's stipend and could learn from practical experience from the experts at German Medical Service workshop in Kabul through the education support offered by JRS.

"I have learned many things in this month and, most importantly, I have learnt from a professional in the field. I cannot thank JRS enough for this opportunity. It has helped me and my whole family by connecting me to industrial expert". Fazluddin estimates that after a probation period of three months in any electric company he would earn 20-25,000 Afghani per month.

"Moving from the village to Herat city was a big change for me and my family. I came with lots of hopes and aspirations."





## ADVOCACY

Improvement of practices, policies, and legislation to ensure the respect and fulfilment of the rights of forcibly displaced persons, to provide needed protection, and to promote the common good.



## India- Tamil Nadu

The Sri Lankan Tamils are the second largest refugee community living in India. They are primarily survivors of the ethnic violence that broke out in mid-1980s. In the host community too, they suffer from social exclusion and economic deprivation. Despite three decades of their stay in India and several appeals from the social, political and legal affiliates on behalf of the Sri Lankan refugees, the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA 2019) belied their hopes for Indian citizenship. Even those born and bred in India for three decades have not found themselves within the ambit of the new Citizenship law. Such legal exclusion has deepened the despair among the Sri Lankan refugees who fear deportation. On the other hand, the socio-political situation in the island has not made repatriation an attractive proposition for them. Even those who sought to return to Sri Lanka were stranded on account of COVID-19 lockdown. Between January and March 2020, only 196 Sri Lankan refugees were repatriated, according to a UNHCR Officer in Chennai.

A state-level consultation was organized with parliamentarians to sustain the Sri Lankan refugees' claim for durable solutions. Moreover, advocacy efforts were undertaken to ensure decent living conditions in the camps. 561 people (218 Male and 343 Female) were helped gain knowledge about their rights, Government schemes, local resources for their development and upliftment. 1573 refugees (644 Male and 929 Female) were enabled to raise their concerns and seek redressal from Government officials through 33 interface meetings organized at camp, cluster and district level. As the significant outcome these meetings, medical camps for identifying cases of COVID infection were conducted to the benefit of 5828 refugees in 22 refugee camps.

Moreover, sanitation of the refugee camps was regularly performed by government staff during COVID. Besides, 37 refugees were re-registered in the camps and 101 individuals (72 Male and 29 Female) received driving license. In collaboration with LISSTAR, a monthly E-Magazine "RAFT" was published and circulated among academicians and human rights activists. As an advocacy initiative, a book titled "Natural Integration" was published on 9th December, 2020.



### Interface Meeting, A Platform For Effective Redressal

About 189 Sri Lankan families have been living at Thumbalahalli Dam refugee camp, in the district of Krishnagiri for more than 20 years. As refugees, they have been provided with rice, pulses, edible oil, sugar and wheat through the Public Distribution System (PDS) every month on particular dates. But they had a problem, the PDS outlet being in Thumbalahalli Village, which is inhabited by the members of the host community. With no public transport services available between the camp and the PDS outlet, the refugees including senior citizens, widows and mothers with infants, had to walk about two kilometres, to and fro, on a muddy road to collect their ration from the PDS. During rainy season, the muddy road would cause a lot of inconvenience for the refugees who would be carrying headloads of the rationed-out materials.

The Head of Thumbalahalli Dam refugee camp tried his best to express this issue to the government officers at the time of camp visit but couldn't achieve it. In this state, the leader and the camp committee members on behalf of Thumbalahalli Dam made appeal in the Interface meeting which was arranged by JRS field officer in the presence of 36 government officers, on 10th March, 2020 to the Revenue inspector of Thumbalahalli, Krishnagiri district, asking for opening a PDS outlet inside the camp itself. They promised to consider their demand. The refugees' demand was heard, indeed. As a result, the refugees have been receiving their ration from within the Thumbalahalli camp itself, through the mobile ration shop, every Thursday, with effect from August 2020. Commenting on this outcome of the Interface Meeting, Mr. Gracian (40), leader of Thumbalahalli camp, happily stated, "Thankfully, our ordeal of twenty years has been brought to an end. The Interface Meetings organised by JRS gave us a platform to raise our concerns and demands. The meetings were so well moderated that the officers heard our demands patiently and favourably. On behalf of my people, I thank JRS for its effective advocacy efforts in favour of our wellbeing."



## Bangladesh

Having gone through severe persecution and torture by the Myanmar police and military, this ethnic community fled to Bangladesh in 2017. Different NGOs and Governmental Organizations rushed to Cox's Bazar to render their helping hand with basic humanitarian aids like food, shelter, sanitary articles, medicine, informal education and psychosocial supports. JRS-Caritas Bangladesh came forward with psychosocial support to children and adolescents and also to advocate their issues through CFS (Child Friendly Space) or MCAC (Multi-purpose Child and Adolescent Centre) project. This protection and advocacy are done for these children by project caseworker and case management volunteers. The most vulnerable ones in the Rohingya camps are children and adolescents. They are at heightened risk and need protection. The children often get lost in the mega camps. The adolescent girls are mostly the victims of sexual harassment, child marriage and even child trafficking. There is gender-based violence taking place in the Rohingya families as well. Furthermore, child labour is less noticeable now.

The JRS funded MCAC project plays a vital role in identifying such issues of children and do the needful. For instance, if the caseworkers find any lost child, they immediately inform the CiC (Camp in Charge) and the office informs all the respective blocks in the camp about that particular child. The caseworker has to keep that particular child to a foster family until they find a legal guardian of the child. Moreover, if any legal issues appear related to sexual harassment, child trafficking or any other serious child based issues, the project caseworkers approach the CiC and inform the police as well. The project also helps to negotiate certain needs or requests with CiC for the betterment of the Rohingyas. The caseworks follow up their cases, and if any issue is found out beyond their reach, they refer to the other agency that is working in the camp. There are Rohingyas who, sometimes, are not sure where to approach for a particular need. Therefore, the MCAC caseworks lead them to the appropriate agency. It is to highlight that the MCAC caseworkers are considered the frontline soldiers for protection of the Rohingya children.

All these activities are to ensure the protection of the Rohingya children and the adolescents from heightened risk. The Rohingya children and adolescent girls may have a safe and secure life. The Rohingya community may get their necessary and basic needs to cope with life. This is all about the aspect of the advocacy rendered by the JRS-Caritas MCAC project.



Mr. Ali Mia, 37, is an old sub-block leader in Camp 4 Multi-purpose Child and Adolescent Centre area. He is a responsible and hardworking Community Based Child Protection (CBCP) committee member. Mr. Ali came to Bangladesh in the year 2017, during the influx.

Mr. Ali was very anxious about children's safety, security and well-being as the MCAC had to shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic. He felt the importance of accompaniment and learning provided by MCAC and requested to the MCAC authority if there was a possibility to reopen the MCAC Centres as he addressed, "Please open the MCAC centre and take care of our children's future and well-being because children have nothing to do in the house. Therefore, it is affecting them badly."

After listing such plea, the MCAC core staff called for a CBCP meeting where all members agreed on reopening the MCAC and requested to MCAC core team whether there was a way to reopen the centres. After that, the Project Coordinator applied to the Camp in Charge (CiC) office authority to consider the community's request. As the community request was addressed to CiC office, they permitted on January, 2021 to reopen the MCAC centres on the condition to follow all the COVID-19 protocol. It was a great success for the MCAC project where it could advocate for the betterment of Rohingya children.





## EMERGENCY AID

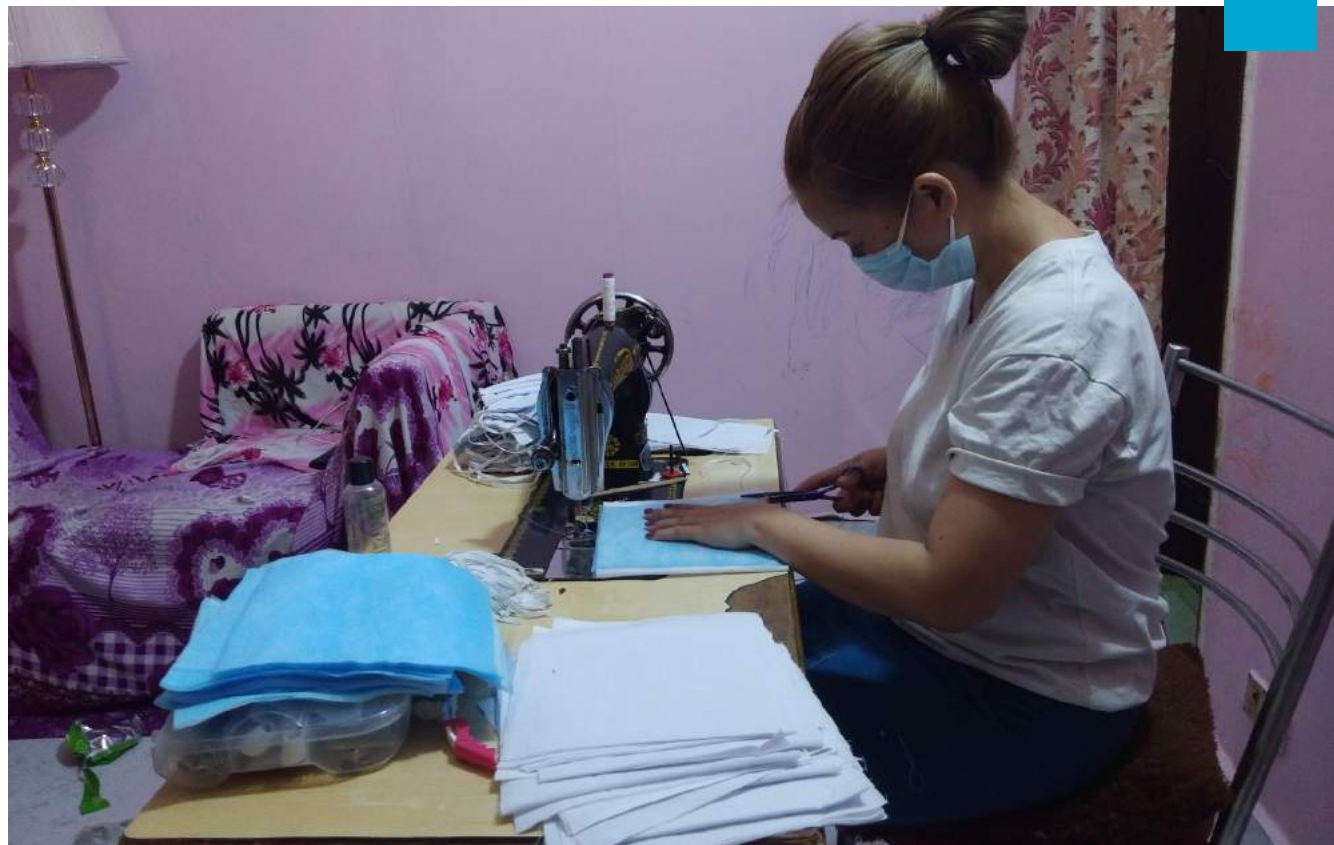


## COVID-19 Emergency Response - New Delhi

Delhi accommodates refugees in the most overcrowded and unhygienic localities. The unhygienic conditions in which the refugees live was a major cause of concern, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the overloaded medical facilities, risk of visiting crowded hospitals and lack of finances, the refugees, more than others, found it exceedingly difficult to take necessary precautions and maintain hygiene. They lacked access to basic hygiene kits to keep themselves safe in the COVID-19 pandemic. JRS provided 149 women/girls with sanitary pads (combo pack), hand-wash to 230 families, towels to 148 adolescent girls and mosquito nets to 110 families.

The loss of daily wages has resulted in increased pressure on the families to meet their basic needs. The recurrent expenses, such as accommodation rent, electricity and water charges, were to be paid irrespective of the income of the families. Refugees, who are living from hand-to-mouth, have depleted their minimum savings, if any. 116 families among the Chin and Afghan refugees, especially widows, received financial assistance of Rs 2,500 per family. This assistance helped the families to meet their most basic needs.

While rendering support with the restricted movement, the urban refugee project highlighted the importance of effective and efficient emergency responses through collective efforts led by the refugee community leaders themselves.



Elaha Dawoodi has been living in India for more than 8 years as a refugee. She is one of the beneficiaries of JRS, her first encounter being in October 2019, where she was enrolled with the tailoring class at the Afghan Centre in Bhogal. Elaha has gone through challenging times since she moved to India. She has 8 children, the eldest one being 21 years old and the youngest 2 and half years old.

Providing food and support to her family was not an easy task for Elaha and her husband since her husband was working as a cleaner in a guest house and the amount he was being paid was just enough to pay their monthly rent and to purchase some ration to survive. They were somehow satisfied with their life until the outbreak of COVID-19. Like many who lost their jobs and means of income, Elaha's husband too lost his monthly income due to the COVID-19 lockdown. With the loss of employment, she and her family were forced to shift their house since they did not have the capacity to pay their house rent. They also found it challenging to get another house as landlords were unwilling to rent them because of their large family size. Her family was left hopeless and disappointed at home till the time they received dry ration and rent support from JRS. Elaha shares that if they hadn't received the dry ration support during lockdown, they would not have been able to survive. She says that with JRS's support she and her family were able to cope during the challenging times and felt more secure since their basic needs were met.

Khadija, an Afghan refugee woman also shares her testimony about JRS's accompaniment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Khadija has a family of 11, among whom five are young women. As shared by Khadija, providing basic support for hygiene to all had become very difficult, especially due to loss of income. The ration support by JRS provided them with necessary food, while the sanitary pads and towels helped to maintain hygiene and stay healthy during the pandemic.



## COVID-19 Emergency Response - Tamil Nadu

On 24th March 2020, in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak, the Government of India enforced a nationwide lockdown. It had been initially announced that the lockdown would be in force only for a period of 21 days. But the lockdown was repeatedly extended to last till the end of 2020. Confined to closely built shelters that shared common walls, having to use common toilets, having to jostle for collecting water from common taps, and deprived of their livelihoods for months on end, the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in the camps feared that their vulnerability was compounded by the lockdown. The closure of schools and colleges left thousands of refugee students overly anguished over their inability to access formal education even till the end of the year 2020.

In this context, when the entire world remained crippled, JRS demonstrated its resilience and started catering to the COVID-induced needs of the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in the camps, from the first week of April 2020. Awareness programs educating the refugee community about ways of preventing COVID were regularly conducted to the benefit of 4099 Children (2092 Male and 2007 Female), 1085 youth (533 Male and 552 Female) and 5589 adult members (1318 Male and 4271 Female).

By the end of May 2020, about 19,425 refugees and 11,403 host community people were given double-layered reusable facemasks as a preventive measure. In the following months, blankets were distributed to 4020 elders who were susceptible to infection. Inputs on COVID prevention methods and pre-natal care, through pre-recorded videos and webinars enabled 947 elders and 716 pregnant women to safeguard themselves from infection and to maintain good health during COVID-19. Also, 4819 children were provided with hygiene kits to safeguard themselves from infection by maintaining personal hygiene. 1559 deserving families in remote camps were given healthy nutrition ensuring their physical and mental health. 56 protective 3D face shields, shared by Ms. Maria Mancinelli, the JRS Philanthropy Officer in Italy, were distributed to the Teachers and youth volunteers in the refugee camps in Dindigul district. An online Art-for-Peace workshop was conducted for 6 refugee youth, between 19th and 23rd May, 2020. The workshop helped the youth overcome their COVID-related stress. Complementary Education Teachers were offered a two-hour session on managing mental stress. This training assisted them to handle and guide children during this pandemic.



19,425  
refugees and 11,403 host community  
were given double-layered reusable facemasks.



## COVID-19 Emergency Response - Afghanistan

Almost three-quarters of the Afghan population live on less than a dollar a day, which barely meets basic needs. –COVID-19 pandemic posed a grave challenge to the country struggling with deep-seated poverty. Prices of food and daily necessities continued to rise. This had serious implications for the wellbeing of vulnerable people, most of whom have lost their income due to the lockdown. JRS envisions a world where refugees live with dignity, obtain protection, are provided opportunities, and participate in working towards durable solutions to determine their future. As a Jesuit organization, JRS is never content with the status quo and is constantly driven to discover, redefine, and reach out to new frontiers through collaboration, which is at the heart of all Jesuit mission.

JRS and local NGO partners have raised funds from local businessmen/leaders for COVID-19 Emergency Response Hamrohi darsharayid dushwor (Accompanying in difficult times). – Staffs themselves have contributed as a token of sharing their bread with the hungry, during the holy season of Ramadan.

JRS organized awareness campaigns and provided food rations to over 10,000 vulnerable families in Herat, Kabul, Bamiyan and Daikundi. In Herat, a pandemic epicentre, JRS provided much-needed PPE for frontline health workers and medicines for government COVID-19 clinics. The total lockdown, due to the pandemic, deprived students of access to regular education programs. Drawing from long experience in online training, JRS AFG provided staff/students access to a variety of short-term online courses, partnering with Jesuit Worldwide Learning (Geneva), Gonzaga University (USA), St. Aloysius College (Mangalore), Ripple Effects (USA), Wadhvani Foundation (India) etc. To support many students without smart devices for online access, JRS launched an innovative radio-broadcast program so that staff/students in remote areas could also continue their studies during the lockdown.

Collaboration is key to the JRS AFG response to the COVID-19 pandemic that affects us all and calls us to work together to make a difference in the lives of people at the margins, ensuring no one is left behind.

**10,000**  
vulnerable families in Herat, Kabul,  
Bamiyan and Daikundi were  
provided with food rations .

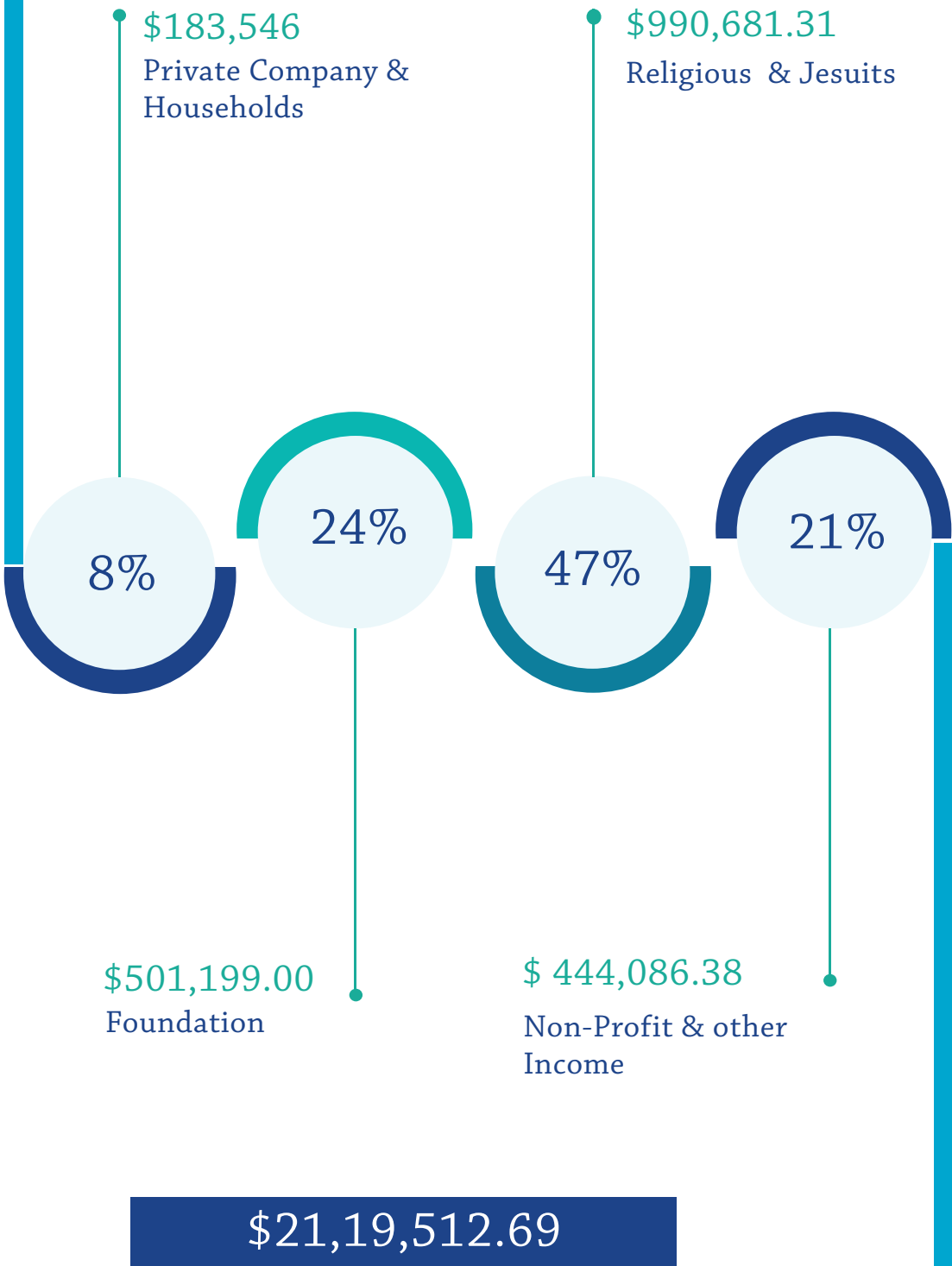


Zahra lost her husband 3 months ago, and lives with her family of 11, in a dilapidated house. Working as a house maid to support her family, she shared her struggle to make ends meet. Unfortunately, compounding the misery of Corona, another tragedy befell my family. Early morning on April 18, when everyone was asleep, the ceiling and wall of a room collapsed on my son, daughter-in-law and their baby, who were all buried under the rubble. My son survived, but his wife and baby did not. We have no income now, and with our whole family hungry, the JRS food-rations are a God-send and will provide us a meal for some days.





# Financial Summary

## Source of Income



# Program Expenditure

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <div>16%</div> <div>  <div>Emergency Aid &amp; health</div> </div> <div>\$289,698.37</div> | <div>55%</div> <div>  <div>Education &amp; Livelihoods</div> </div> <div>\$ 1,060,170</div> |
| <div>4%</div> <div>  <div>Psychosocial Support</div> </div> <div>\$12,534.06</div>       | <div>10%</div> <div>  <div>Advocacy</div> </div> <div>\$180,211.28</div>                  |
| <div>1%</div> <div>  <div>Peace &amp; Reconciliation</div> </div> <div>\$3,303.40</div>  | <div>14%</div> <div>  <div>ISP</div> </div> <div>\$275,308.23</div>                       |







ACCOMPANY

SERVE

ADVOCATE

# Annual Report 2020

