

# 2021



# ANNUAL REPORT



SOUTH  
ASIA

JESUIT REUGEE SERVICE





## Message from the Regional Director

Dear All,

I am glad that JRS-SAS is ready to share its Annual Report 2021 with you in honor of thousands of IDPs, Asylum seekers, and Refugees who displayed their courage and resilience amidst their tribulations, especially during the 2nd wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in South Asia.

The year 2021 posed many challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and natural calamities which offered us opportunities to learn to care for one another, support, and reach out to our refugee brothers and sisters and IDPs. We are committed to build a bright future for the neediest people and accept God's ultimate plan of taking a decisive stand for our people. We recognize the values, the capacity, and their contribution not only as beneficiaries but as stakeholders and collaborators. We are indebted to all our partners, collaborators, funding agencies, and volunteers who have been our source of support and motivation in our mission during the year.

The population of refugees keeps increasing every year in the world and people are forced to seek asylum due to persecution and war. There are 100 million forcefully displaced people worldwide and half of them consist of children below the age of 18 years. However, only 50% have access to primary education and 25% to secondary education. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, India hosts 2,16,676 refugees and asylum seekers including Afghan, Burmese, and Sri Lankan refugees.

15<sup>th</sup> of August was marked, in Afghanistan, the anniversary of the Taliban takeover and we witness shocking levels of suffering owing to economic sanctions. Children and women are the most affected groups reeling under extreme poverty visibly noticed on the street and marketplaces begging. Youth have lost hope for a better future. Amidst this dark reality, the NGOs' and INGOs' presence and their efforts in reaching out to the people with emergency humanitarian aid, health services, and educational activities have rekindled hope in the people of Afghanistan. JRS-Afghanistan has resumed its mission of serving the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Afghanistan.

JRS-SAS continues to work with the refugees and forcefully displaced people in South Asia with the mission of accompaniment, service, and advocacy for healing, fostering peace and reconciliation, and instilling hope in their life. As Pope Francis suggests that in order to build the future of the migrant and refugees, we need to build the future today with the kingdom values of justice, fraternity, and peace. In order to accomplish this, one needs to dedicate oneself and join hands with all the people of goodwill irrespective of their nationality, religions, and cultures.

As we are aware of the war and conflict situation in South Asia and around the world, we especially remember the victims of the Russia-Ukraine war, poverty-stricken IDPs of Afghanistan, and wounded, battered, and traumatized refugees from Myanmar facing innumerable problems and untold sufferings. We condemn the violence and wars that force people to flee their countries. We pledge to express our solidarity with the suffering vulnerable refugees and help them in all possible ways to keep their dreams alive, heal their wounds to build a world where no one is left behind, and lead life with dignity, peace, and harmony.

Stephen Raj, SJ  
Regional Director,  
JRS South Asia





A Rohingya girl benefited from drawing sessions; feels content, Bangladesh

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Sri Lankan Tamil refugee girls attending an outdoor activity, Tamil Nadu

## 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 of seeking refuge abroad.

JRS is engaged in 57 countries, working for the wellbeing and hope of refugees and promoting education and livelihood programs to provide opportunities for integration into host communities.



Chin refugee students at Complementary Class, JRS centre Delhi

## Our Context

While climate change, natural disasters, Covid-19, unjust economic policies, and poor governance contribute to forced displacement, but the main factor continues to be conflict and human violence, which is 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 to access education and earn 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 refugees and other policies away from globalized justice and human rights. Therefore, the need for protection is 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.



## Priorities and Goals

### Reconciliation

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

### Mental Health & Psychosocial Support

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

### Education & Livelihoods

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

### 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.



Chin refugees with centre coordinators on JRS Day, Delhi



Afghan women attending Skilling Circle - Urban Refugee project



Chin refugee students during Peace Session, JRS centre Delhi



An instructor teaching a Rohingya girl how to sticht in Bangladesh



## Overview

Enforcement of stratocracy and armed violence in Myanmar and Afghanistan caused serious human rights violations in 2021. Several families fearing persecution fled to neighbouring countries including India. While Chins mostly landed in Indo-Myanmar border states, Afghans are in the suburbs of the Delhi metropolitan. But a few Chin families also risked journeying to Delhi in the hope to obtain refugee status and resettlement from UNHCR India. Delhi has been sheltering large Myanmar and Afghanistan nationals for over two decades. UNHCR has registered 42,882 refugees and Asylum-seekers in Delhi mainly from Afghanistan (15,402) and Myanmar (23,478). The Educational and livelihood needs of these Chins & Afghans largely remain unmet; they are barely recognized by India's legal framework. Poor access to formal education, overall low literacy rate, lack of marketable technical skills & organized employment, poor life quality in choked suburban colonies and shelter, high living costs, language barrier, and increasing xenophobic sentiments in the host country are some of several challenges that they face.

Their anxiety is heightened due to increasing school dropout cases, exploitation at menial job sites, sustained poverty, and frequent refugee rights abuse. Covid-19 pandemic has intensified refugee woes who largely survive on daily-wage and scarce resources. Without identity documents, they fear as well struggle to avail Covid-19 emergency public health services and state-sponsored relief schemes especially announced for impoverished families.

JRS Urban Refugee (UR) project continues to offer rehabilitation support to the ultra-vulnerable Chin and Afghan refugees in the domain of Education, Livelihood, Reconciliation, & Emergency Aid. Two community-based JRS learning centres each near Chin & Afghan neighbourhoods', primarily managed by JRS trained staff from the respective refugee community, accompany the refugee children, youth, and women who are likely to face exploitation and abuse otherwise.

The Sri Lankan-Tamil survivors of Sri Lanka's ethnic war have taken refuge in confined camps spread across the Tamil Nadu state in India. They have been living under high official surveillance in these 108 camps for over three decades. Yet, frowned upon as 'illegal immigrants' or stateless. Local integration remains a distant dream for them, and their exclusion from the purview of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA-2019) deepened their isolation and hopelessness. Several traumas endured by them continue to afflict their successive generations in multiple ways. The Tamil Nadu state Rehabilitation Commission reported the presence of 58,669 Sri Lankan Tamils, including 37% children, in these camps.

Besides, 37,160 of them live in the host community but they are also vulnerable in absence of legal status. The state government offers them meagre shelter, dry ration, senior citizens' pension, scholarship, basic medical, and cash dole support. Children mostly attend government schools but lack conducive space and mentoring support inside camps for self-study. Limited legal rights do not allow even qualified persons to get professional employment. Underemployment, acute poverty, lack of access to skilling opportunities, denial of access to licensed professional higher education, and behaviour disorder rooted in psychosocial distress are some prolonged concerns among them. These factors were worsened post Covid-19 as greater camp population relied on daily wages lost livelihood affecting their capacity to fulfil their needs.

JRS Tamil Nadu (TN) accompanies the refugees across 106 camps through Education, Livelihood, Reconciliation, Mental Health & Psychosocial, Advocacy, and Emergency Aid programs. The programs primarily focus on children, women, and youth members of the community in the camps whose well-being is highly imperilled by the protracted refugee situation.

## Our Presence



### People Served by Programme:



**27,038**

Reconciliation



**16,481**

Mental Health &  
Psychosocial Support



**24,621**

Education &  
Livelihoods



**16,474**

Health & Emergency  
Aid



**879**

Advocacy, Protection &  
Legal Advice



# Section 1

## Reconciliation



International Day of Peace celebration with Chin Refugee children in Delhi

### Delhi, India

JRS Peace & Reconciliation program successfully reached out to 101 Chin refugee children (44 male and 57 female) through peace sessions, mutual sharing, and recreational activities guided by JRS International Office (IO) Peace Manual. Consequently, Chin children developed an understanding of multi-culturalism and harmonious co-existence. Children were able to practice values that promote bonding among themselves and with the host community. They were also encouraged to reflect on their bond with the host community peers to address communal misunderstandings and refugee stereotyp. Peace sessions actively engage children and young adults who are likely to face abuse or racial discrimination in the host community. Similarly, children with trauma-induced behavioral issues were also welcomed to enable their resilience building.

The Children and Youth Peace Club is active now; they come forward to organize community events, especially on International Peace Day. JRS intervention is creating an environment of love, trust, and understanding among the Chin community through children who are budding agents of change.

101 children & youth were served under the Reconciliation program

## Towards a better tomorrow



Elizabeth Sinaing, Chin Refugee girl

8-year-old Elizabeth Sinaing is a Chin Refugee girl studying in class 2<sup>nd</sup> and lives in Delhi with her mother and 2 siblings. Elizabeth enjoys going to school and learning. Due to the lockdown, children of her age are still continuing their classes online but she finds it difficult to concentrate in virtual classes.

From August 2021, JRS initiated Complementary Education Classes for students like Elizabeth. She is very active in the JRS programs and the classes have helped her with developing coping mechanism and have brought back her interest in learning. Apart from this, she loves helping her mom with cooking and watering the plants. Elizabeth dreams of becoming a Police Inspector one day because she believes that would make world a better place and that shall allow children and families to live in peace.

During the International Peace Day-Sports Meet, organized by the JRS Peace Club at the nearby park, Elizabeth and other children had a wonderful time playing and eating together. Moreover, after the event was over, she started tidying the place and made sure no trash was left unattended making her playground clean and tidy. The innocent girl was unaware of the fact that people were observing her responsible behaviour, thus, she was given a special prize for being an inspiration to many children and staff.





International Peace Day was observed by Sri Lankan Tamil refugee children in Tamil Nadu camps

## Tamil Nadu, India

JRS Tamil Nadu (JRS-TN) Peace and Reconciliation program successfully invited the participation of 3,394 children (1,740 male and 1,654 female) and 1,427 youth (630 male and 797 female), attendees from JRS Complementary Education Centres (CECs) and Youth Clubs in 82 camps. Through them, JRS extended its reconciliation service to 2,224 adults (399 male and 1,825 female) in these camps including women, elderly, and other vulnerable adults. Similarly, 1,203 school children (630 male and 573 female) and 3,764 adults (1,140 male and 2,624 female) from eight host community villages close to camps actively engaged in Peace Sessions that focuses to promote social cohesion.

Efficient delivery of peace sessions to vulnerable groups was ensured by organizing periodic training for CEC teachers and field staff (who are refugee) as well as core project staff, in cooperation with JRS IO Reconciliation Department and the JRS IO trained JRS TN Peace Educator. Consequently, the younger generation of Sri Lankan Tamils is empowered to initiate trauma healing among themselves and their families. This has encouraged behavioural practices and thought processes that are expected to break the vicious cycle of violence and communal hostility. Host communities which are close to camps are aware of Sri Lankan refugees' woes and are willing to break stereotypes that harm refugees' well-being in the host country and deter peaceful co-existence.

**12,196 Children & youth were served under the Reconciliation program**

## Found inner peace at JRS



Jasmitha, a Sri Lankan Tamil refugee girl

I am Jasmitha, a Sri Lankan Tamil student living with my mother and brother Prasanna. I was my father's favourite child before I lost him in 2018. His demise has affected me mentally.

For a long period of time, I felt lonely, not interested to go out, scared, insecure, and always worried about how to fulfil my family's basic needs while there was no more supporter. This affected my social interaction with my classmates and friends at school. In the same way, I witnessed my mother's inability to handle the sudden change in my behaviour.

Dealing with the grief of losing her husband, my mother was struggling in managing the household and her two children. I noticed how hard it was for my mother to deal with all these issues with managing work as well for our survival. She is a resilient lady.

However, after joining the Peace Education Sessions, my thought process has changed in a positive way. I learned about mutual respect, kindness, and compassion.

The learnings from JRS and our teachers' mentorship reconciled me with me which in turn reconciled me with my friends and family. Having a friendly relationship with others around me has enabled me to experience inner peace and joy.





Peace Workshop, Afghanistan

## Afghanistan

IDP camps are generally settlements of mixed groups of people from various provinces. The limited resources in the country lead them to confront each other on trivial matters. Often there are groups that continue to maintain hostility with one another as a result of the conflict in the native place. 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 these 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.

This need to work for peace and reconciliation – defined by JRS as “recreating right relationships” between individuals and groups is clear. However, this is not easy because many people have “peace fatigue” in Afghanistan – they are tired of hearing about peace when violence and war rage unimpeded around them with such a high casualty toll. Working for peace and reconciliation in such a scenario calls for an approach that prioritizes resilience and hope and offers a future perspective more worthwhile than the lure of violent extremism.

**14,842 Children & youth were served under the Reconciliation program**



In 2021, 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. 14,842 were (8,394 female and 6,448 male) served by the JRS Peace and Reconciliation programs. The students participated actively and benefitted from the peace sessions.

Note:

The takeover of the country by the Taliban forces on August 15, 2021, resulted in the temporary suspension of all the JRS project (resumed activities in Kabul currently). The narrative of the report only narrates the context while the programs were implemented.



## Section 2 Mental Health & Psychosocial Support



JRS Bangladesh Director conducting an MHPSS session with Rohingya children

### Mental Health & Psychosocial Support, Bangladesh

JRS/Caritas Bangladesh reached out to 2,588 Rohingya children (1,338 male and 1,250 female) in the age group of 4 to 18 years through group and individual psychosocial support services at 11 Multipurpose Child & Adolescent Centres (MCACs) participants benefited from Essence of Learning (EoL) sessions.

Rohingya children have experienced healing after attending practical EoL workshops on expressive communication, poem recitation in Burmese, role play, art and craft, storytelling, table theatre, clown science, and puppetry. MCAC child participants are trained about child abuse, child marriage, child labour, personal hygiene, reproductive health, and gender discrimination after attending weekly awareness sessions.

Direct psychosocial support has benefitted 458 most vulnerable children (248 male and 210 female) through case management services. 60 children with disability (32 male and 28 female) received assistive devices besides individual counselling support.

Preparatory vocational skill classes reached out to 510 Rohingya adolescents (247 male and 263 female) who learned livelihood skills in tailoring, sewing, handicraft, and solar repair works.

**1519 Children & youth were served  
under the Reconciliation program**

## Stood up against child marriage at 16



Asma Bibi, a Rohingya girl

“ My mother was so desperate to marry me off at a young age but thankfully MCAC life skill sessions taught me about the dangers of early marriage. However, when I disagreed with my mother, she began to torture me mentally and physically. I was going through terrible agony for a couple of months and I couldn't find any solution. Then I recalled of Asma Apa (a CBCP volunteer) and shared my distress with her. She immediately informed a caseworker who offered me aid and began to advocate for me. He counselled my mother and the religious leader in my area. Unfortunately, none of them understood that child marriage was harmful and legally prohibited. The torture was doubled as they thought that I had complained against them. When the caseworker came to know about the torture, he informed the head of the religious leader and the Camp in Charge Officer to take necessary legal steps. Once the legal pressure and frequent home visits started, my mother was forced to stop. My caseworker continued to visit us till my situation improved. I am leading quite a peaceful life now. I am sincerely grateful to the JRS-MCAC teachers and my caseworker who assisted me without fail. They have given me a new life and played a crucial role in mitigating the situation. ”

## A ray of Hope

“ My name is Jamila and I stay here with my children. My youngest son, Mahabur Rahaman has a speech disorder by birth. Thus, we encouraged him to join the MCAC session. Initially, he was bullied by other children as he talked 'differently' than other children. But the facilitator explained his condition to others and encouraged them to help my son. As days passed, he gradually began to mingle with other children and showed improvement in learning from the MCAC sessions. Now his speech has improved a lot and I am so happy to see that they paid special attention to my son and helped him in various aspects like emotional and cognitive learning. ”



Jamila, a Rohingya refugee woman  
Bangladesh





JRS field staff attending MHPSS workshop conducted by ANUGRAHA, Dindigul

## Tamil Nadu, India

JRS-Tamil Nadu Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) program gained partnership support of ANUGRAHA, an Institute of Counselling and Psychotherapy in Tamil Nadu for offering Para counselling, referral, and training services to 7,043 residents (2,871 male and 4,172 female), 110 CEC Teachers (7 male and 103 female) across 106 camps, and 29 JRS field staffs (16 male and 13 female). Similarly, collaboration with the Jesuit Ministry of Alcohol Addicts and Drug Dependents (JMAADD), informed JRS field staff about Alcohol addiction- a disease and its effects through a workshop. As a result, 10 serious cases of alcohol addiction have effectively undergone JMAADD’s de-addiction treatment.

Certificate and workshop pieces of training enabled CEC teachers and camp-level field staff to offer focused PSS support and check mental health casualties among children and vulnerable adults through timely referrals. Individual and Group Counselling sessions were offered at CECs and during camp-level programs. Active involvement of refugee staff within camps has aided the creation of a community-based psychosocial support network. In fact, improved resilience was witnessed among the refugees during the worrisome second wave of the pandemic.

**7,192 children & youth were served under the MHPSS program**

## From an addict to a responsible father



Richard, Sri Lankan Tamil refugee

“ I am Richard, a 28-year-old, Sri Lankan refugee living in Vembakottai Camp, Viruthunager district, Tamil Nādu. I fell in love with a girl from the host community and married her four years ago. We have a three-year-old son. I am a painter by profession but as an addict never had a regular job. I am the eldest son of my family but I was never able to support them financially. On the contrary, I continued to buy alcoholic drinks by going against my family. and became a huge burden on my family members.

My addiction worsened with the COVID-induced lockdown but the consequences were very drastic as my wife separated from me and my father passed away because of my chronic addiction. This brought me to my senses and with the help of JRS, I underwent the de-addiction treatment at JMAADD, Nagercoil in July 2021.

After the treatment, I have been regularly going for work, handing over my wages to my mother who takes care of my son and me. Though I am ashamed of my past, the post-treatment experiences have restored my human dignity. And, I am immensely happy about the outcome and taking suitable efforts and patiently waiting to get reconciled with my separated wife. I am grateful to the JRS for bringing me back to life. ”





Psychosocial support, Afghanistan

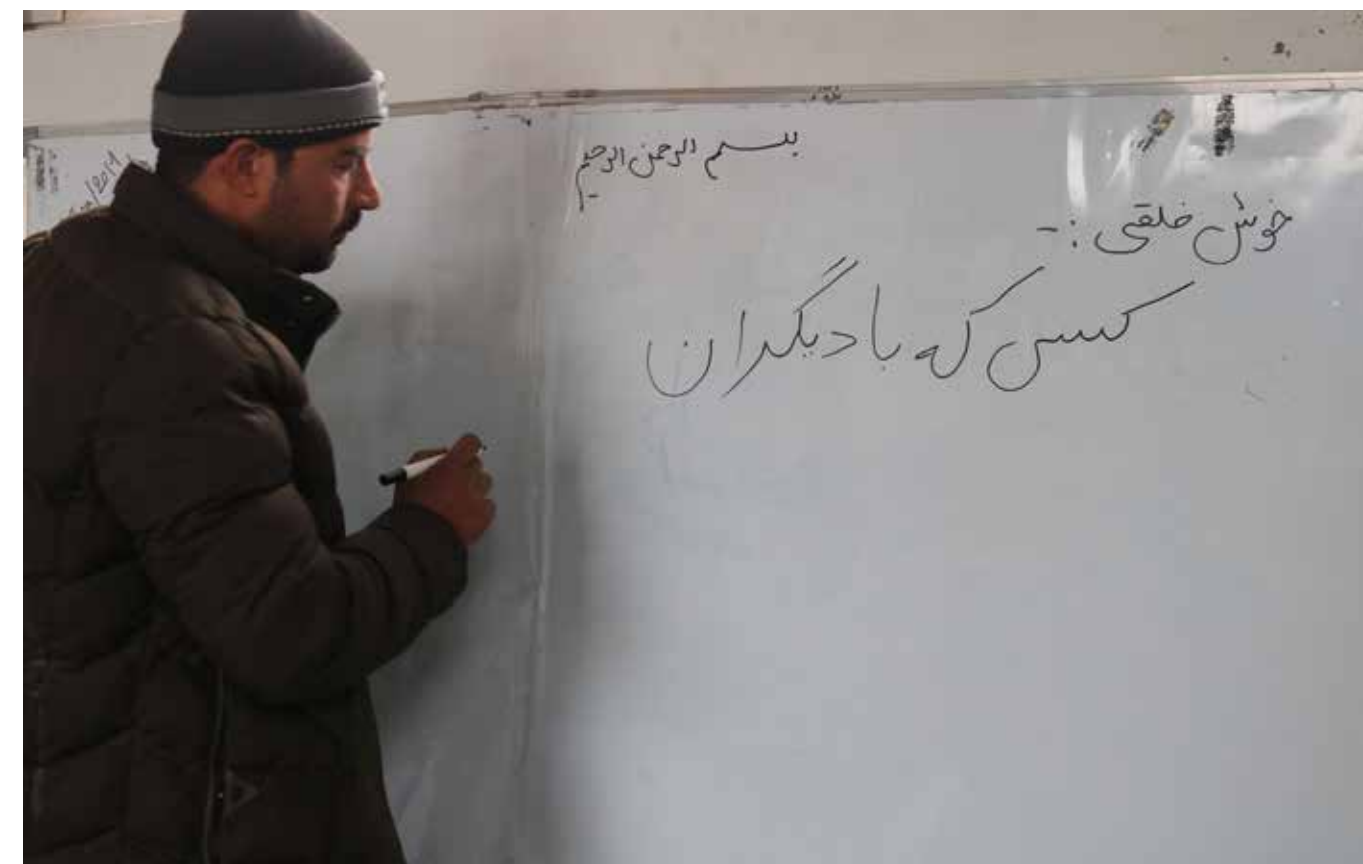
## Afghanistan

Due to decades of conflict, the forcibly displaced are found to be traumatised due to multiple migration, unemployment, loss of family member, addiction, exhaustion, lack of basic resources, conflict over limited resources and conflict related to overcrowded neighbourhoods. The protracted IDP situation makes the IDPs vulnerable in various ways. The complex realities in the lives of the IDPs results into problematic mental health conditions.

Women are at high risk of psychosocial distress in Afghanistan due to decades of exclusion from higher education, professional training, employment opportunities, and participation in the social and political life of the country. The previous government eased some of the norms but the early signs of the new regime pro girls from attending higher education, which would undermine the morale of the women, increasing the risk of developing mental disorders such as depression ones.

The economic disaster has put tremendous pressure on the fathers and mothers. Inability to meet the basic needs of the families impacts unhealthy balance in the family resulting in mental health concerns. The continued armed conflict and social upheaval have greatly limited efforts to establish durable mental health services in Afghanistan. In addition, stigma, lack of awareness, and geographical constraints on access continue to present difficulties in ensuring the equitable utilization of services.

**14,842 Children & youth were served under the Reconciliation program**



Hence, the Psycho-social training was conducted for 123- 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. In addition, trainers from India conducted various online trainings for the JRS teachers.

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 14,842, students (6,448 female and 8,394 male) in their classes.

### Note:

The takeover of the country by the Taliban forces on August 15, 2021, resulted in the temporary suspension of all the JRS project (resumed activities in Kabul currently). The narrative of the report only narrates the context while the programs were implemented.



## Section 3

# Education & Livelihood

Chin refugee students attending Complementary Education class at JRS centre

## Delhi, India

JRS reached out to 189 (76 male and 113 Female) Chin and Afghan urban refugee children through English, Computer, Complementary, and Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) classes. The classrooms offered safe learning space and close accompaniment of JRS trained qualified teachers to the disadvantaged Chin & Afghan students. Dropouts as well as Chin children up to 14-years of age enrolled in host government schools under cost-free Right to Education (RTE) Act benefitted from English & Complementary classes. They have improved linguistic skills and are somehow able to overcome the language barrier in the host community. Also, children at school have shown improved academic performance and are encouraged to attain the secondary level of education. Aspiring young adults seeking employment, tertiary or professional education were able to gain certified skills through Computer classes and JWL professional diploma or Bachelor's degree program to pursue opportunities of self-reliance.

JRS Tailoring and Beautician's skill training empowered 51 Chin & Afghan women with marketable income-generating skills. Two exceptional participants of the Beautician training were offered scholarship support to pursue an advanced professional diploma course at the renowned Lakme Academy. Most Beautician course alumna offers at-home beauty services while some seek employment in local beauty salons. As Covid-19 livelihood recovery response, JRS facilitated the collectivization of 28 Chin & Afghan women alumnae of tailoring course for the Skilling Circles initiative.

The skilled women's collective upgraded their knowledge of contemporary market trends to produce tailored and embroidered products for sale. Piloted in the year 2021, the Skilling Circle products gained greater appreciation from designers and retail buyers in India as well as abroad through some ex-pat clients. 10 Chin women alumnae of JRS Tailoring Skill Training were offered micro-grants from Fair Trade Forum India (FTF-I). JRS supported the recommendation and selection process of these women for securing the grant. The micro-grant has enabled trained women to launch their own businesses in the field of Tailoring and Beautician.

**204 children & women were served  
under the Education & Livelihood  
program**

## Earning livelihood is empowering



Mang Za Doi, Chin refugee woman

“ I am Mang Za Doi from Myanmar and I am in India since 2008 along with my husband and two daughters. I had trouble with communicating initially due to language barriers and felt very disheartened at times. I did not like going out, mingling with others, and stayed inside whole time. However, when I joined JRS education program and learned English language, it not only helped me to overcome my language barriers but also, opened another door of hope for me and my family as I joined JRS Beauticians course.

My family has been facing financial problems since we moved here due to lack of skills and language problems. I acquired great and in-demand beautician skills through JRS and the scholarship at Lakme Academy. I learned professionally about hair makeup, face makeup, pedicure, and manicure.

Currently, I am running my home-based beauty parlour and my customers include my community people as well as host community members.

Thank you JRS for extending a helping hand in my tough times. ”





Sri Lankan Tamil girls presenting cultural dance on JRS Arrupe Day

## Tamil Nadu, India

JRS Tamil Nadu's 99 CECs in 82 camps continue to offer safe tuition and co-curricular learning space to 3,942 children (1,946 male and 1,996 female) attending local schools. In the backdrop of Covid-19, 4 CECs were digitalized that safeguarded continued learning for refugee children and youth. 41 children (20 male and 21 female) in a remote camp were especially supported to complete Nursery education. JRS trained 152 (10 male and 142 female) qualified camp residents to equip them as CEC Teachers. 47 Advisory committees including key members from the camp community (170 male and 305 female) and 82 Student forums have successfully supported CEC's functioning along with its student's welfare. Refugee students now have access to library corners in 10 CECs, their academic performance has improved and they show increased interest in participating in public events. Publication of 'Ingenious Mind', a compilation of CEC students' creative write-ups is an exceptional achievement. JRS TN also organized a career counselling fair which reached out to 857 higher secondary and post-secondary students (372 male and 485 female); besides, 341 students (150 male and 191 female) in higher education were offered soft-skills training. The students in higher education are thus better prepared to make informed decisions for educational advancement.

The market-oriented skill training in home utility product making, tailoring, embroidery, and beautician job have benefitted 727 underprivileged women from across 36 camps. 233 alumnae of the JRS livelihood program were also offered a day-long refresher training that prepared them for contemporary market needs and enhanced their sales performance.

JRS facilitated the formation of 6-Self Help Groups that provides income to 75 refugee women through camp-based production of reusable sanitary pads. Likewise, 54 youths (39 male and 15 female) were assisted to pursue job-oriented technical and short-term courses. These empowered refugee women and youth are actively engaging in economic activities that enable self-reliance and a dignified living for them.

**7,012 children & youth were served under the Education & Livelihood program**

## JRS support during Covid-19



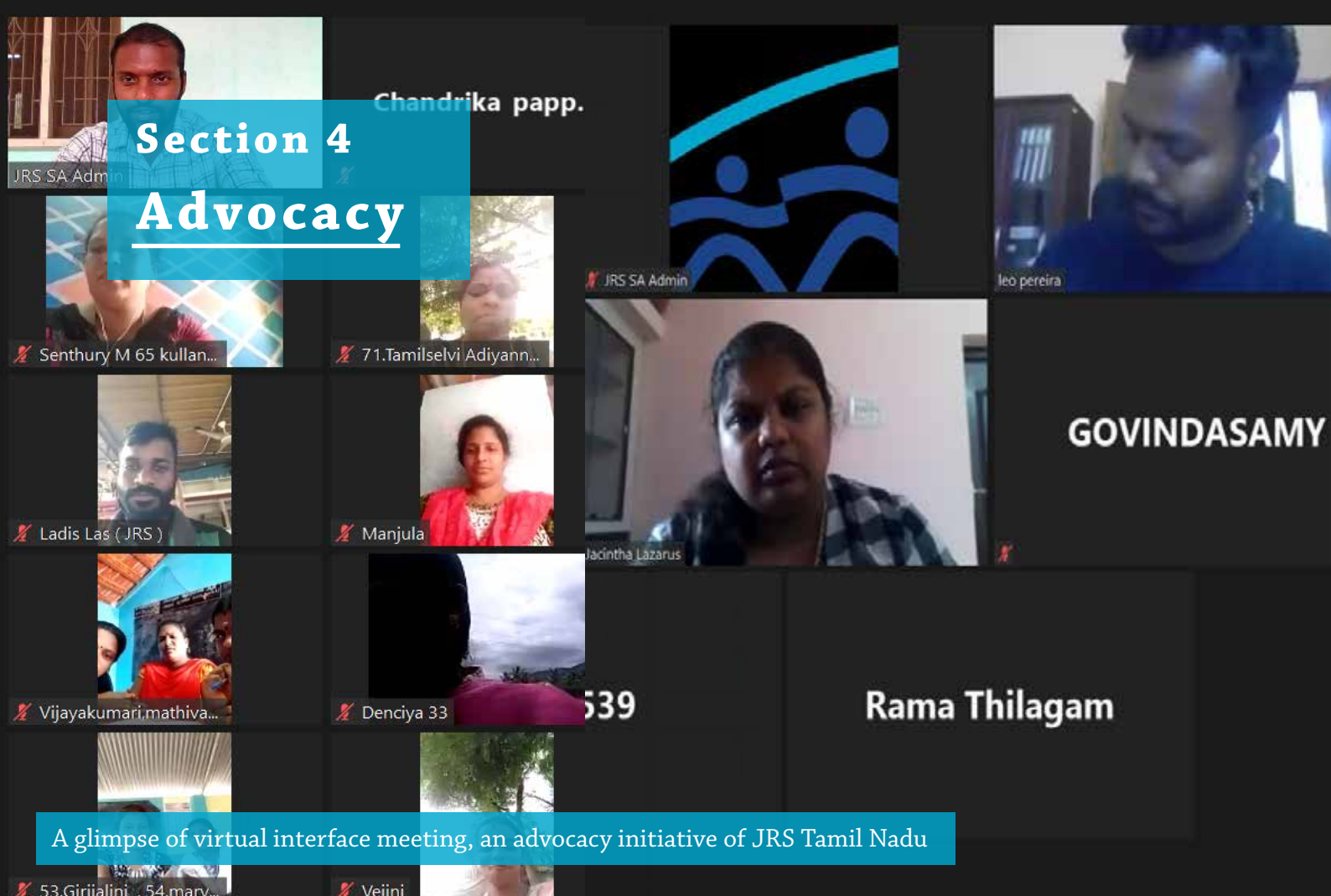
Shiyamala, Sri Lankan Tamil refugee student

“ I am Shiyamala, a 7th grader, CEC JRS student in Kullanchavadi camp in the Cuddalore district. I live with my parents and my brother who is in 5th grade. During the Covid-19 induced lockdown across the country, our schools remained closed, and our school shifted to online classes. However, I could not join the classes as we have no smartphones at home and we cannot afford to buy one.

My father's income is hardly meeting our family's basic needs. My parents and I were really worried for my studies as it got interrupted. However, during this tough time, my CEC teachers extended their helping hand. They coordinated with one of my classmates who stays at the same camp and conducted classes based on the school subjects and helped us to complete the assignments given by the school teachers.

The JRS CEC Program teachers engaged us with active learning and trained us on Covid appropriate behaviours which in turn helped us with personal hygiene and staying safe during the pandemic. The JRS CEC has contributed to my academic growth and personality development. Furthermore, I was given opportunities by JRS to spread awareness in my community about preventing Coronavirus and alcohol dependency and to keep my camp clean and green.”





## Tamil Nadu, India

JRS Interface meetings to safeguard refugee rights have received the active participation of 539 refugees (192 male and 347 female) from across 106 camps. Awareness sessions were also organized for 340 refugees (104 male and 236 female) and 29 JRS refugee staff (16 male and 13 female) informing them about their rights under humanitarian laws.

JRS TN's collaboration with the Tamil Nadu state Commissionerate of the Rehabilitation Department and various local government officials has gained recognition of the Tamil Nadu state government; JRS has been nominated as a member of a government Advisory Council to support refugee welfare. JRS TN's collaboration with LISSTAR has capacitated refugees to articulate their concern on prolonged denial of legal status; they actively participated to draft a Refugee Manifesto expressing their aspirations for durable solutions.

Three refugee youths attended an advocacy and lobbying workshop at the Institute of Development Education Action and Studies in Tamil Nadu. JRS TN also regularly participated in academic discourses. Overall, refugees were able to access key public forums to share grievances with concerned duty-bearers; JRS refugee field staff have also gained skills to effectively support refugee voices for greater wellbeing.

There is a remarkable improvement in the state government's response to refugee needs; they have announced several educational and livelihood welfare schemes reserved for Sri Lankan refugees.

**879 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees were served under the Advocacy program**

## Government intervention to build 220 houses



Nathan, Sri Lankan Tamil refugee

“ I am Nathan, 38 years old, Sri Lankan refugee who was elected as the President of Abdullapuram Refugee Camp. Fearing the ethnic violence in Sri Lanka, I fled to India in the year 1990, when I was a six-year-old boy. Since then, I have been called an “Agathi” meaning refugee, though I did not understand the meaning of the word for many years.

As an “illegal immigrant”, I have faced all sorts of discrimination. Thanks to the online interface organized by JRS on 31 May, I could relay the grievance of the 1,113 residents belonging to 360 families in Abdullapuram camp to the Rehabilitation Team headed by its Commissioner Ms. Jacintha Lazarus IAS. Following that meeting, I could notice that our concerns have been duly addressed-five refugees received new family cards and four more have been registered as camp residents which status entitles them to free shelter, dry ration, cash doles, and other perks.

In addition, Mr. Stalin, Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, visited our camp on 2 November and announced welfare schemes like 220 new houses and excellent infrastructure facilities in the camp. The process of constructing houses has begun and it will make us live in a secure environment. I thank JRS for empowering the refugee community through its accompaniment. ”





Girls Students, Afghanistan

## Afghanistan

Education opportunities for IDP children are very limited-particularly for girls- due to factors such a geographical remoteness, poverty, and limited access to basic services including education. Early marriage, lack of female teachers, parental concerns on the safety of girls walking long distances to school, inadequate hygiene facilities and boundary walls (enclosures), further curtail girls' access to education in Afghanistan. The increased conflict in 2021 resulted in increased number of out-of-school children (3.7 million as recorded by UNICEF in 2018). The poor education standards, economic conditions and the infrastructure contribute to the dropout rates of the children.

Universities play significant roles in a country's development, but Afghan universities struggle academically. None of the national universities are counted among the thousand recognized universities in the world and they cannot accommodate all candidates who successfully pass the entrance exam. The Afghan education system does not legally permit upgrading the skills of professors through distance-education options, which results in a lack of quality of education at the universities. In addition to 35 public universities, Afghanistan has more than 80 private universities affordable only to those who are able to pay their education.

In Afghanistan, ensuring opportunities for gainful employment remains one of Afghanistan's biggest challenge for the young population. Almost three-quarters of the Afghan population lives below or close to the poverty line (USD 2/day).

On average 25% of Afghanistan's potential labor force is unemployed, and 80% of employment is vulnerable and insecure, day labor or unpaid work, as job creation has been unable to keep up with population growth. The Education interventions of JRS AFG have impacted the secondary and higher education sectors.

**12,196 Children & youth were served  
under the Reconciliation program**



Kankor examination, Afghanistan

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. Through the JRS education programs 17,371 students ( 7,606 female and 9,765 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, skilling and business training for men/women in 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 238 individuals (111 male 127 female) benefitted from the livelihood programs.

Note:

The takeover of the country by the Taliban forces on August 15, 2021, resulted in the temporary suspension of all the JRS project (resumed activities in Kabul currently). The narrative of the report only narrates the context while the programs were implemented.



## Section 5

# Emergency Aid

Rohingya children exhibiting Covid-19 appropriate behavior , Bangladesh

## Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

During Covid-19 lockdown JRS/Caritas Bangladesh continued to accompany shelter-bound children in small groups. Covid-19 prevention awareness reached out to MCAC participants and to about 981 lactating and expecting mothers. During widespread Covid-19 delta variant, 555 children (303 male and 252 female) received first aid, nutritious foods, facemasks, and transportation aid as part of emergency aid.

Camp-level awareness and coordination meetings raised child protection sensitivity among 1,100 Rohingya adults (638 male and 462 females) who are better equipped to prevent abuse and exploitation of children.

## Delhi, India

During the deadly second Covid-19 wave in India, JRS served 1,587 (504 Male and 1083 Female) Chin & Afghan urban refugees through Emergency Relief Aid and Education programs. Distressed homebound children (40 male and 40 female) were able to continue learning in absence of JRS or school classes through the Remote Learning program facilitated by community-based volunteers. Vulnerable women, the elderly, and adults were given dry ration kits, rent assistance, and awareness on Covid-19 prevention and hygiene practices. 1,471 vulnerable Chin & Afghan persons, especially 1,007 community females, who received dry rations were able to safeguard the food security of their family when the deadly Covid-19 delta variant infection risk was rising. Similarly, rent assistance reassured the Chin families struggling with poverty and high living cost in Delhi to continue with their accommodation, especially in absence of wage work. Through Health & Hygiene workshop with 36 Chin & Afghan women, JRS successfully sensitized the women to prevent hazardous infections by practicing feminine hygiene and preventing serious threats to women's health during the pandemic .

**2,636 Rohingya refugees were served under Emergency Aid in Bangladesh**

**4,101 Afghan & Chin refugees were served under Emergency Aid in India**

## Determination and hard work pays off



Lalrothangi, Chin refugee enrolled in Tailoring classes at JRS

Lalrothangi from the Chin community has been living with her three children in Delhi, since 2021. She describes her story as:

“ I reached Delhi with nothing but some tailoring I learnt back in Myanmar used to earn skills which livelihood for my children. I could not start my work in Delhi at that time as I needed some more skills as the fashion and culture are different here. I faced financial problems and a lack of opportunities as an asylum seeker to enhance my tailoring skills. Through some friends, I got an opportunity to join the Skilling Circles Initiative of JRS. I received training for 3 months and then started to work in a team. The work with the Skilling Circles team was new to me as I used to stitch only the traditional clothes in Myanmar. However, the program opened my eyes to a different world. It helped me to build a friendship network and reach out to more people. I learned through it about how to grow individually with an entrepreneurship mind. We learnt to produce different items such as Christmas products, kitchen items, clothing, and were getting paid for it which covered part of my financial burdens. I wish that such kind of opportunities would continue to come in the future as well so that other people can benefit from it too. ”





Dry ration distribution in a Sri Lankan Tamil refugees - Rehabilitation Camp

## Tamil Nadu, India

JRS Tamil Nadu Covid-19 mitigation and prevention program relieved 4,082 refugees (1,668 male and 2,414 female) across 106 camps. Emergency relief aid distribution and awareness generation on Covid-19 prevention were the key highlights. Health supplements were offered to 4,291 children (2,136 male and 2,155 female); dry rations to 4,047 vulnerable families, Covid-19 protection kits to 630 elderly (305 male and 325 female), and Covid-19 care kits in 88 camps. The aid was instrumental in enhancing their immunity and preventing coronavirus infection inside some remote and overcrowded camps.

Hygiene support to 593 pregnant women and 90 young adult females enabled special protection for their natal and menstrual health, especially when availing health services became unaffordable. 201 former refugee alumnae of JRS livelihood programs also received some financial assistance as hygiene relief items were procured from them. JRS also cooperated with the Tamil Nadu Government to ensure fair accessibility of Covid-19 vaccination to the deprived refugees.

**16,474 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees were served under the Emergency Aid program**

## Grateful for nutritional food during pandemic



Maria Stella, Sri Lankan Tamil refugee student

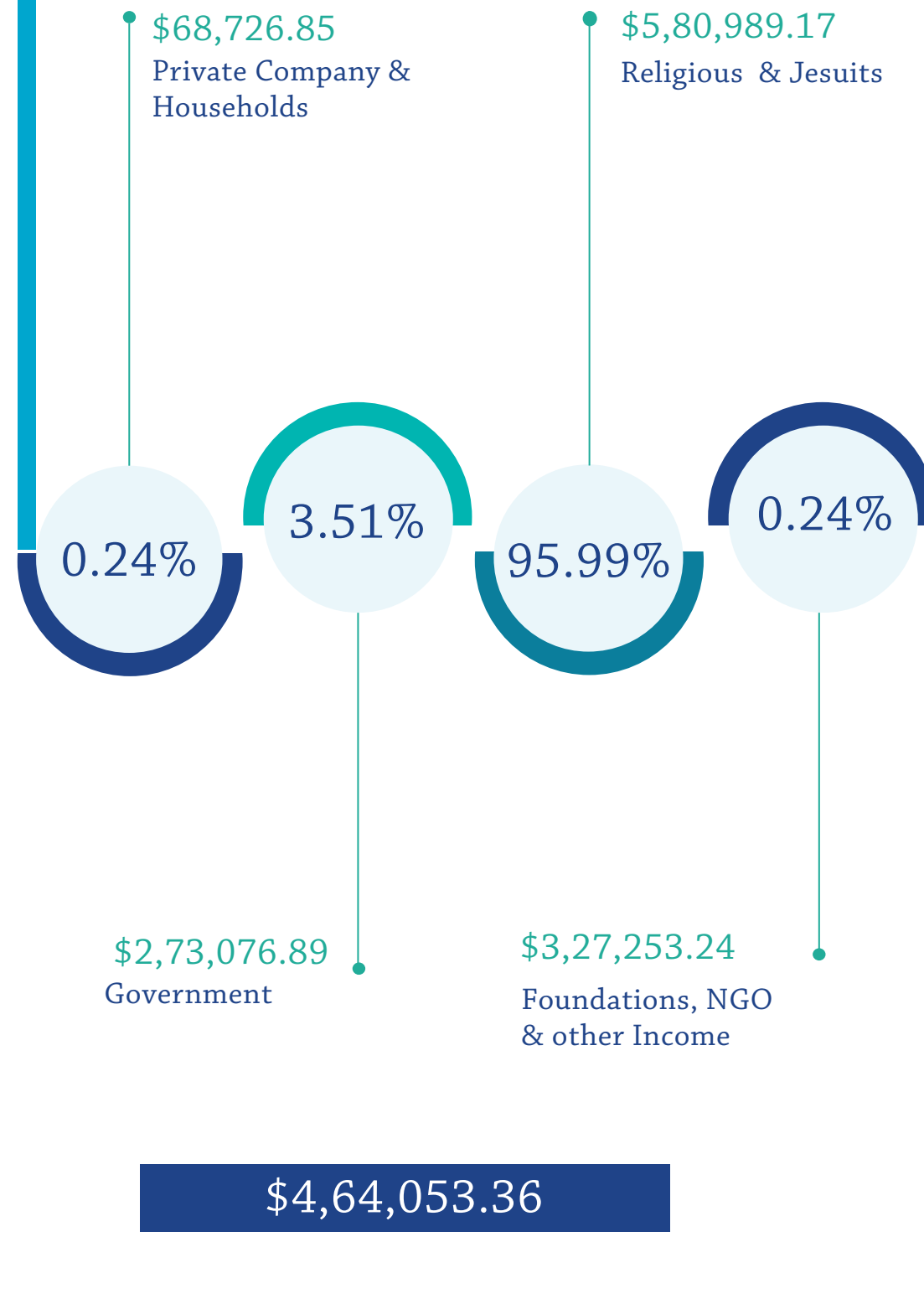
“ I am Maria Stella, 12 years old, living in Adianut-hu camp of Dindigul District with my mother. I am studying in 8th grade at Cesiliyal Middle School. Since the age of eight, I have been suffering from diabetes. My father passed away before I was born. As my mother is also a diabetic patient, she cannot work and takes regular medication. My family is completely dependent on the cash dole and dry ration given by the State Government. We both get medicines and treatment in Government Hospital, Dindigul. My immune system worsened in COVID-19 pandemic which indeed increased our struggles and problems.

I am thankful to JRS teachers as they chose me and offered a health mix for a month which helped to strengthen my immune system. Even when my own relatives did not extend a helping hand, JRS came to our rescue and effectively demonstrated its solidarity and support. Thank you JRS for being the healer in my tough times. ”

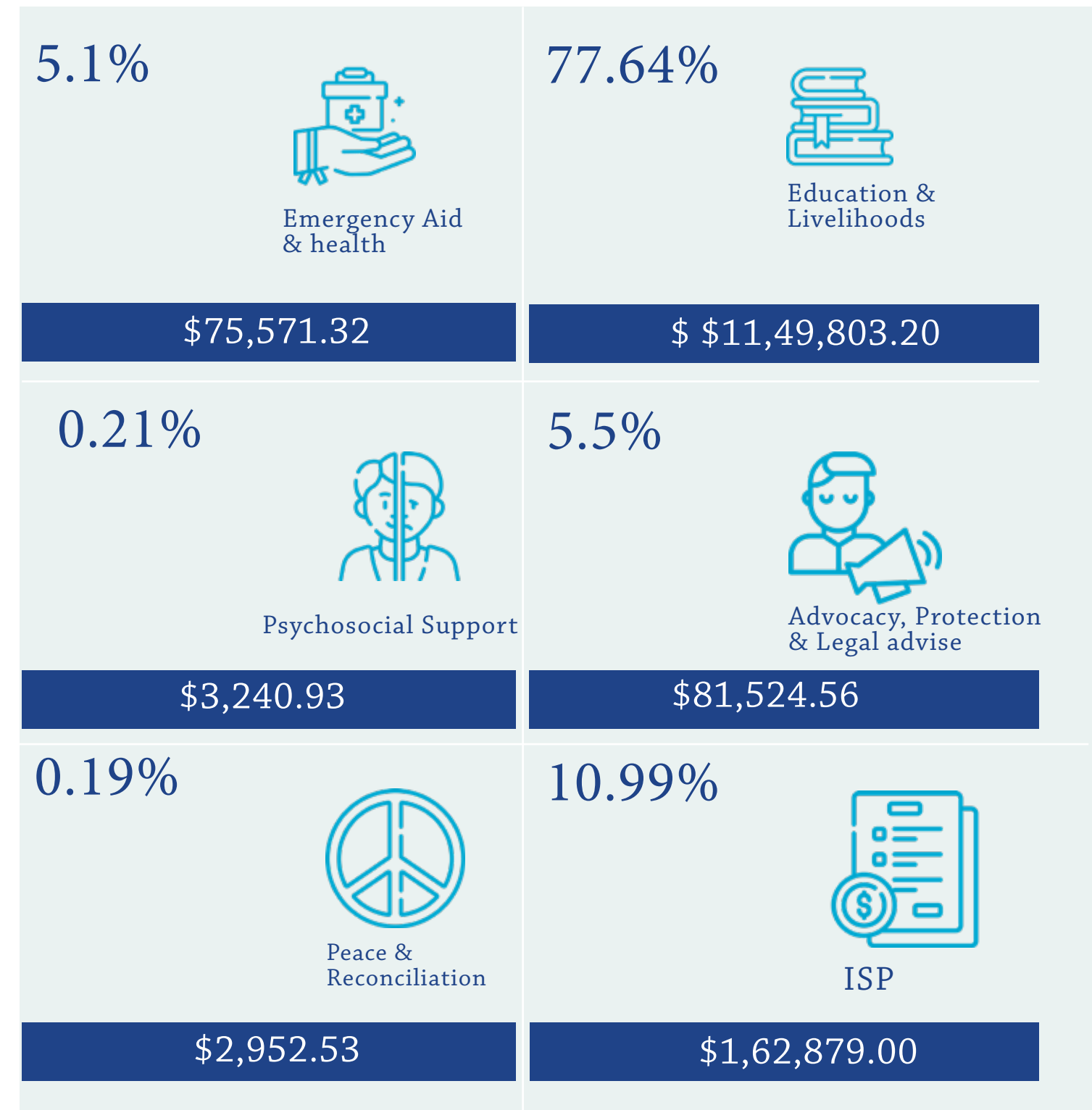


## Financial Summary

### Source of Income



## Program Expenditure





## Thanks to our Supporters

We thank our generous supporters and partners. Your contribution has played a large role in helping us achieve our goal of accompanying, serving, and advocating for refugees, asylum seekers, and forcefully displaced people at JRS South Asia. With your help, we will continue to reach out to more needy and vulnerable refugees and displaced people in South Asia Region.

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- Misereor
- MISSIO
- Rottenburg
- Silent Foundation
- Terre des Hommes (Germany) through BMZ funds
- World Doctors
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Sri Lankan Tamil refugee student during Complementary Education class





# Annual Report 2021

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