



SOUTH
ASIA



Annual Report

2022

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Director's Message

Dear Friends,

I am glad that JRS-SAS is ready to share its Annual Report 2022 with you in honour of thousands of IDPs, Asylum seekers, and Refugees who displayed their courage and resilience amidst their tribulations.

2022 posed many challenges 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 building 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.

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 lives. As Pope Francis suggests to build the future of the migrants and refugees, we need to build the future today with the kingdom values of justice, fraternity, and peace. To accomplish this, one needs to dedicate oneself and join hands with all the people of goodwill irrespective of their nationality, religion, and culture.

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, the 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 a life with dignity, peace, and harmony.



Stephen Raj
Regional Director



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.



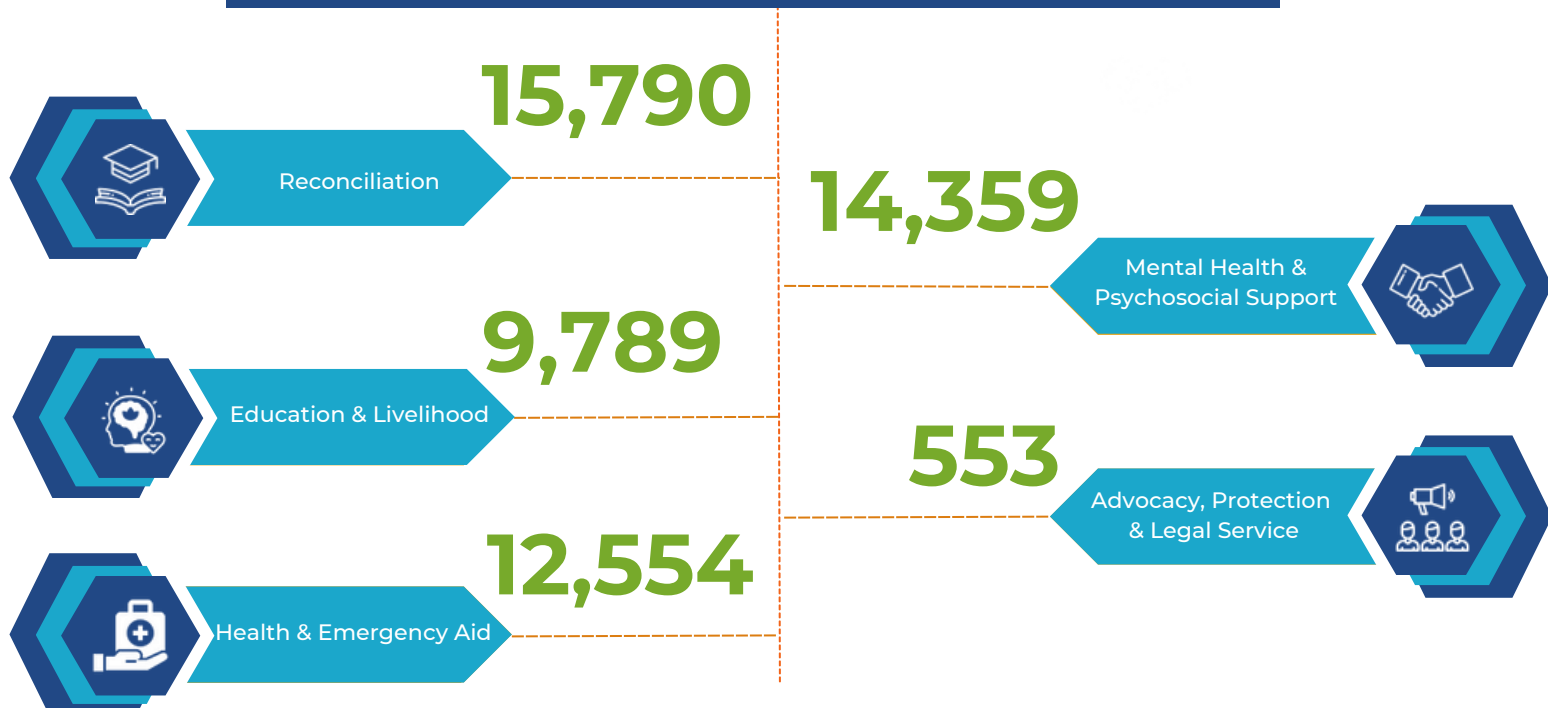
Our Context

While climate change, natural disasters, Covid-19, 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.

Our Presence



People Served by Programme



Our Programmes

JRS South Asia coordinates the projects in Afghanistan, India and Bangladesh. In Afghanistan, JRS serves returnees, IDPs, and minority ethnic groups, through various programs like English language and Computer courses, pre-university preparation courses, teacher training, vocational training and tertiary-level certificate and diploma courses, both online and onsite, through Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL). In India, Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu, Afghan and Chin refugees in New Delhi, directly benefited from JRS' programs, such as formal and non-formal education, vocational training, community services, capacity building of camp leaders, women and youth development, and advocacy training and protection. In Bangladesh, JRS has partnered with Caritas Bangladesh to run eleven Child-Friendly Spaces for Rohingya refugees in the Kutupalong camp, in Cox's Bazar.

Many are unable to secure employment, have lots of livelihood due to shutdowns, and face extreme poverty and famine. Lack of Access to

education and healthcare resources has also increased their vulnerability to the virus. The Chins and Afghans have unmet educational and livelihood needs and are at risk of exploitation and refugee rights abuse, leading to prolonged anxiety.

The JRS Urban Refugee Project remains committed to providing rehabilitation support to ultra-vulnerable chin and Afghan refugees in the areas of education, livelihood, reconciliation, and emergency aid. This is achieved through establishment of three community-based JRS Learning Centres located near their respective neighbourhoods, which are managed by trained JRS staff from the refugee communities. The project also emphasized on accompaniment services to refugee children, youth, and women who are at risk of exploitation and abuse, thereby offering them a safe and supportive environment to pursue their education and work towards a brighter future and restored a dignified living.



Section: 01 Reconciliation



For JRS, reconciliation is a process of transforming relationships, a journey that may never reach completion but that achieves much in the search for healing. In JRS, the aim of reconciliation as we broadly understand it – to recreate right relationships – is expressed differently from place to place. (JRS Workshop on Reconciliation 2013). Peace-building represents a way to achieve societal reconciliation. It is a very widely used term and differs according to context. Peace-building can be either preventative, implemented before conflict occurs or an effort to rebuild a more peaceful society after conflict ends. In JRS, peace-building activities are participatory, community-based and designed to build the skills, knowledge and values needed to promote peaceful co-existence. (Caritas International)

Reconciliation Afghanistan

IDP camps are settlements of ethnically mixed groups of people from various provinces. The limited resources in the country leads them to confront each other over trivial matters. Often there are groups which 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. 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.

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. For these reasons, there is a great need to work for peace and reconciliation – defined by JRS as “recreating the right relationships” between individuals and groups.

The interplay between education and reconciliation reveals great potential. Children learn better and more securely if their classrooms are not sharply divided along lines of ethnicity, religion, nationality, immigration or socio-economic status, if conflict is managed in a non-violent way, and if they are treated fairly.

The students studying at the education centre were part of the reconciliation sessions. The teachers were trained using the JRS reconciliation manual and in turn, helped the students to undergo the sessions. The sessions helped the students to avoid conflict with the other students and live peacefully. In the year 2022, JRS provided Peace and Reconciliation sessions to 700 children (350 male and 350 female) and 140 adults (70 male and 70 female).



Students at JRS Learning Centre attending Peace Session

700 Children were provided Peace and Reconciliation Sessions.

Reconciliation Delhi, India



UR Project staff and teachers participating in the Training of Teachers (ToT)

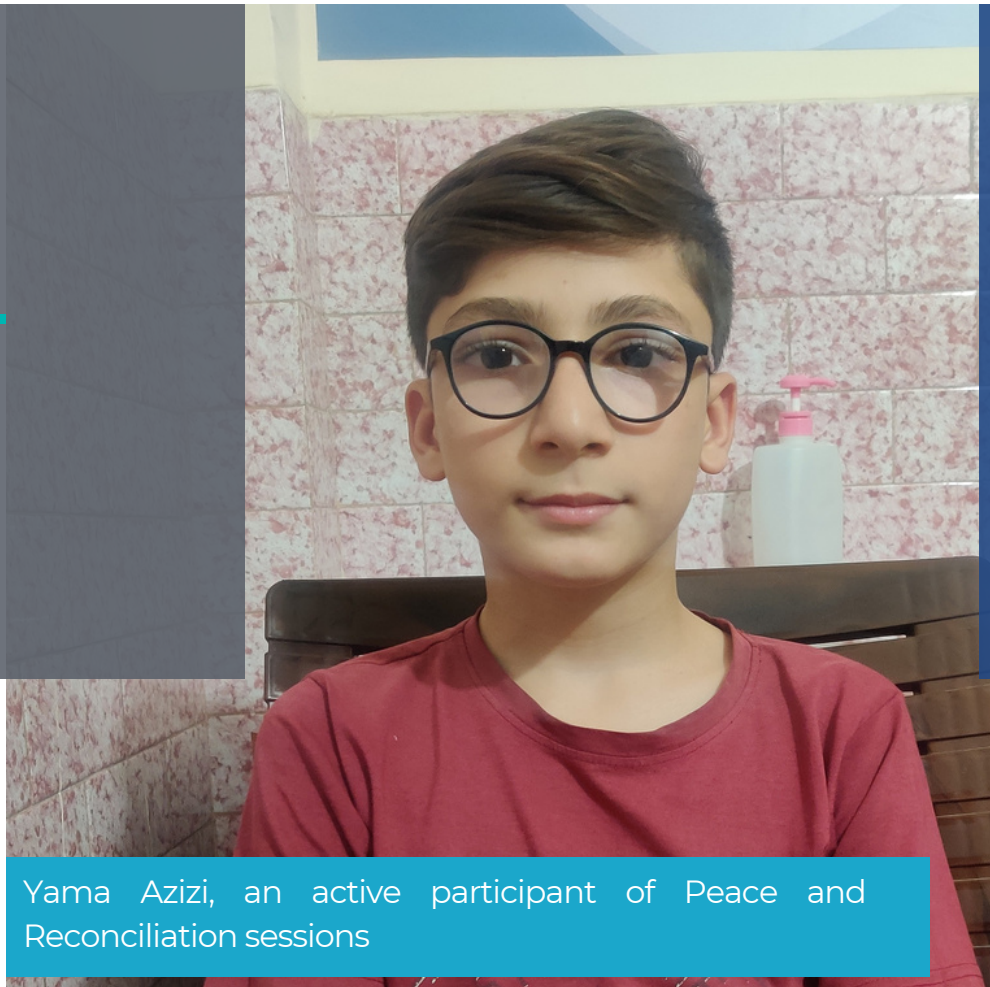
The JRS UR project through its Peace and Reconciliation program has made significant progress in supporting Chin and Afghan refugees in India. It has reached 814 children (287 male and 527 female) and youth through peace sessions conducted bi-monthly, mutual sharing, observing Peace Day and recreational activities following JRS International Office Peace Manual. The program also includes sessions on personality development for children and youth. Additionally, 13 teachers and staff (4 males and 9 females) from JRS educational programs received a three-day training of Trainer (TOT) workshop guided by JRS International Office subject expertise, enhancing their skills to manage sessions independently in their respective classrooms.

The program fosters an understanding of multiculturalism and harmonious co-existence among the communities, encouraging values that promote bonding with peers and the host community. It aims to address communal misunderstandings and refugee stereotypes, especially for those at risk of abuse or discrimination. The peace program has built resilience, self-esteem and provided safe space, and established a social support network for refugees living in challenging social conditions.

13 Teachers and Staff received Training of Teachers (ToT) which enhanced their ability to provide peace sessions.

Impact Stories

The Story of Yama Azizi



Yama Azizi, an active participant of Peace and Reconciliation sessions

Yama Azizi, a 12-year-old boy from Afghanistan came to India with his family in 2018. He studies in a government school at Tilak Nagar in class 6. He is a bright and talented boy. When he came to Delhi he was enrolled in school where lessons were all taught in Hindi. Moreover, his family could not afford the tuition fees to get him enrolled in a regular tuition class. Then, his family came to know about the JRS centre in Tilak Nagar and he got enrolled in the complementary class. It helped him to understand various subjects that were taught in school better after attending JRS complementary class. He performed well in exams and secured good grades.

Apart from complementary classes, he benefitted a lot from various awareness sessions, personality development sessions and group activities held in the centre through peace sessions conducted in JRS classes. He is an active participant in Peace and Reconciliation sessions. During peace sessions, he was introduced to many activities that helped him in building confidence and self-esteem.

**814 children and youth
received bimonthly
Peace Sessions**

Reconciliation Tamil Nadu, India



Peace Session for Complementary Education Students

JRS introduced peace and reconciliation programs for different sections of refugees such as the children, the youth, the women and the adults. Apart from the refugees, the host community students also were focused on this program. In this case, 125 CEC teachers (8 male and 117 female) were trained by the JRS-TN peace coordinator based on the International Peace module. Equipped by this training, the teachers conducted 12 peace sessions with 3726 children (1787 male and 1939 female) in 96 CECs in 79 camps on a bi-monthly basis with the help of 12 peace modules. The peace modules were developed by the JRS-TN Peace coordinator. Additionally, JRS staff conducted two peace sessions with 1391 youths (669 male and 722 female) in 72 camps.

Moreover, as peace ambassadors, youth and CEC children conducted two peace sessions with 2958 Adults (511 male and 2447 female) who are caregivers of CEC students, advisory committee members, SHG members, IGP women (Income Generation Program beneficiaries) and other men and women.

Peace education was conducted for 5311 host community children (2548 male and 2763 female) in 26 schools for the promotion of social cohesion between the host community and refugee community students. It helped the host community students to understand the refugee children's condition. World Peace Day was also observed by the CEC students, and teachers with the camp community. 15 JRS staff underwent a three-day long reconciliation training by the reconciliation officer from the JRS International Office. This program fostered social harmony among the camp community and others.

2958 Sri lankan Tamil Adults attended Peace sessions conducted by CEC students and youth.



Impact Stories

Peace Education Inspires Compassion, Bridges the divides in schools

Host community school students attending Peace Education conducted by JRS TN

On 26 July 2022, the Head Master of our school brought two persons and announced that they would conduct Peace Education for us. The term “Peace Education” sounded new to me and my friends. They introduced themselves as JRS staff and that they were also from Mandapam Camp. They put together four sheets of charts that created a picture of a butterfly and called it the Butterfly of Reconciliation. On each sheet was written each of the following words: Truth, Justice, Compassion and Peace. Then the JRS staffers asked four volunteers from the class to choose any one of the four wings. Out of curiosity, I volunteered and chose the Compassion wing. Then they gave us about 5 minutes to prepare for a debate on which of those four words is essential for Reconciliation. I spoke about Compassion, while the others spoke of the value they had chosen. To be honest, I was disturbed as I was preparing my speech on compassion.

My awareness about my own practice of not being compassionate to the students from the camp pricked me. I became remorseful. The JRS staff said that just a butterfly requires four wings to fly, Reconciliation requires all four values. None of us was expecting that conclusion. Then they spoke about the importance of a right and healthy relationship for all human beings and emphasized the need for accepting and welcoming strangers and refugees.

To promote social cohesion between refugees and the host community, JRS-TN conducted Peace Education at 26 schools with 5,311 host community students.

Since that day, I have become friendly toward students from the camp. Their stories about how their parents took refuge in India because of the violent ethnic conflicts in Sri Lanka touched me and moved me to compassion. Now I bring some goodies for them from my home and they too occasionally share with me some Sri Lankan snacks. This new friendship that has been growing strong for the last five months has been a source of joy and happiness for me.

Section: 02



Mental Health & Psychosocial Support

MHPSS is rooted in the close accompaniment of forcibly displaced people by JRS. JRS tries to place special emphasis on being with rather than doing for. Its presence among refugees needs to be one of sharing with them, of accompaniment, of walking together along the same path.

The definition of MHPSS covers a range of involvement, from offering a listening ear, to professional counselling, to therapy for mental health problems. This support is crucial for uprooted people like forcibly displaced who often live in total isolation.

The psychosocial wellbeing of a person consists of him/her functioning “well” in three core areas:

- The individual capacity of a person
- Family and community functioning
- Societal Culture and Values.

(MHPSS Guidelines)

Mental Health & Psychosocial Support Afghanistan

Due to decades of conflict, the forcibly displaced are found to be traumatised due to multiple migrations, unemployment, loss of family members, addiction, exhaustion, lack of basic resources, conflict over limited resources, conflict related to overcrowded neighbourhoods and complete hopelessness. The protracted IDP situation seriously jeopardizes the mental health of IDPs. And what makes this worse is that even before this ongoing crisis, Afghanistan lacked professional therapeutic resources for any kind of mentally challenged people.

Women are at high risk of psychosocial distress in Afghanistan due to the decades of exclusion from higher education, professional training, employment opportunities, and participation in the social, political and economic life of the country. The economic disaster has put tremendous pressure on both men & women in the families as mothers and fathers are no longer able to carry out their traditional roles.

**840 children and adults
received MHPSS
support in Afghanistan**



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. As the health system was poor before this crisis, it is now being pushed to the brink of collapse due to the loss of funding from international donors, and access to mental healthcare has been severely cut off.

MHPSS support was extended to the students and adults at the educational centres, based on the assessment of the students. During the reporting period, three MHPSS counsellors provided support to 700 children (350 male and 350 female) and 140 adults (70 male and 70 female) through group and/or individual sessions. The intervention of the MHPSS team has resulted in a positive outcome for the people served.

Impact Stories

Transforming Trauma into Triumph



JRS MHPSS Counsellor and a student during MHPSS sessions.

Nargis was a 12-year-old female student in a JRS class at an IDP Camp in 2022, during the first year after the Taliban took over the Afghan government. She lived in a cottage in the camp with her parents, four sisters and two brothers. Due to illness Nargis's father was unemployed, and her mother was a housewife. To cover the expenses for daily living her two brothers collected rubbish and bottles in the streets and made money from it. She very much wanted to change the living conditions of her family and their value systems.

On her first session, Nargis complained about her emotional outbursts, where she would inflict harm upon herself and her sister. She complained of headaches and insomnia and opened up about her family situation.

The JRS counsellor appointed to her would patiently listen to her and give her advice on how to practice good habits to help her overcome her negative emotions. The counsellor with the help of different exercises would help Nargis to open up more about her past experiences, that had a strong hold on

her. With the help of Nargis' stories, the JRS Counsellor helped her overcome many things. Her insomnia was getting better and she had stopped hurting others and those around her. The JRS counsellor helped her use her prayer beads to do meditation to help her control her mood swings.

Nargis, who by the end of her session, had left for her hometown at Laghman with the rest of her family, had shown positive changes through her sessions at JRS. The little girl who would share everything with her counsellor said that now she was not only happy within herself, she was able to cheer up her family as well, despite the conditions they are surrounded with. Her relationship with her siblings also changed for the better after she took the counsellor's advice and bridged the communication gap between her siblings.

She was happy that through MHPSS counselling that she received from JRS, had not only taken a turn over her life but her family's as well.

Mental Health & Psychosocial Support Tamil Nadu, India

6058 adults received awareness session on de-addiction

The living conditions in the Sri Lankan refugee camps promote a stressful condition due to which the mental health of the people living in the camps is challenged heavily. This has resulted in family problems, moral issues and increasing dependence on substance usage.

To address these issues, JRS launched the community-building resilience program to improve their mental health. JRS collaborated with ANUGRAHA, an Institute of Counselling and Psychotherapy, Dindigul and organised the three-day-long counselling training for 125 CEC teachers (8 male and 117 female) from 79 camps to ensure the counselling skills. The JRS staff, CEC teachers, youth club members and CEC students organised a de-addiction awareness campaign with 6058 adults (2513 male and 3545 female) in 104 Camps. Also, through collaboration with the Jesuit Ministry of Alcohol Addicts and Drug Dependents (JMAADD), JRS supported 10 alcohol-affected individuals to recover from addiction. Also, 48 refugee women and 32 youth refugees received counselling support from professionals to ensure their mental health to promote their sustainable livelihood. JRS staff conducted an awareness session on hygienic menstrual practices for 147 refugee girls who studied under JRS special coaching classes in 11 camps. Additionally, they were offered 4 boxes of reusable sanitary pads to promote healthy menstrual practices and to consider environmental ethics. Family Enrichment Program on 'safeguarding children in need of care and protection' was conducted with 3548 adults (510 male and 3038 female) across 104 Camps by 19 JRS staff.

By organising these programs, the psychological well-being of CEC teachers, CEC children, SHG women and adults inside the camp was enhanced and helped them to heal their inner wounds. JRS staff offered psycho-social support to improve their mental stability through offering individual and group counselling on a weekly basis. This program focused on empowering women with positive thinking, improving their interpersonal skills, fostering bonds between the women members of each SHG, handling familial issues, healing internal wounds, and supporting another in starting businesses.



Impact Stories

I am a Sri Lankan Tamil refugee living in the Rehabilitation Camp at Thappathi in Thoothukudi district. Having completed BA in English literature, I served as JRS teacher at the Complementary Education Centre (CEC) in my camp between 2015 and 2018. I joined again as a CEC teacher in 2022. The intervening period between 2018 and 2022 was for me one of extreme trauma. Well, in 2018, I married Job, a young man from the host community. It was a love marriage and I left the camp and my parents and siblings with wild dreams of a blissful life outside the camp. Everything seemed to go on well for a year. In November 2019, my husband was diagnosed with a terminal illness. Hoping against hope, I rushed him to several hospitals and lost a lot of money in the process. The medical treatments were of no avail and I lost my husband on 11 July 2021. I felt my dreams and my life as well were shattered to pieces. After my husband's death, my in-laws refused to consider me a member of their family. Abandoned and terribly traumatized, I felt my life had become upended just in 3 years. With a terrible feeling of utter desolation, I returned to my parents in the Camp. I could not cope with the trauma. Being a young widow was too stressful. Encouraged by my parents, I became a CEC teacher again in on 1 March 2022 – still wondering how to rebuild my life. Despite my best efforts as a teacher, I was not able to perform my duties as before. I was being tormented by my trauma, losses and daily stressors.

Impact of counselling training: Testimony of Ms Keerthana (29), A CEC Teacher



But I found true healing and relief when I attended the Counselling Training conducted by a team from Anugraha College of Counselling. I began to engage in teaching with full gusto. And, the training in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support and Peace and Reconciliation and my own engagement in training children in anger management, stress management, peace, compassion and forgiveness made my healing complete. Now that I have recovered and rebuilt my resilience, I can do full justice to my job. As a wounded healer, I willingly and ably contribute to my students' academic excellence and mental health enabling them to strive for a peaceful and inclusive community.

Mental Health & Psychosocial Support

Bangladesh

**2090
Rohingya
children
were
reached out
through
psychosocial
support
services**



This year, JRS-CB reached out to 2,090 Rohingya children (976 females and 1,114 males), including case management and children & adolescents with disabilities aged from 0 to 18 years, through group and individual psychosocial support services at 8 Multi-purpose Child and Adolescent Centers (MCACs) in Camp 4 & 20 extensions operated by JRS-CB. These MCACs offer individual psychosocial support through case management, group psychosocial support through sessions, learning sessions on peace and reconciliation, recreational activities for children aged 0 to 18, as well as activities for the development of life skills. Additionally, para-counseling and psychosocial support through case management is provided to adolescents aged 12 to 18, with a focus on mental health, child protection, health, nutrition, safety, and peace, enhancing social, emotional, and cognitive skills.

To protect adolescents and raise community awareness, monthly sessions address safety, child marriage, child labour, social behaviour, motor skills, health hygiene, nutrition, abuse, discrimination, violence, healthy relationships, etc. Through the case-management component, children and adolescents receive psychosocial support, individual para-counseling, psychological first aid, health, and hygiene. In response, it addresses the negative impacts on community cohesion, including domestic violence, drug trade, human trafficking, mental health issues, poverty, and lack of accountability. There were 26 topics discussed which were protection-related. Topics like problem-solving, explaining matter, self-controlling, and inner peace. Anxiety, Bullying, storytelling, recreational activities, handicrafts, and breathing exercises were directly related to mental health.

Impact Stories

Jamil's Transformation: A Journey of Growth and Progress



Jamil Islam with his mother Nur Kaida

I am Nur Kaida (Pseudonym), and my son is Jamil Islam (Pseudonym), 10 years old. We live in Camp 4 under the guidance of Abdullah Majhi, along with five other children and my husband. Jamil is my fourth child, and from birth, he had difficulty understanding and learning like other children. As a result, I felt a stronger attachment to him compared to my other four children. However, I was concerned about Jamil because he struggled with his behaviour. In 2019, during a home visit by a volunteer from JRS-CB's community-based child protection Rohingya volunteer. Jamil Islam was enrolled in the "Rose" group at their center. There, he made many new friends who played with him. Despite having many playmates, Jamil still faced mental challenges. He used to fight with his friends, refused to talk to anyone, and often expressed his feelings through physical aggression. One day, he even attacked a religious teacher.

He struggled to understand social norms and would react violently. Eventually, Jamil made significant progress through the MCAC (Multi-purpose Child and Adolescent Center) program and is currently in the "Pigeon" group. Over the past years, he has attended regular psychosocial support and follow-up sessions led by our dedicated facilitators, enabling him to communicate and express himself better. Now, he can ask his mother for food and eagerly joins the sessions at the center when the facilitator calls for it. He has significantly reduced his aggressive behaviors and now speaks a little, seeks food, and wishes to interact with his friends. This transformation in his behavior and development is the result of the Caritas-JRS MCAC Project. I express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved in this program for the progress my son has made. I hope that the Caritas-JRS MCAC Project continues to thrive, providing similar opportunities to many Rohingya children like Jamil.

Section: 03

Education & Livelihood

For vulnerable forcibly displaced children, schools are safe havens. Educators look out for the welfare of these children, while classrooms can provide a protective environment for them. Schools are places that give a sense of normalcy and hope to a child's life. JRS has long considered education a life-saving intervention and we recognize that it is our lasting contribution to long-term durable solutions to conflicts. Because most of the high-conflict areas are also places where the educational level is very low, JRS hopes that our educational projects will have a positive impact on the regions we serve by helping to transform these communities. (JRS Education Strategy).

For JRS, helping forcibly displaced persons to establish a secure livelihood incorporates many activities geared towards self-reliance, such as ensuring access to employment; offering technical training and assistance; and helping set up small businesses by providing grants and credit, tools and other resources. However working on livelihoods is not just about economic self-sufficiency; it is also about restoring dignity, confidence and hope, as well as promoting integration. (JRS Handbook on Urban refugees)





Various edicts over the past year have stifled the hopes and dreams of half the population. With ongoing restrictions and systematic exclusion, women and children faced heightened protection risks including intimate partner violence and child marriage. Since August 2021, most secondary schools for girls remain closed. Illiteracy continues to prevail among the IDP children, as they lack necessary documentation to enrol themselves into schools. The family pressure to add resources to the family income force the children to continue remain alienated from the education opportunities. The unavailability of a government school in the vicinity of the settlement and the discrimination faced by the children after enrolment in the school due to their poor clothing and hygiene practices result in their out-of-school status.

140 adults in Afghanistan got access to Education

The complementary education classes have provided the opportunity to continue or start their education at the JRS centres to out of school students. JRS centres have helped these children to have a safe space to relish their childhood. The education centre reduced the time the children would otherwise spend in the streets of the run-down city of Kabul. The education has also sensitized the children of various hazards, especially while they spend their time on the streets looking for some income for their families. In addition, the nutrition provided to these deprived children helps them to get the basic nutrients through minimal daily food intake, which the disastrous financial situation of their parents would not be able to provide on a regular basis. Hungry stomachs cannot study! 700 students (350 male and 350 female) between the age 6-12 years benefited from the complementary education classes.

Adult literacy classes helped the adult learners to learn Dari principles (reading and writing) and basic mathematical operations that can help them in their everyday life. 140 adults (70 male and 70 female) participated in the adult literacy program.



Impact Stories

A Ray of Hope

Young Afghan girls attending classes at JRS Centre

Zarghona*, an eleven-year-old girl, originates in Laghaman province, Afghanistan. The political, social and economic instability of the country forced Zarghona's family to leave their hometown and settle in one of the IDP camps in Kabul. The farming skills of the father didn't find any source of income to sustain the family in the expensive life in Kabul. Dealing with scrap was the only means for the father to sustain his family in the increasingly violent atmosphere of Kabul. The closure of schools for female students due to the COVID-19 pandemic, violence, new regulations for females, etc. have kept Zarghona's dream of education far from reality. She contributed to the family income by helping her father collecting scrap, along with her sister. The family lived one day at a time, not knowing whether on the following day they would still be privileged to have food and stay safe.

Although cherishing the value of education, Zarghona's father was no longer able to support his children's education, owing to the inflated cost of living. Lack of personal documentation of his children (birth certificate), discrimination of IDP children in government schools, etc. made formal schooling for these children a non-existent reality.

A ray of hope shone through the darkness for children like Zarghona, when JRS initiated educational activities in the IDP camp. The JRS educational centre provided opportunities for children who were otherwise deprived of education. Zarghona's joy had no boundaries, when her father enrolled her at the JRS education centre. She continues to study books of Grade 1, in an accelerated learning program to be part of the formal education in future.

442 girls and women in Afghanistan received Education

During her class evaluation, Zarghona came out with flying colours. Her success at the JRS event, prompted her father to organise a celebration among their neighbours and her mother to apply Henna, despite the social context of female alienation from education. Zarghona joyfully narrates, "The gold medal awarded to me has made me known as a 'Golden Student' among my classmates". In a tone of gratitude, Zarghona prophetically stated, "Girls can change their families, communities, and even their country, if they are allowed to get educated. My father considers us (daughters) as a ray of hope for the future of our country".

Education & Livelihood Delhi, India



JRS UR project offered educational opportunities to 362(131 male & 231 female) urban refugee children, youths and young adults from chin and Afghanistan. These opportunities included English, Computer, Complementary, GEL, Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) classes, and Radio Training Program for girls. JRS trained qualified teachers provided safe learning spaces and closely accompanied disadvantaged students to enhance their learning abilities. Even drop outs and children under 14 who are enrolled in host government schools benefitted from English and Complementary class under the cost-free Right to Education (RTE) Act. As a result, their languages skills improved, enabling them to integrate better into the host community. The academic performance of school -going children significantly improved and were encouraged to pursue secondary education. Aspiring young adults seeking employment or higher education gained certified skills through computer classes and JWL programs, empowering them to become self-reliant.

The project also empowered girl children and teachers to promote dignified lives for refugees through a pioneering Radio training in Delhi, India. This approach helped urban refugee children develop skills to advocate for their own rights, particularly their learning needs. The program fostered social cohesion among the wider population of urban refugee children, who interacted on various occasions at the JRS learning centres. It also enabled the production of podcasts by the Girls Club, raising awareness about the refugee context and creating a specific training manual for the Chin and Afghan Refugee Children.

The podcast made by the Girls Club can be accessed on the social media links given below

Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/5RYPIu4VxsmIpeIbQWBs3u?si=e195b36b057041ef>

GooglePodcast:

<https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9hbmNob3IuZm0vcy9kYTUxZWFiMC9wb2RjYXNOL3Jzcw?ep=14>

Youtube:

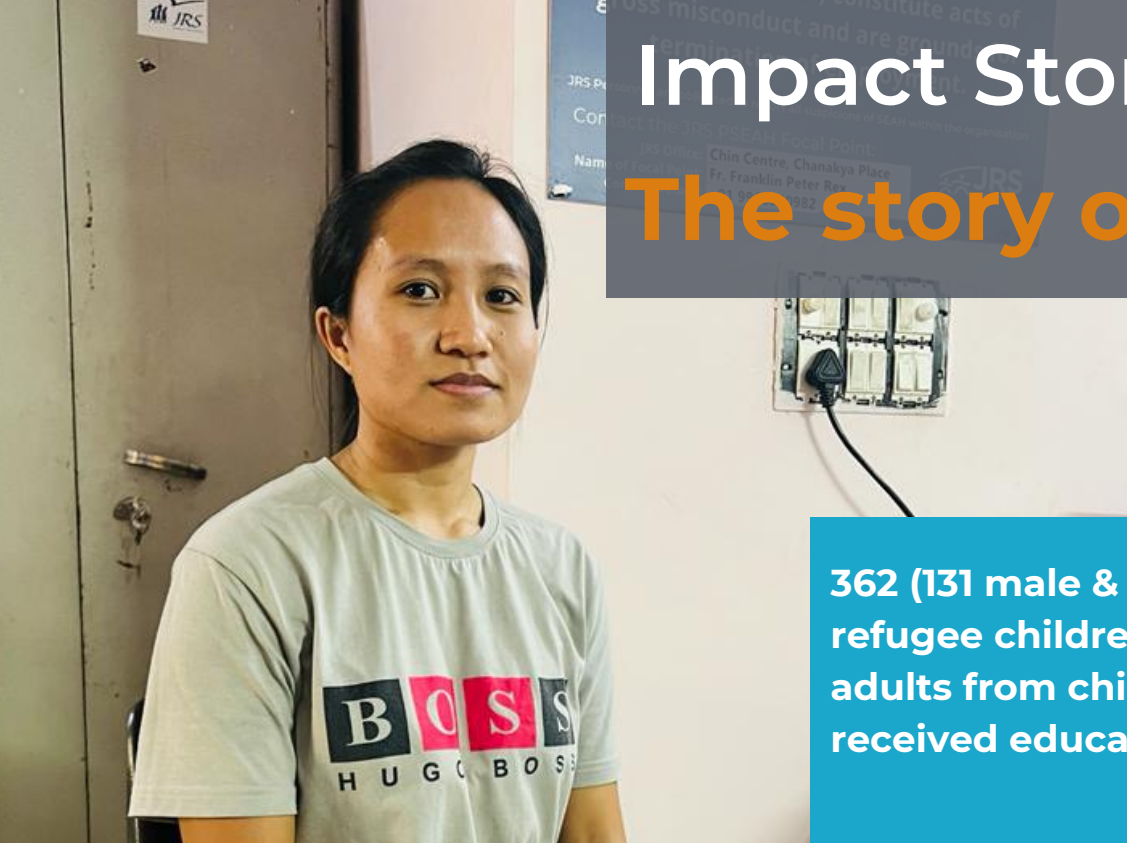
<https://www.youtube.com/@jesuitrefugeeservicesoutha468/featured>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/jrs_south_asia/

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Impact Stories

The story of Kil Boih



362 (131 male & 231 female) urban refugee children, youths and young adults from chin and Afghanistan received educational opportunities

Kil Boih, aged 28, a young mother of two, moved to Delhi in 2010 to pursue theological studies at Grace Bible College Gurgaon. After graduating, she faced financial constraints and other challenges that prevented her from pursuing further studies. Despite these difficulties, Kil remained committed to her family and took care of her young children and elderly parents while her husband worked at a construction site in Noida to support the family.

Kil learned about JRS Learning Centre and was eager to enrol in their tailoring course but her responsibilities as a mother made it difficult to find the time. Undeterred, she began learning stitching from a neighbour who had previously taken the course at JRS and was kind enough to lend her a sewing machine whenever she needed. Kil Boih is still grateful to her neighbour for inspiring her to improve her skills.

In 2022, Kil Boih finally had the opportunity to enrol in the JRS tailoring course, and she was accepted into the program.

With the support of her family (her parents) who took care of her young children while she is away, she was able to attend classes and learn the proper techniques of cutting, measuring, and stitching. She excelled in the course and even earned the praise of her teacher for her dedication and hard work.

After completing the program in March 2023, Kil Boih began to stitch at home and earn a living by accepting clients orders. With her newfound skills and financial independence, Kil is grateful to JRS for providing her with a safe space to learn and meet new friends. She now earns between INR 2000-3000 per month from stitching and is able to contribute to her family's finances.

Kil Boih's story is an inspiring example of how determination, hard work, and access to Livelihood opportunity can change lives for the better."

Education & Livelihood Tamil Nadu, India



Students attending Complementary Classes

JRS is running 96 Complementary Education centres (CECs) in 79 camps with the support of 145 CEC teachers (7 male and 138 female) who are refugees themselves. These CECs promote academic excellence and extra-curricular activities to the 3964 students (2000 male and 1964 female). It's noteworthy that there are 112 host community students (53 male and 59 female) who regularly attend the CEC classes in 27 camps which gives space to improve social cohesion. Along with them, 108 college students (37 male and 71 female) in 41 camps volunteered to conduct subject-specific classes for students from class VI to X. CEC's weekly students' forum gives opportunities to children to exhibit their talents. CEC teachers used audio and visual materials to teach academic subjects, moral values, and English Grammar.

Group activities, word games, classroom subject-based learning, and mentorship were offered to enhance the learning capabilities of children which enabled them to fulfil their academic requirements. Morning classes were conducted in 29 CECs with 1475 students from class VI to XII to prepare themselves for their annual examination.

JRS organised various interventions to address the opportunity to create a sustainable livelihood for Sri Lankan refugees. JRS organized the camp-bound Income Generation Program with 158 refugee women in 8 camps. Through this program, the refugee women have started to sell handmade products like-soap oil, soap powder, floor cleaner, and phenol in host community grocery shops and local supermarkets with branding in the name of their SHG. A month-long beautician training was organised with 228 refugee women in 12 camps. Those who completed the JRS beauty treatment course, are now undergoing an advanced level professional course in the host community institutes, doing bridal makeovers and securing jobs in beauty parlours. A total of 125 refugee youths benefitted through the JRS educational schemes such as short-term employment, technical tuitions support and scholarship for vocational courses. They were enrolled in four-wheeler driving, four-wheeler mechanic, A/C mechanic, Tally, Photoshop, typing course and Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, Diploma in Computer Application, Software development course and Advance diploma in Java Programming. 48 refugee women from 8 SHGs in 8 camps were trained in livelihood skills like poultry farming, bakery unit and camphor production.



Self-help group of Perumalpuram Camp

I am Beula (name changed), living in Perumalpuram Camp, Kanyakumari and the leader of the Self-Help Group "Mother Teresa" formed in February 2022. Women in our camp do not have good job opportunities. Mostly we were engaged in housekeeping and construction works in the host community. We depend on our men's income in general. Though I had 5 years of experience in running a bakery, my financial situation did not allow me to continue in the small-scale industry.

In this situation, we, the deserving 6 women who are widows, separated women and women from poor family backgrounds were selected and formed a Self-Help Group. We were oriented and guided by a JRS Field officer to get registered in the local Panchayat.

We underwent a day-long training in baking and cooking at Kaliakavilai Camp where a refugee family runs a bakery in August 2022.

An exposure visit and complementary skills offered to us enabled us to enhance our skills in leadership, financial management and marketing. Individual counselling offered by the JRS Field officer and a professional counsellor from Jesuit Retreat Centre improved our relationship and our ability to handle problems in our day-to-day life. With the support and guidance of JRS, we launched a bakery unit in our Camp which helped us to increase food production. We are happy that we are financially independent and able to shine as entrepreneurs.



Section : 04

Advocacy, Protection & Legal Service

Advocacy is an integral part of the JRS mission and of our daily activities around the world. Addressing the root causes of human displacement and striving to change unjust policies are fundamental to the JRS mandate. In JRS, advocacy involves empowering forcibly displaced people to claim the rights to which they are entitled and assisting them to exercise those rights (JRS Advocacy Booklet).

The promotion or provision of legal and physical protection, and minimising the threat of violence – which many refugees are subject to, even in countries of asylum (UNHCR)

Advocacy, Protection & Legal Service

Tamil Nadu, India

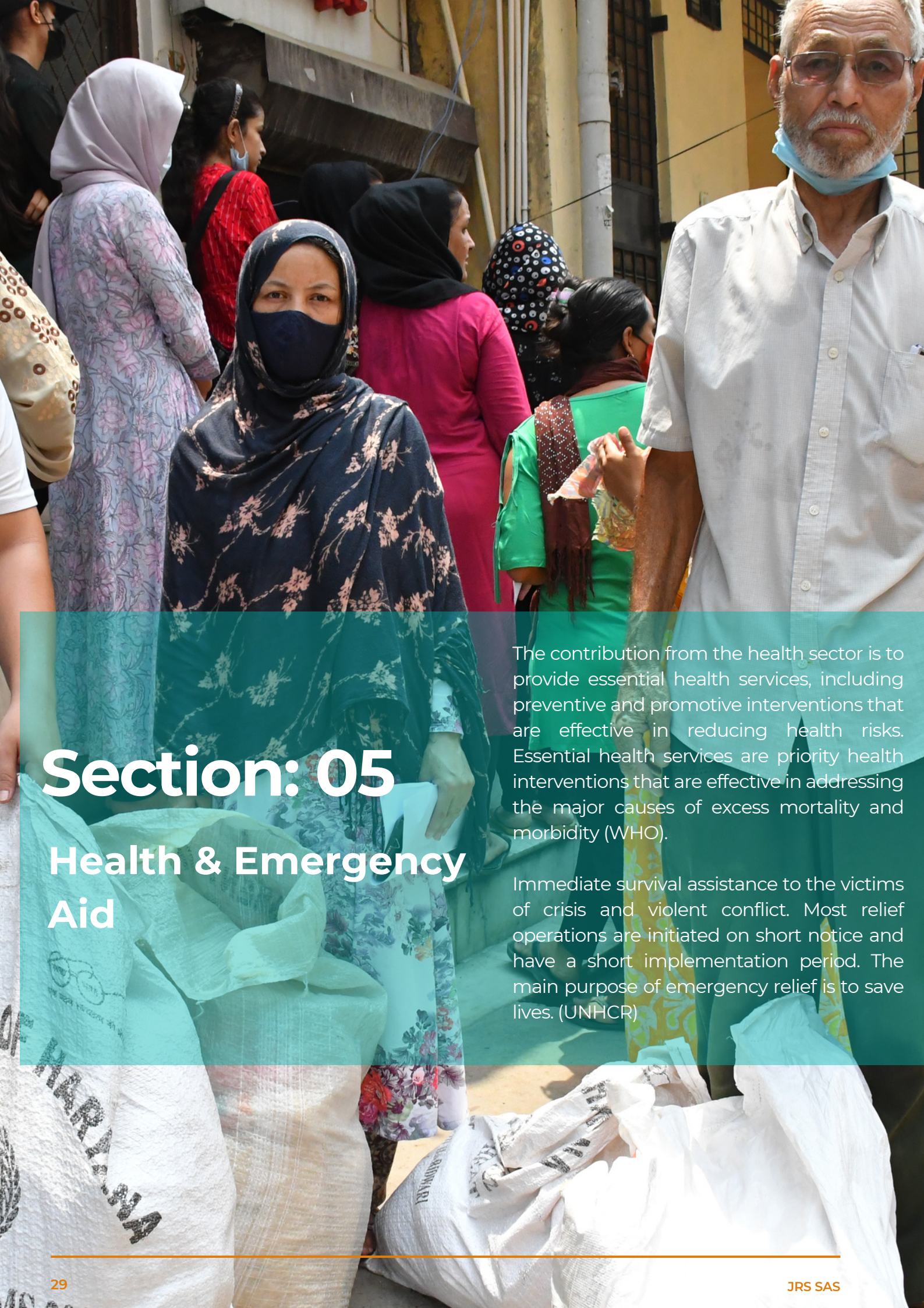
The Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu camps have been tormented by a protracted stay in cramped camps and the absence of any durable solution. It has been four decades since the arrival of Sri Lankan Tamil people to Tamil Nadu. To date they are considered “Illegal immigrants” and due to a lack of political will, they are not given citizenship. The present Tamil Nadu Government has started building permanent housing facilities for them which gives hope that they may be granted citizenship.

Against this backdrop, JRS adopted a two-pronged approach to advocacy: Firstly, creating platforms and opportunities for the refugees to voice their grievances in such a way that it reaches the duty-bearers; Secondly, skilling JRS staff to effectively support the advocacy moves of the refugees. JRS in collaboration with LISSTAR, convened a meeting of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees and enabled them to draft a Refugee Manifesto that underscored their aspirations for durable solutions. And 58 people attended a district level Interface meeting with government officials, the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Department and their team members. 29 JRS staff (16 male and 13 female) were given a day-long input on “Citizenship Opportunities for Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees” by Mr Romeo, an advocate in Madurai High Court. Through interface meetings, 32 children got camp registration and monthly cash dole which helped their parents to manage their daily living.



National Conference on Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees
Crisis at Loyola College

Also, camp surroundings are cleaned by the health workers and the people can go out of camp for work without getting daily permission. Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister inaugurated the newly constructed houses in Thotanuthu Camp, Dindigul through video conferencing from Chennai. 321 houses have got adequate pipelines, cement roadways, nursery education centres, libraries, water tanks, electric poles and streetlights. Government housing construction scheme in progress at 16 camps across Tamil Nadu. An orientation session on ‘Sri Lankan Tamil Refugee Crisis’ was conducted with 472 students (251 male and 221 female) in two Jesuit Colleges: Arul Ananthar College, Karumathur and Loyola College, Mettala. Students were given input on the refugee crisis, Sri Lankan refugee status in Tamil Nadu, the need for peace and social cohesion and the benefits of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees integration in Tamil Nadu.



Section: 05

Health & Emergency Aid

The contribution from the health sector is to provide essential health services, including preventive and promotive interventions that are effective in reducing health risks. Essential health services are priority health interventions that are effective in addressing the major causes of excess mortality and morbidity (WHO).

Immediate survival assistance to the victims of crisis and violent conflict. Most relief operations are initiated on short notice and have a short implementation period. The main purpose of emergency relief is to save lives. (UNHCR)

Health & Emergency Aid Afghanistan



After the fall of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on August 15, 2021, the Taliban forces controlled the administration of the country. The transition from a democratically elected government to forced occupation of the administration by Taliban resulted in withdrawal of International Aid. This resulted in increased and extended poverty, unemployment and malnutrition among the majority of people. Due to growing violence and uncertainty regarding future developments of the country the economic conditions of the people continued to deteriorate to date. UNDP estimates 97% of Afghans living in poverty by the middle of 2022. The project reached out to 932 IDP families residing in Shahrak Police camp, Sar-e-Kotal area and to some vulnerable IDP widows from different locations of Kabul. Approximately 5600 individuals (2400 male and 3200 female) were direct and indirect people served under this project. It is estimated that one fourth of the families reached were female-headed families.

**JRS served people
12544
with Health &
Emergency Aid**

Impact Stories

Hope in Aid Amidst Conflict in Kunduz Stories



A female househead and mother of five from the Sare Kotal area, I am a native of the northern Kunduz province. My husband and my elder son had a small grocery shop earning sufficient for our living in the village. Our lives were happy and trouble-free in Kunduz until 2011. Suddenly, the clash between the Afghan army and the Taliban erupted, resulting in the death of my husband and the loss of a leg of my eldest son. The village left me with sorrow for my dying husband and my ailing son. With minimum facilities to care for my son in the village, I left for Kabul together with my 5 children to receive better treatment for my son. The fights continued in my village which didn't allow me to return with my children. Life was very difficult in the Kabul IDP camp, where my illiteracy didn't fetch me any employment. Until August 2021, we survived on alms as my disabled son was not able to work and the other children were too young to work. The alms were reduced and often we slept hungry or with a piece of dry bread offered at the shop. In addition, we were forced to leave our earlier occupied houses to the tents in the Sar-e-Kotal area. The news of the support to the families in the camp gave me hope to survive along with my family. After months, the food material received has helped my children to eat a full meal, especially in the month of Ramazan. During Ramazan, I offer my prayers for the well-being of all those who have supported us.

Health & Emergency Aid Delhi, India



After the second wave of COVID-19 hit India, JRS has been continuing its support to the community variously. Through Emergency Relief Aid, JRS assisted 3221 (1022 Male and 2199 Female) primarily for Chin & Afghan urban refugees. Thus, aid has been provided to the most vulnerable refugee families who have lost their livelihood due to COVID-19. This aid includes the distribution of dry rations, nutrition support and rent support and medical support to families who had not received help from other agencies. In addition, JRS has been promoting gender-sensitive health and hygiene practices by providing vulnerable chin and Afghan refugees with sanitary pads, hand wash, hand sanitizer, and towels.

Furthermore, JRS offered micro-grant assistance to create livelihood opportunities and enhance the socio-economic capacities of the most vulnerable refugee women, girls, IPDs, host community members. This assistance has enabled them to launch their own businesses in various field.

Through the Professional/vocational skill training courses to upgrade skills, the project has empowered urban refugee women the opportunities to restore their resilience and psychosocial well-being to discover their individual skills and capacities, and are now confident skilled professionals and ready to take livelihood program for stability and employment. Financial assistance was provided to pregnant women (Chin & Afghan) who were in critical socioeconomic and health conditions. This aid aimed to help them acquire the necessary supplements and nutritious food required during the pregnancy phase, thereby improving and complementing their overall health. A session on awareness of gender-based violence was conducted for 105 young adults and women from chin and Afghan communities. Few men also attended the session, which focussed on the risks of abuse and violence faced by them during the forced home quarantine due to Covid-19 lockdown and its aftermath.

Self-sustainability through Entrepreneurship in Delhi with JRS Microgrant

Impact Stories

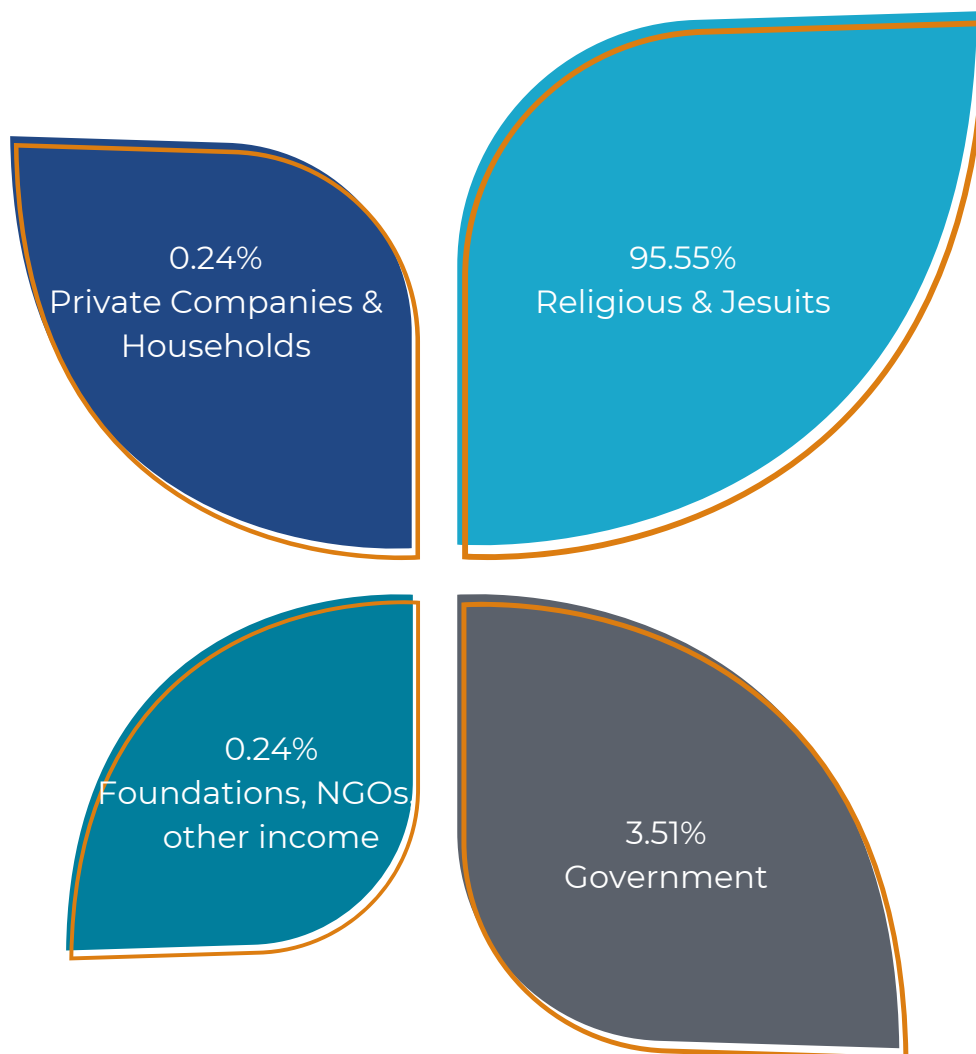
Feroza Khushi, a 45-year-old woman, arrived in Delhi on May 19th, 2018, with her husband Karimi and her two sons, due to the situation in Afghanistan. Upon arriving in India, Feroza was struck by the freedom that women had to walk around in different clothes and attires. She felt happy that women were able to move around freely and do many things unlike in her home country. She found the people of India friendly and helpful, which made her feel less out of place.



Despite being a very talented and hardworking woman, Feroza struggled to maintain a stable income in India. She needed to earn enough to pay rent, and electricity bills, and take care of her household. Feroza has skills in beadwork, particularly Cherma dozi, a tradition in Afghan culture where gold and silver threads follow a lace-like pattern around the neckline, sleeves, and borders of women's dresses. She also does stitch work from home, receiving orders from friends, family, and acquaintances. However, without her own sewing machine, Feroza had to borrow an old one from her neighbour and struggled to work at her preferred time.

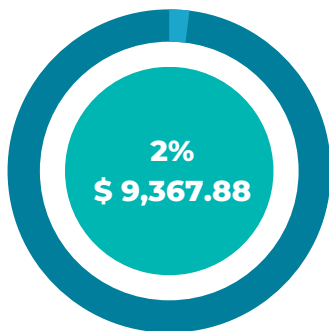
When Feroza was selected for the JRS microgrant opportunity to start her own business, she felt fortunate and excited to make use of her skills to earn income and start her own business. With the grant support, she bought a sewing machine (as seen in the picture), along with enough beads and raw materials to start her own work. Now, Feroza is happy that she can work at her own convenience and is receiving more orders to stitch as well. She is grateful to JRS for the support, which has helped her earn a living and be more independent.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

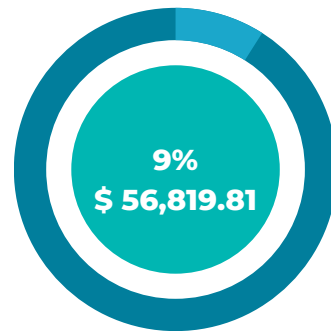


TOTAL INCOME
\$ 1,001,489.2

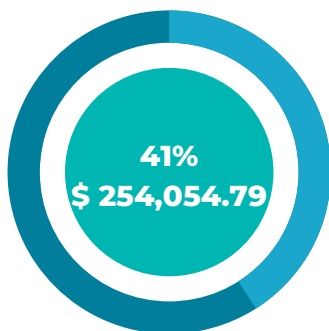
PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE



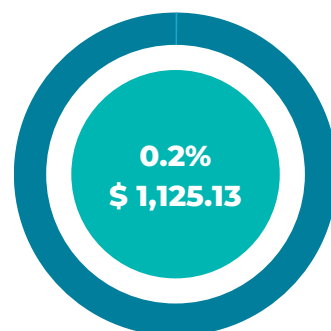
RECONCILIATION



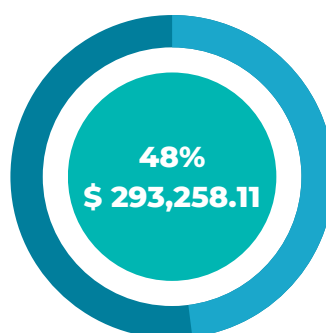
MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



EDUCATION & LIVELIHOOD



ADVOCACY, PROTECTION & LEGAL SERVICE



HEALTH & EMERGENCY AID

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$614,625.72

Accompany



Serve



Advocate

Annual Report 2022



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