Your gift will bring hope to those who need it most

Donations from supporters are essential for JRS Eastern Africa to respond quickly and flexibly, and reach as many people and places as it does. By making a donation to JRS Eastern Africa, you will join in our mission to bring compassion, hope and light in places of darkness. We will keep you regularly informed about the people and projects you are helping, and let you know what a difference your gift has made. You can donate via bank transfer or mail your cheque to JRS Eastern Africa.

Thank you!

www.jrsea.org

Jesuit Refugee Service Eastern Africa

accompany
serve
defend

Front cover photo: Sergi Camara/JRS (South Sudan)
Compassion for humanity on the edge

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organisation with a mission to accompany, serve and advocate for the rights of refugees and others who are forcibly displaced. JRS was founded in 1980 by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in response to the plight of the Vietnamese boat people. The then Superior General, Fr Pedro Arrupe SJ, was deeply moved by their suffering and felt compelled to respond. Inspired by that same compassion, JRS now works with more than 700,000 people displaced by conflict and natural disasters across the world. We are internationally recognised for our closeness to the people we serve — in refugee camps, conflict zones, post war settings and detention centres, in rural areas, in the heart of cities, and on remote borders.

JRS started working in Eastern Africa in 1982, providing food, shelter and medical aid to thousands of people affected by the famine in Ethiopia. In the early 1990s, the JRS Eastern Africa region was established, and now encompasses Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda with a regional office in Nairobi, Kenya.

Rooted in faith, acting in justice

JRS understands the term ‘refugee’ to embrace all forcibly displaced people. We promote a culture of openness, embodied by hospitality in action. This implies defending the rights of refugees to protection and to all they need to live in dignity.

Our network links refugees to decision-making centres at country, regional and international levels. JRS Eastern Africa defends the rights of refugees by focusing on issues that promote the social, cultural, developmental and legal rights of displaced persons. This includes education, child protection, peace and reconciliation, camp-based and urban refugee issues, and reducing sexual and gender-based violence.

Kindling hope through learning

One of the most dangerous threats to hope is lack of future prospects. JRS Eastern Africa offers the concrete possibility of education to refugees. Programmes include, depending on context, pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary education, special education, scholarships, vocational training, adult literacy, computer and language classes. Our Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margins (JC: HEM) programme is implemented in partnership with JRS at Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. It is a pioneering scheme to assist refugees to attain a university education through gaining a diploma accredited to Regis University, USA.

JRS Eastern Africa also provides, depending on the country, psychosocial support to help refugees recover from trauma; sports and drama activities; pastoral accompaniment; and income-generation support. We also work on youth and community development, and peace and reconciliation.