



# JRS KAKUMA IN BRIEF

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## ABOUT KAKUMA

Kakuma is located in north-western Kenya, approximately 1000km from Nairobi and 95km south of the Sudanese border in an arid area which is home to the Turkana nomadic pastoralists. The Kakuma refugee camp was established in 1992 for Sudanese refugees who were fleeing civil war in Sudan. At its peak the camp hosted more than 95,000 refugees. At present the camp accommodates an estimated 80,000 refugees of more than ten different nationalities with Somalis now the majority and the others coming mainly from Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Eritrea and the Great Lakes region. In 2009, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) relocated more than 12,000 Somali refugees from the three Dadaab camps in north-eastern Kenya to Kakuma. With a population of around 300,000, these camps have long exhausted their capacity to host more new arrivals. Around 5,000 Somali refugees cross the border into Kenya every month and, given the situation in Somalia, the refugee flow is expected to continue.



### “SAFE HAVEN” PROTECTION CENTRE

- ◆ Operates since 2000 as a protection shelter for women and children who are survivors of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV)
- ◆ Provides safe and secure accommodation, meals and basic material support as well as psychosocial support and capacity building activities such as tailoring for up to 40 women and their children
- ◆ Offers pre-school education for the children

### MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

- ◆ Offers basic skills training for 70 mental health care assistants per year
- ◆ Runs three daycare centres which provide informal education and offer leisure activities to 150 children and adults with developmental and mental disabilities
- ◆ Conducts home visits
- ◆ Advocates and raises awareness on behalf of persons with disabilities

**JRS reaches out to over 8,800 refugees, through its activities in Kakuma refugee camp.**

### JRS ACTIVITIES IN KAKUMA

JRS started working with refugees in Kakuma in 1994 focusing on two broad areas: education and psychosocial support. The projects target the most vulnerable, who face the greatest challenges, their conditions having been aggravated by displacement and the living conditions in the camp.

### COUNSELLING PROGRAMME

- ◆ Offers training in basic counselling skills to 250 refugees per year
- ◆ Offers community-based counselling services provided by 40 trained refugee staff who reach out to 1,500 refugees per year
- ◆ Provides psychosocial support and skills training for 25 young mothers
- ◆ Offers basic training in alternative healing methods to 100 refugees per year
- ◆ Offers alternative healing services (massage & reflexology) through 20 alternative healers

### EDUCATION PROGRAMME

- ◆ Offers scholarships for almost 70 children with special needs and vulnerable girls at boarding schools across Kenya for primary and secondary education
- ◆ Offers distance learning programmes for tertiary education with universities in the US. The programme was launched in 2011 and 35 refugees are expected to have a degree after the first year.