



# JRS EASTERN AFRICA IN BRIEF

## HISTORY

JRS started working in Africa in the early 1980s. One of the earliest commitments was in Ethiopia, providing food, shelter and medical aid to thousands of people displaced within their own country by war and famine.

In the early 1990s the JRS Eastern Africa region was established, encompassing Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya with the regional office based in Nairobi.

In 1992 one of the biggest and longest serving JRS projects was set up in Adjumani, northern Uganda, assisting Sudanese refugees mainly through education and pastoral care. It was closed in 2008, after 75 schools were handed over to the government and most of the refugees were repatriated to Southern Sudan, now helping to rebuild their country with the skills they gained during their exile in Adjumani.

In northern **UGANDA** JRS supports internally displaced persons through psycho-social support and peace-building.

In northern **ETHIOPIA** JRS works with Eritrean refugees in Mai-Aini refugee camp, providing counselling and non-formal education such as sports, music and art.

## ADVOCACY

JRS always includes advocacy in its work. This involves working towards ensuring that the rights of forcibly displaced persons are respected and lobbying for greater protection for them.

## ACTIVITIES TODAY

Today, JRS Eastern Africa runs 13 projects in the region, reaching out to over 105,000 forcibly displaced people.

The largest programmes are in **SOUTHERN SUDAN** where JRS works with the new Government of Southern Sudan and the local communities to develop the education system as a key tool of developing peace and justice.

Another focal point in the region are urban refugees and asylum seekers in **ADDIS ABABA, KAMPALA and NAIROBI** who receive emergency food, shelter and medical assistance as well as support in setting up income generating activities.

In **DARFUR** JRS works with the internally displaced mainly supporting primary education and providing life skills training as well as adult literacy.

## REFUGEES

## IDPs

Kenya	395,708	Sudan	4,860,077
Tanzania	119,575	Somalia	1,400,000
Sudan	192,233	Uganda	445,145
Uganda	145,771	Ethiopia	250,000
Ethiopia	139,820	Kenya	268,600
Total	993,107	Total	7,223,822

Source: UNOCHA, UNHCR

## FACTS & FIGURES

JRS Eastern Africa employs over 200 national, international, volunteer and Jesuit staff members and over 300 refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons who receive so called "incentives" because the legal regulations in most of the countries do not allow them to be formally employed.