

COUNTRY PROFILE JRS SOUTH SUDAN 2022

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE:
JRS RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS
OF DISPLACED IN
SOUTH SUDAN 2022

REPORT BY JESUIT REFUGEE
SERVICE EAST AFRICA



**JESUIT
REFUGEE
SERVICE**

Psychosocial development at JRS Community Centre

JRS would like to thank our current donors Donors



All other
supporters
through Jesuit
mission
connections
worldwide

Correspondence Address

JRS SS Country Office
Thongping next to Indian Embassy
P.O Box 42 Juba
Email: southsudan.director@jrs.net

WHO WE ARE ?

JRS SOUTH SUDAN

Fundamental questions for JRS are: *What is the real need?; Where is the opportunity & hope to be nurtured?; Where can we add real value that others cannot?; How do we walk with people to add value in a dignified, sustainable way?.*

JRS started working in Eastern Africa assisting refugees fleeing from Somalia and Ethiopia. The East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region hosts the largest displaced populations in the world; with a total refugee and Asylum seeker population of 4.9 million and 12.3 million IDPs (31st Dec 2021). South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo accounts for the largest refugee population in the region, most displaced due to conflict and instability.

JRS operational presence in South Sudan started in 1997 in Central and Eastern Equatoria States (education sector). Following the secession of South Sudan from Sudan in July 2011, and in line with our mission, JRS phased out projects in this region during 2012. The post-independence war in 2013 encouraged JRS to restart large integrated programs in 4 refugee camps in Maban County (Upper Nile State) and Yambio County (Western Equatoria State) this was later scaled up to cover more counties (Ezo, Nzara and Tambura). In Western Equatoria State we are primarily focused on forcibly displaced persons and host communities including cross-border movement and protection monitoring in the areas of return. JRS is currently exploring strategic expansion on our geographical presence based on the need and where JRS can best add value and in line with the JRS mission and identity.



KEY IMPACTS

18,510

BENEFICIARIES AT JRS IN 2021

1 Library Block and
2 Permanent Teacher
Training Blocks built.



1 Community Center in refugee
interface areas built.

59 Tukuls (semi-permanent
houses) for persons with
Special Needs built.

2 Day Care Centers for children
with physical impairments



264 Children attending Day
Care Centers

332 Primary school teachers
trained



through in-service and
pre-service formation



38 Children with physical
impairments supported

200 young people facilitated to
learn acrobatics



9 permanent and temporary
learning structures
constructed

16 primary and secondary
schools supported

JRS GLOBAL

JRS is an International Catholic Organisation, founded in 1980 by the Society of Jesus as a practical and spiritual response to the suffering displaced refugees. Today JRS is active in more than 56 countries, with the mission of *accompanying, serving and defending the rights* of refugees, internally displaced persons and anyone obliged to leave their homes forcefully.

The main strategic programme focus for 2019-2023 include; Education and Livelihoods, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Reconciliation.

Vision

A world where refugees and the forcibly displaced people live in dignity and peaceful coexistence where their rights and responsibilities are recognized and safeguarded and each persons potential being realized in an orientation of service to others

Mission

Inspired by the generous love and example of Jesus Christ, JRS seeks to accompany, serve and advocate for the causes of refugees and other forcibly displaced people, that they may heal, learn and determine their own future

Core Values

In addition to the 4 Humanitarian principles of Impartiality, Neutrality, Humanity and Independence, the other core values of JRS SS which must find resonance in all our programming and support are: Hope, Dignity, Solidarity, Hospitality, Transparency, Accountability, Integrity, Participation and Justice

SOUTH SUDAN CONTEXT

As the youngest nation in the World, South Sudan ranks 185 out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index (2022). After many years of resistance and conflict, independence from Sudan was followed by the 2013 & 2016 civil wars. Decades of conflict has claimed hundred's of thousands of lives and driven nearly four million people from their homes. 2 million remain displaced inside the country (IDPs) and more than 2.3 million (31st Dec 2021) have fled to neighbouring countries in a desperate bid for safety. South Sudan remains Africa's largest and the World's third largest refugee crisis situation. Some 8.3 million people in South Sudan are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance (2021). These include 8,000,000 nationals and 310,000 refugees and asylum seekers. As an oil producing economy, heavily reliant on imports and with poor physical infrastructure, the economy is increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, fluctuating oil prices, and conflict related shocks.

Despite the unpredictable and complex operational environment impacting displacement patterns, the South Sudan government has maintained an open-door policy for refugees, from neighbouring, Sudan, Ethiopia and the D.R.C. [NFI] The stark reality within the refugee, host communities and IDP's is that tens of thousands of vibrant, energetic young people remain unemployed, disaffected, uninspired and with no dream for their lives.



I have an orchard in one side of the bridge, and I sell the groceries in the market in the other side. Before, crossing was dangerous in rainy season, and had to be done by feet. Now, with the bridge fixed [by JRS] I can use my bike and it is safer and easier to do my business.

Beneficiary

SOME KEY CHALLENGES FACED BY PEOPLE IN SOUTH SUDAN

- Social mobility for work and trade severely hampered by very limited and insecure road network.
- High dependency on imports, high cost of transportation and decreased oil revenue have increased economic hardship especially during the COVID pandemic.
- Political fragility, fragmentation and slow forward momentum in implementing the peace agreement create anxiety and slow the pace of growth and development
- Disparity in social services - especially in health and education between urban and rural areas exacerbate the rural/urban divide
- Lack of strategic support and sustainable resourcing for the education sector leaves South Sudan's high youth population disaffected, without sufficient supports to learn, self-actualise and cultivate alternative pathways for the future

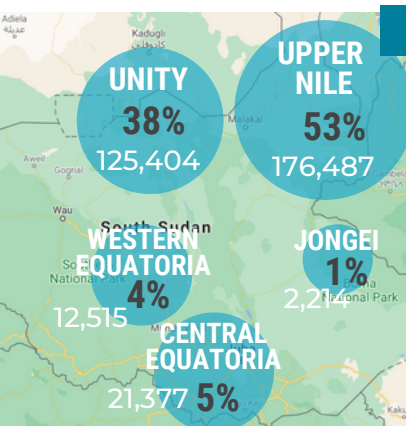
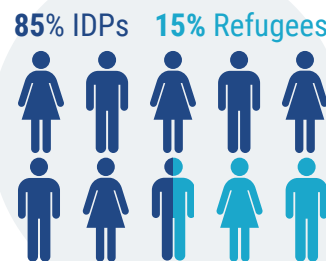
SPECIFIC CHALLENGES FACED BY DISPLACED PERSONS IN SOUTH SUDAN

- Living with limited access to basic services
- Living precariously by the generosity of others rather than under the protection of the law
- Living with the constant threat that tension between communities in already fragmented and fragile contexts will boil over because of scarcity of resources prompting new displacement
- Living with no sense of permanency or security on which a person can reasonably begin to build a vision and plan for the future
- Living with the prospect of protracted displacement wherein individuality and ambition succumbs to survival, anonymity and deep rooted dependency

Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and IDPs in South Sudan

+2M
Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

337,997
Officially registers Refugees and Asylum seekers (as per December 2021)



Host Locations

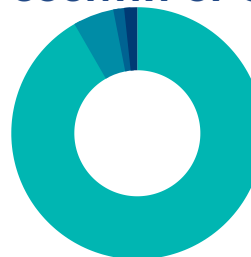
The greatest majority of forcibly displaced people within South Sudan are IDPs (+2M), while the refugee and Asylum Seeker population is 337,997 persons. The main host locations of registered refugees include: Upper Nile State (176,487) with more than half of the total amount of the refugee population in the country, followed by Unity State (125,404). The other 10% are mainly distributed amongst Central (5%-21,377) and Western Equatoria State's (4%-12,515). Finally 1% (2,214) refugee communities are located in Jonglei State. Within these territories there are different locations and camps in which smaller

communities of refugees are found. Maban and Yambio are such locations in Upper Nile & Western Equatoria States.

(31st Dec 2021-UNHCR)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN & DISTRIBUTION

Out of the 338,000 refugee population:



Sudan - 92.6% (280,313)
DRC - 5.3% (15,982)
Ethiopia - 1.4% (4,162)
Other - 1.7%

2022 FOCUS: ADDING VALUE AS A WAY OF WORKING

INTEGRATED PROGRAM

Co-creation of initiatives together with target communities, with dynamic partnership, to achieve shared goals. JRS recognizes the huge challenge of dependency and disempowering dynamics that can evolve with the presence of humanitarian agencies. JRS is committed to supporting the overall need to transition to development – evolving MoUs with communities that articulate what JRS will contribute, what they will contribute towards better achievement of our shared goals.

CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

Deepening conflict sensitivity in all programming and in accompaniment of IDPs and refugees as they return to places of origin. Identifying protection issues and potential for conflict in areas of settlements and helping to address them, and support preparations for relocation in a conflict sensitive and sustainable way.

GENDER POLICY

Promoting gender equity and positive opportunity for all. JRS will be putting in place further practical initiatives across all operations to further the commitment to gender equity, and will be orienting more towards gender responsive programming. Examples of current initiatives are:

- Gender sensitive vacancy announcements and recruitment processes
- IT lessons for all support staff,
- Driving lessons for female support staff
- More competent women in senior management positions.

HOLISTIC FORMATION

More IT based learning to reflect COVID-19 reality and achieve complementarity between class/teacher based learning and IT based learning to add further building blocks to past achievements and increase creativity and agility in learning beyond the classroom.

Refugee and Returnee Statistics for Eastern & Central Equatoria States

Ever since the signing of peace agreement in 2018 to December 2021, the cumulative reported number of refugee returnees stood at 505,511. Out of this, an estimated 268,198 were reported to have returned in 2021 of which, 28,440 returned in December 2021 alone. Spontaneous refugee return by State:

Central Equatoria= 178,024	Unity= 80,929
Eastern Equatoria= 110,522	Warrap= 6,707
WES= 11,227	Western Bahr El Ghazal= 11,867
Upper Nile= 74,392	Northern Bahr El Ghazal= 3,410
Jonglei= 28,373	Lakes= 60

PHOTO: JRS STAFF AT YAMBIO'S DAY CARE CENTER



2022

What determines JRS presence in South Sudan?

JRS is a faith based organisation, responding to requests to come, see and add value to the work needed to improve the lives and prospects of displaced persons. JRS does not seek a wide geographic presence as a way of operating, that may not be sustained. We work to respond to the needs in where we have competency to do so, and to commit over a reasonable period to the people. Building year by year on achievements in service to better lives and future prospects of those we serve.

MAIN LOCATIONS:

Maban County (Upper Nile State) and Yambio, Nzara, Ezo and Tambura Counties (Western Equatoria State)

EDUCATION

In our belief, education is the undisputed queen of empowerment. JRS' focus is on enhancing the quality of access to education in all areas where we work.

We do this through identifying the protection risks that exist in current school environments, that can be tackled through investment in and engagement with school communities. This is made possible by providing learning materials, building of schools, latrines, among many others based on the specific needs.

We also work through an intense focus on teacher training, incorporating re-orientation of teaching and learning methodologies towards the new child centred, competency based curriculum.

Our teacher training is holistic, drawing on the rich pedigree of Jesuit pedagogy and incorporates modules on psychosocial development and needs of children, conflict sensitivity in the classroom, and the sensitization of teachers to children with special needs in the learning environment. Class based training is complimented by practical placements and on-going in class mentoring for trainee teachers

KEY FOCUS AREAS

PRIMARY SCHOOLS SUPPORT

ENGLISH AND COMPUTER CLASSES

PEACE EDUCATION

IN/PRE-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING

LOOKING AT 2022:

In 2022 JRS will increase complimentary IT based learning and launch the first fully stocked library service in Maban County in service to many including the host, JRS refugee and host community students of teacher training, and JRS staff. A value add approach will be taken to further enhancing all services and maximizing host and refugee community use of spaces invested in for social interface, certified english and computer classes

PROTECTION & PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

JRS aims to conceive and deliver all work through a protection lens. Our Psychosocial supports (PSS) are designed to identify and contribute to supporting personal, familial and community-based coping mechanisms to strengthen networks and referrals that support and build resilience.

JRS PSS interventions are not clinical in nature. We recognize that most people's wellness can be enhanced best through personal, familial and community support. At the same time we recognize that in a small number of cases more specialized clinical interventions are needed, and we focus on contributing to the development of strong referral networks where more specialized care is needed. Life skills and sports activities are run on a weekly basis with youth groups across the refugee settlements in which we work. JRS South Sudan has evolved the talents of young refugees from the 4 communities in Maban into the only male and female acrobatics team in Maban

JRS Protection and Psycho-Social support also include pastoral accompaniment of our staff and the host community. JRS recognizes that drawing from a faith tradition is a vital component of personal resilience and positive coping for many. JRS provides a range of pastoral supports to refugee and host community, including leadership formation and sacramental ministry to the largely Christian local host community in Maban.

KEY FOCUS AREAS

SGBV AND CHILD SAFEGUARDING

DAYCARE CENTRE MANAGEMENT

COMMUNITY-LED PROTECTION STRENGTHENING

CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT AND PROTECTION MONITORING & RESPONSE

LOOKING AT 2022

JRS STRATEGIC GOALS 2022-2023

STRATEGIC GOAL ONE

To contribute to the reduction of underlying causes of conflict and promote peace through targeted interventions with focus on youths

STRATEGIC GOAL TWO

To improve mental health and psycho-social well-being through strengthening coping strategies and facilitating community-based responses for conflict affected populations.

STRATEGIC GOAL THREE

Contribute to effective provision, access, inclusive, quality, and equitable education to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Returnees and host population through inspiration, changing attitudes, values, and societal transformation.

STRATEGIC GOAL FOUR

Conduct an inventory of livelihood programmes, pilot, and test livelihood micro project(s) in existing operational area that will provide evidence for informing the scope, design, and implementation of future livelihoods projects by the end of 2023.

STRATEGIC GOAL FIVE

JRS South Sudan Country Office has strengthened overall strategic leadership and management capacity across all functions in service to field level operational plans and delivery of organisational strategy.

NEW HORIZONS 2022

- Livelihood pilot initiatives, through focused collaborative partnerships, that seek to add value and enable income generation in the informal economy and target youth and women in a particular way.
- Strategic geographical expansion to see where JRS can add value to what others are doing in response to needs in those localities.
- Stronger focus on co-creating initiatives that respond to the real needs in dynamic partnerships with local communities.
- Exploration of meaningful cross-border collaboration on regional JRS initiatives to respond to the needs and decision making of displaced persons on the move.
- Urban based response to the displaced in Juba, adding value to what others are already doing.

Human Story

Najm Eldean Ismail is a 30 year old Sudanese living in Maban Refugee Camp (northern South Sudan). Ismail benefits from JRS' counseling and therapy program. The team in the field visit him to help him cope with some serious mental health issues that has troubled him. He explained his experience, feelings, and how JRS has supported him.

“I give so much thanks to JRS... They've helped me a lot. I hope they have a long hand so they can help more people [...]”

[Click here to read the story.](#)

