

# JRS in Eastern Africa

Context, main programmatic  
areas and priorities



# History

JRS is working in Eastern Africa since early **1980s** to respond to the Ethiopian civil war.

Fr. Pedro Arrupe, then Superior General of the Society of Jesus, requested the Jesuits working in the region **to provide relief to forcibly displaced people.**

The Eastern Africa Region (EAR) was **the first to be established in Africa.**



# Overview

## Eastern Africa: "A Region on the Move"

JRS Eastern Africa Region is formed by **Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania** and **Burundi**.

These are among the top refugee hosting countries in the world.

In 2022, we served

# 335,700

## Forcibly Displaced People

4,507 in **Kenya**      241,834 in **South Sudan**

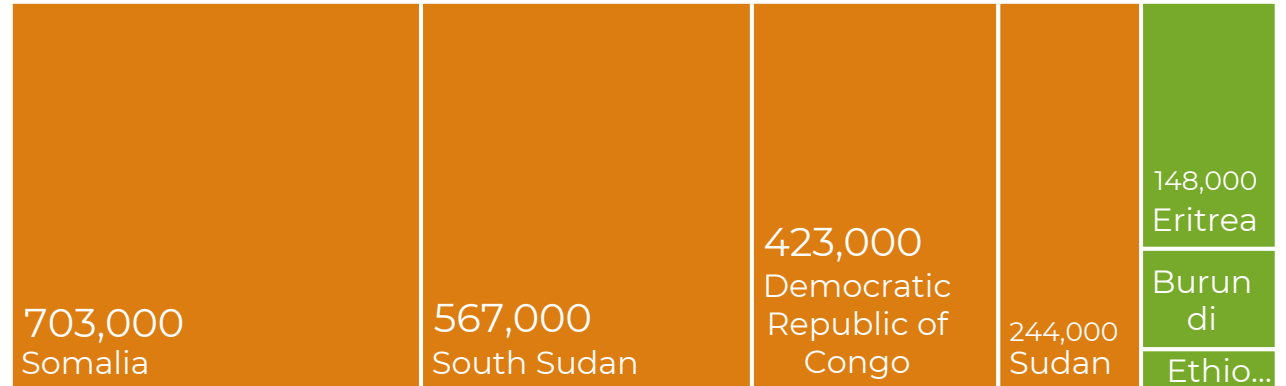
22,645 in **Ethiopia**      30,127 in **Burundi**

29,653 in **Uganda**      6,934 in **Tanzania**

# People on the Move

Most refugees and asylum seekers in the region are from within Great Lakes, Horn of Africa and Eastern Africa Region\*.

The main countries of origin are:



People of Concern in Eastern Africa Region\*\*:

**3.8M** Refugees & Asylum seekers

**5.5M** Internally Displaced (mainly in SSD and Ethiopia)

The root causes fueling displacement are:

**War and violent conflict**

**Climate, drought and famine**

**Human Rights violations**

**Terrorism**

**Access to land**

# Current Context

At this time, the region has faced some of the largest humanitarian crises in Africa generated by the escalation of armed conflicts in Sudan, Somalia, and the Great Lakes.

## Sudan War

Sudan war prompted forced migrations and displacement of refugees and local population since April 2022.

## Tigray War

Despite Peace has been signed among main counterparts in the conflict, its consequences and displacement are still affecting lots of people in the country.

## Droughts

Affecting Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia, triggering more movement of people.

## Floodings

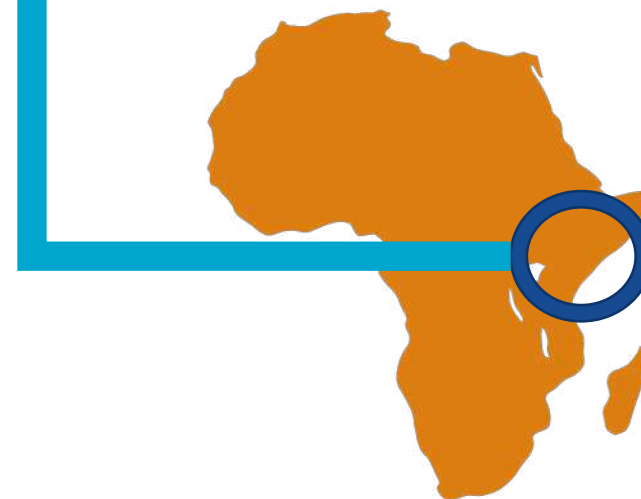
Also as a consequence of climate change, affecting different areas (in our case, especially in South Sudan, Maban).



# Where we are

We operate in 15 locations within 6 countries.

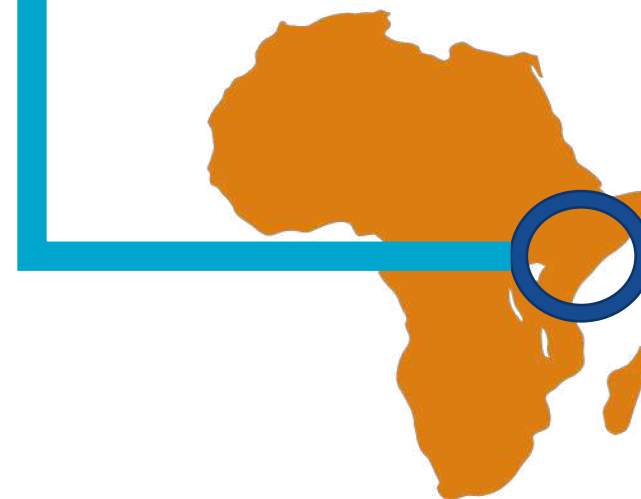
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# Impact Education

**175,100** people served

Our main projects are focused on:

- Teacher training (National certification).
- Access to equitable and quality education.
- Creation of more inclusive educational spaces.
- Online education.

We have education programs in all our locations throughout the region.





# Impact

## Livelihoods

**2,781** people served

Our main projects are focused on:

- IGAs for urban refugees, IDPs and small farmers and linkage to markets.
- Strengthening the training offered in entrepreneurship, management and project set-up.
- Consolidation of vocational and/or accelerated training projects leading to certification.

We have livelihoods programs in all our locations throughout the region.



# Impact

## MHPSS & Basic Needs

**118,273** people served

Our main projects are focused on:

- Capacity building of community leaders, teachers and parents in PMSC.
- Distribution of Food and NFIs.
- Identification of SGBV victims.
- Development of a listening and psychosocial support program.
- Home visit and individual and group counselling.
- Medical and rent support.

## Protection

**10,811** people served

Our main projects are focused on:

- Offering protection spaces for GBV survivors.
- Foster care arrangements for unaccompanied children.
- This combined with therapy, training, education.

We have protection programs in Kakuma Refugee Camp (**Kenya**) for GBV survivors and in Addis Ababa (**Ethiopia**) for unaccompanied children.

# Impact

## Reconciliation

**28,735** people served

Our main projects are focused on:

- Peace and reconciliation training for community leaders and educational personnel.
- Strengthening of peaceful coexistence and community mobilization activities (cultural and sports activities).
- Literacy courses as a channel for reconciliation.
- Strengthening collaboration with government protection services.





# Advocacy

Our main activities are focused on:

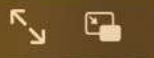
- Implementing and Promoting actions to defend the rights of refugees and IDPs.
- Promoting integration of refugees and IDPs into local life in all our activities.
- Designing a communication strategy.
- Strengthening the visibility of JRS activities.
- Advocate to donor to integrate an emergency line in any call for proposal.

Advocacy is a cross-cutting element to all our projects.



# Key Challenges

- Contextual changes in our area of operation  
(Climate Change induced displacement, Insecurity, Drought, Famine, Flooding)
- Needs of the community are way broader than our capacity
- Limited donations due to protracted situation of refugees
- Donor fatigue
- Lack of long-term funding affecting our planning
- Staff capacities and high turnover
- Complex emergencies in the region



[Click here to watch Maryam's testimony](#)

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