

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

KAMPALA URBAN  
PROJECT &  
ADJUMANI PROJECT

 **JRS** | UGANDA  
JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE



Dear Friends and Partners of JRS Uganda,

We are happy to share with you our accomplishments and lessons learned for the year 2022. This report showcases highlights from both the Urban Project in Kampala, which serves urban refugees, and the Adjumani Project, which serves mainly South Sudanese refugees in the settlements.

We directly assisted almost 30,000 beneficiaries, with most receiving Basic Needs support. While this remains the greatest need, we are dedicated to offering complete support to ensure beneficiaries can rebuild their lives sustainably. As such, approximately 1,400 people were supported by our Livelihood departments.


Over 7,000 beneficiaries were assisted with Education, and more than 1,500 individuals deliberately sought Psychosocial support, which is impressive and a testimony to their resilience and determination to heal from traumatic experiences and integrate well.

As a Catholic Institution, we provide spiritual nourishment to those we serve. In 2022, we conducted over 50 Holy Eucharist celebrations, each with an average attendance of 650 refugees and host community members.

Throughout 2022, we encountered some challenges, as is expected in any program implementation. We would like to highlight two of them. Firstly, beneficiaries found it difficult to manage their time between attending training sessions and fulfilling their daily business or job requirements. Secondly, we still struggle to provide sufficient basic emergency services, despite prioritizing sustainability, as these needs are overwhelming and ongoing.

We noticed an increase in the number of refugees arriving in the country, highlighting the urgent need for our continued support. We are deeply grateful for the unwavering generosity of our donors, whose contributions have been crucial in helping us achieve our goals.

Despite the challenges we face, we remain steadfast in our mission to accompany, advocate, and serve our displaced brothers and sisters.



**Christina Zetlmeisl**  
**JRS Uganda Country Director**

## Special appreciation to:



Fidel Götz Foundation



FUNDS FOR WOMEN

ALL OUR PRIVATE DONORS



Women saving group in Kampala.



Elderly woman during a home visit in Adjumani.

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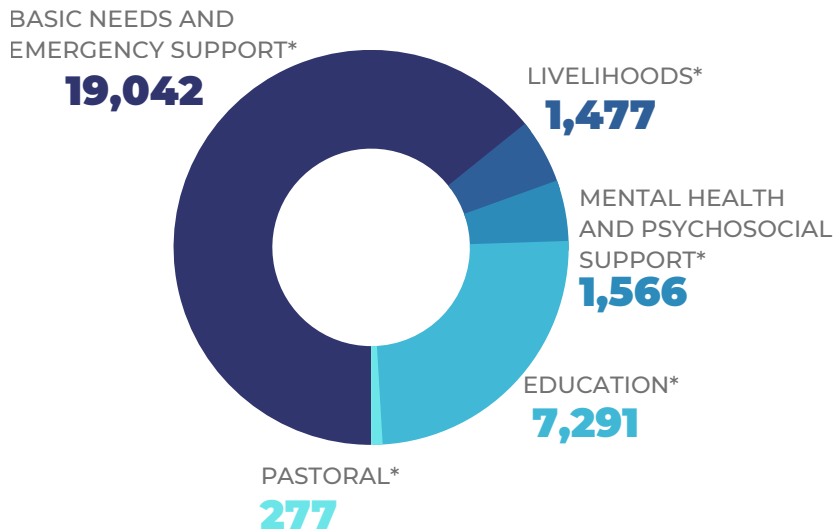


A woman going to fetch water passes by a girl coming from school in Adjumani.

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# 2022 PROGRAMMATIC OVERVIEW

## PEOPLE SERVED PER PROJECT:

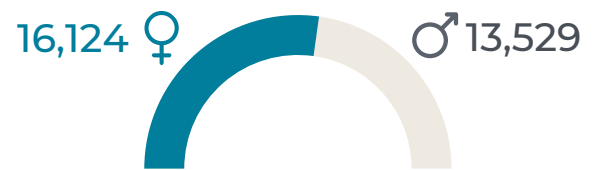


\*ONLY DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

# 29,653

## DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SERVED.

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2022



# +40,000

## ESTIMATED INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES



Charity during class at St. Mary Assumpta Secondary School, Adjumani

Meet Charity, a young refugee from South Sudan who lives in a Settlement in Adjumani. Just like many others in her community, Charity struggled to pay for her school fees. Unfortunately, her father believed that education was not meant for girls, a belief shared by many other parents in the area. However, Charity's mother had a different view and hoped that her daughter would receive an education and become a successful professional in the future. Sadly, she was unable to afford the school fees. Fortunately, organizations like JRS provide support to girls like Charity by covering their school fees, learning materials, uniforms, and any other related costs. Thanks to this support, Charity's father allowed her to attend school. JRS Uganda is a leader in supporting refugee education in Adjumani, with a particular focus on enrolling girls.

# TESTIMONIES



## [Serge, an Academically Gifted and Pen Artist](#)

Read an inspiring tale of Serge, a 23-year-old refugee from Congo who resides in Kampala. Despite facing many challenges, he has excelled academically and revealed himself to be a remarkable artist. Serge's journey as a refugee began when he was very young. In 2005, gunmen attacked his family, seeking his father. Fortunately, he was able to escape and find refuge in Kampala. With the help of the JRS Education programme, he has been able to pursue his education and showcase his artistic talents.

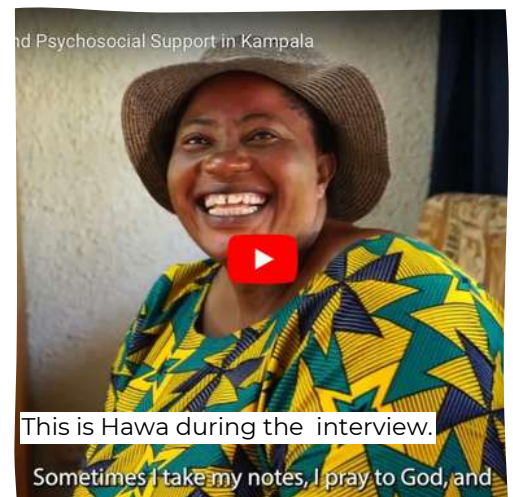
[Access the article here](#)

A happy Serge .

## [The story of Hawa: resilience and strength](#)

Hawa's story is one of perseverance and determination. She has overcome difficult challenges and made room for new opportunities. To hear her inspiring testimony, watch her video interview where she shares how counseling groups in Kampala have played a crucial role in rebuilding her life. Hawa has not only been able to cope with her own trauma, but she is also helping other refugee women like herself overcome similar struggles. Don't miss out on this uplifting story!

[Access the video & article here](#)



This is Hawa during the interview.

Sometimes I take my notes, I pray to God, and



Students in Adjumani holding books that they received from JRS

## [Education for Girls' in Adjumani Refugee Settlement](#)

At JRS Uganda, promoting girls' education is a top priority. With the generous support of our donors, we are able to make this a reality in Adjumani District, which is located in northern Uganda and has the largest refugee settlements in the country. In this region, we work tirelessly to ensure that every girl has access to education. To learn more about our efforts, watch the inspiring video featuring Charity, a young South Sudanese student, and Mary Grace, a radio history teacher. You can also read the article for additional information. Join us in our mission to empower girls through education!

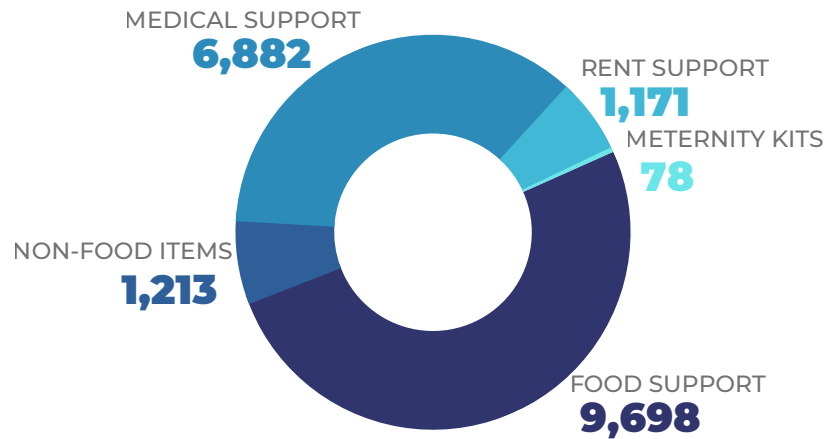
[Access the video & article here](#)

# BASIC NEEDS

## BASIC NEEDS AND EMERGENCY SUPPORT

**19,042**

**DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SERVED.**



Children after receiving food items at JRS Kampala.

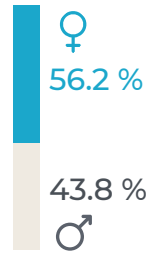
# BASIC NEEDS SUPPORT

KAMPALA

PEOPLE SERVED IN THE PROJECT:

# 13,084

**DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SERVED.**

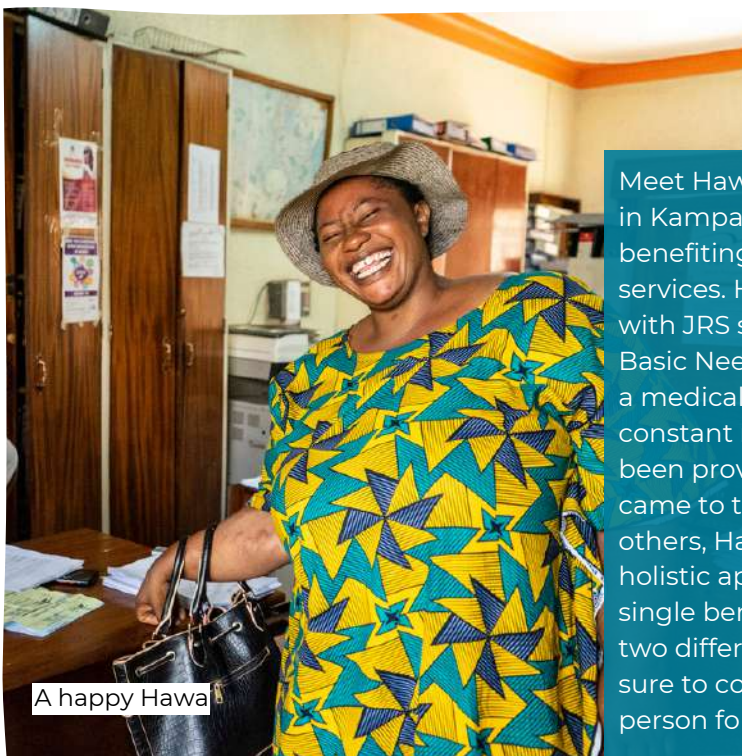


## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Monetary support for food was provided to vulnerable heads of households.
- Individuals received eyeglasses.
- Non-food items and social assistance were given.
- Refugees and vulnerable host community members accessed assorted basic medical assistance.
- Most vulnerable beneficiaries received rent support.
- Maternity kits were given to pregnant mothers who are very vulnerable and unable to purchase them.
- The Basic Needs department initiated a community outreach program that sends community workers to spread awareness about JRS services among potential beneficiaries.
- To reach out to customers who might find it difficult to visit our Nsambya office, JRS established a satellite office in another location in Kampala.

### CHALLENGES

- Although the rent support was provided, it was unable to fully meet the demand. As a result, some cases had to be referred to partners for further assistance.
- While sustainability is at the heart of all projects, this emergency basic needs program is unlikely to find a long-term solution considering the needs are ever-present.
- In 2022, there was a significant increase in the number of refugees entering Uganda, leading to a rise in the demand for assistance among our intended beneficiaries.



A happy Hawa

Meet Hawa, a Congolese refugee in Kampala. She is currently benefiting from counseling services. However, her contact with JRS started through the Basic Needs department. Due to a medical condition, she needs of constant medication, which has been provided by JRS since she came to the country. As many others, Hawa is an example of the holistic approach of JRS: if one single beneficiary is in need of two different services, we make sure to cover all the needs of the person for a greater impact.



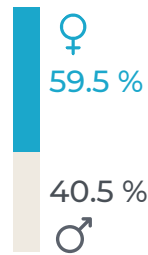
# BASIC NEEDS SUPPORT

## ADJUMANI

PEOPLE SERVED IN THE PROJECT:

# 5,958

**DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SERVED.**



## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Provided food support, medical assistance, and non-food items to vulnerable host community members and refugees.

Medical Assistance is not usually a focus of JRS; however, due to the aftereffects of Covid-19 and the dire need of persons it became more of a focus in 2022. JRS hosted mobile clinics, provided medical services, aided with purchasing prescriptions, and did activities to raise Ebola awareness at the end of the year.

*To provide context for this and other projects in Adjumani, it's crucial to recognize the significant physical distance between the individuals who require assistance. Services are provided in both Adjumani and Obongi districts, which are separated by a distance of 73km. People often have to travel on foot, covering long and sometimes perilous distances to avail these services.*

*Providing medical services proved to be a challenge, particularly with mobile clinics unable to reach everyone in need.*

### CHALLENGES

- Due to the high demand, particularly for healthcare services, not everyone was able to receive the assistance they required. Additionally, food support was unable to reach all those in need. The demands of this community have continued to increase as a result of the ongoing effects of COVID-19 and the resulting economic challenges.



This picture show one of the households in Adjumani that received support for their basic needs, like many other families with special vulnerabilities. The family is headed by a grandmother who is visually impaired and takes care of her grandchildren. Due to her condition, she faces difficulties in generating income to support her family. To help them, the JRS team provides them with essential items like food and non-food items.

A Sudanese woman who is visually impaired

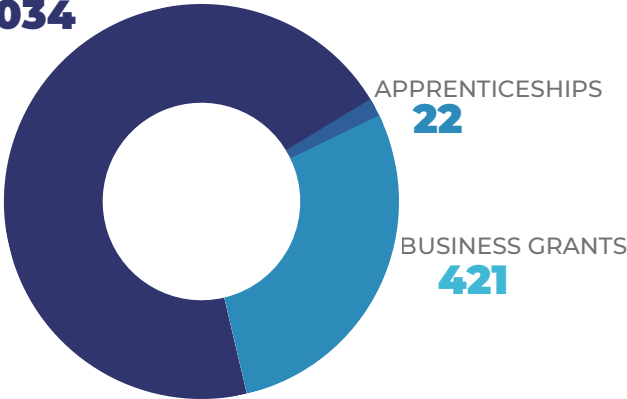
# LIVELIHOODS

**1,477**

**DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SERVED.**



VOCATIONAL TRAINING  
**1,034**



Tailoring student during class at JRS Kampala.

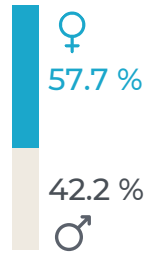
# VOCATIONAL TRAINING

KAMPALA

PEOPLE SERVED IN THE PROJECT:

# 1,275

**DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SERVED.**



## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- New vocational students enrolled in vocational courses such as hairdressing, catering, arts and crafts, fashion design and computer skills.
- We partnered with Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) to offer E-commerce and Eco-tourism course. This will give students the opportunity to receive professional certificates from universities in Spain and India.
- We found internship placement opportunities for our students to continue developing new skills.
- Some beneficiaries started apprenticeships in an existing business to participate in daily work and learn basic professional skills for about 3 to 6 months.
- Through our partnership with Makerere University and Netlabs for computer networking students, we have found employment in the technology sector for our beneficiaries, including graduates who now work at Airtel Uganda.
- After completing business development training, beneficiaries received business grants from \$30 to \$330 to build or continue their own enterprises
- Students were employed or self-employed in sectors such as tailoring, arts and crafts, hotels/hospitality, coffee shops, and salons.
- Collaborated with the Start Hub Africa consultancy to develop a new Business Development class that will be included in all of our vocational trainings.
- Our apprenticeship program placed extremely vulnerable beneficiaries for 3 to 6 months in existing small businesses and workshops to participate in daily work and learn basic professional skills.

### CHALLENGES

- Some of the recipients of the mini-grants faced difficulties as they had to execute their business plans simultaneously with ongoing classes.
- Inflation led to a significant rise in unemployment among young people in Uganda, making it more challenging for them to enter the workforce.



Catering class session at JRS Kampala.

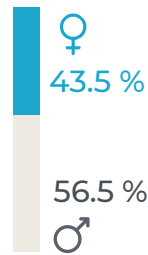
# VOCATIONAL TRAINING

## ADJUMANI

PEOPLE SERVED IN THE PROJECT:

# 202

## DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SERVED.

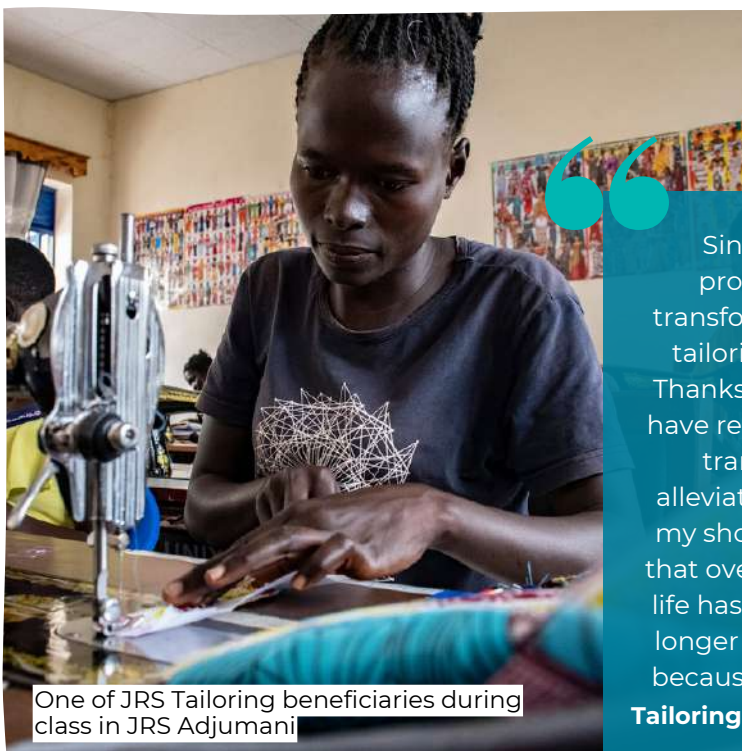


### MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Beneficiaries received vocational skills training including tailoring, hairdressing, computer skills, and scholarships given at Moyo Technical Institute to take courses in welding, plumbing, building and concrete works, carpentry, and hairdressing.
- Some graduate tailoring students received business grants to start their own businesses.
- Graduate students of vocational skills training gained meaningful employment.
- A group of tailoring students formed an association and received employment to sew school uniforms for local secondary schools. They received orders for school uniforms from local schools and were paid to fulfill those orders.
- Some graduates from Moyo Technical Institute reported to be employed in hairdressing, plumbing, building, welding and carpentry. All these were employed by private companies, government institutions, and local artisans.

### CHALLENGES

- Living and working in Adjumani is challenging because it is difficult to find a job in anything other than the agricultural industry. So while students learn new skills, it is difficult for them to become employed and stay employed.
- Many beneficiaries live very far (as far as 30km) away from where the livelihoods courses were taught. Due to inflation and rising transportation costs, it was expensive and required a lot of time for students to attend class regularly.
- Additionally, during planting season it was very challenging for women to attend classes as they had to manage planting as that is their main source of income and livelihood in the region.



One of JRS Tailoring beneficiaries during class in JRS Adjumani

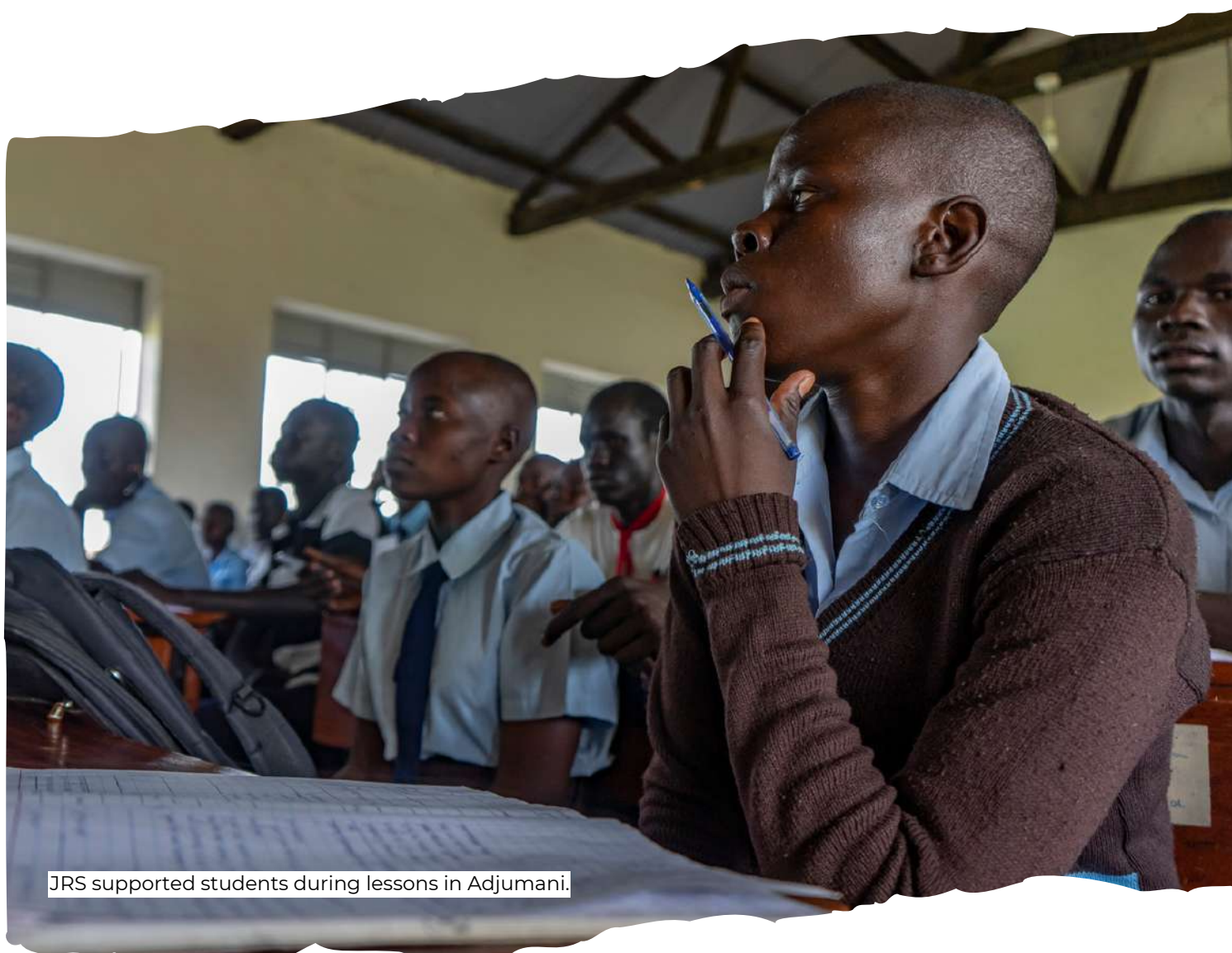
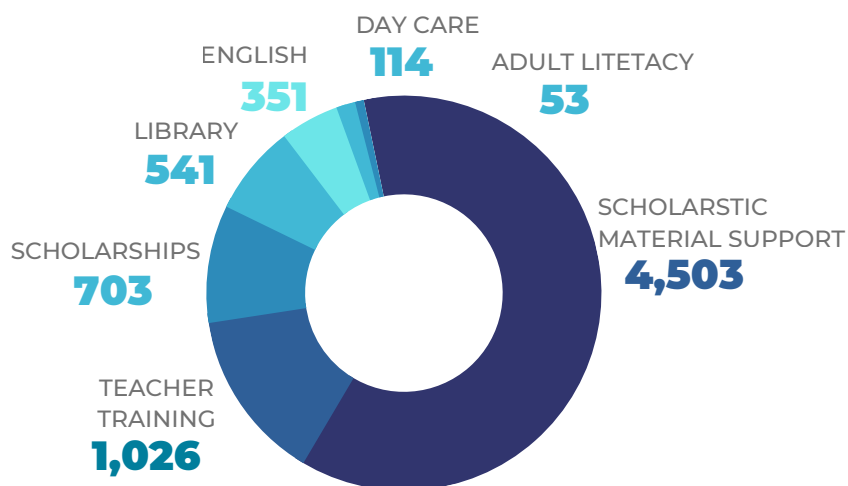
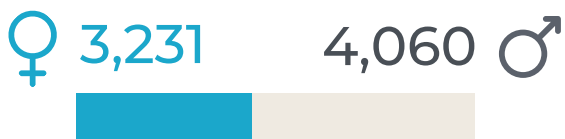
“ Since joining this training program, my life has been transformed. I've gained valuable tailoring skills and knowledge. Thanks to the support from JRS, I have received food assistance and transportation, which has alleviated some of the weight on my shoulders. I am thrilled to say that over the past few months, my life has started to take shape. I no longer feel as anxious or stressed because I see a clear path ahead.

**Tailoring beneficiary**

# EDUCATION

**7,291**

**DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SERVED.**



JRS supported students during lessons in Adjumani.

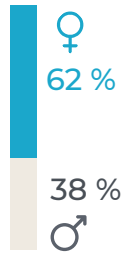
# EDUCATION

## KAMPALA

PEOPLE SERVED IN THE PROJECT:

# 1,472

## DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SERVED.



## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- We provided scholarships for students in primary education, in secondary education and in tertiary education.
- Offered English courses at basic, intermediary and advanced levels.
- Children ages 2-6 were engaged in developmental play activities including indoor and outdoor activities such as finger painting.
- 9 students finished A- levels and are ready for university.
- Beneficiaries, children, adults, and instructors made use of the JRS library services.
- Thanks to our agreement with Makerere University, many students have been able to develop their skills as they undertake courses in a prestigious university.

### CHALLENGES

- Several students dropped out of the English classes due to various reasons such as getting a new job, starting university, falling ill, or going for resettlement.



An English class going on at JRS Kampala office.

A student we shall call 'Mary', who is a refugee from Eritrea, shared her experience in the Kampala English Language class after a few months of attending. She explained that being in the class has helped her achieve many things, beginning with the ability to interact with others. Initially, she struggled as she did not speak the same language as the other students. However, she noticed that many refugees shared similar language difficulties and this gave her hope to practice the few words she had learned in class. Mary mentioned that she now feels comfortable going to markets and shops without fear, and can purchase goods with ease. She is extremely grateful for the opportunity to learn English at JRS and appreciates the instructors and their skillful teaching methods.

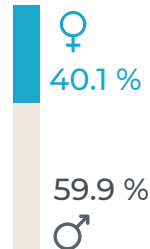
# SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

## ADJUMANI

PEOPLE SERVED IN THE PROJECT:

# 5,819

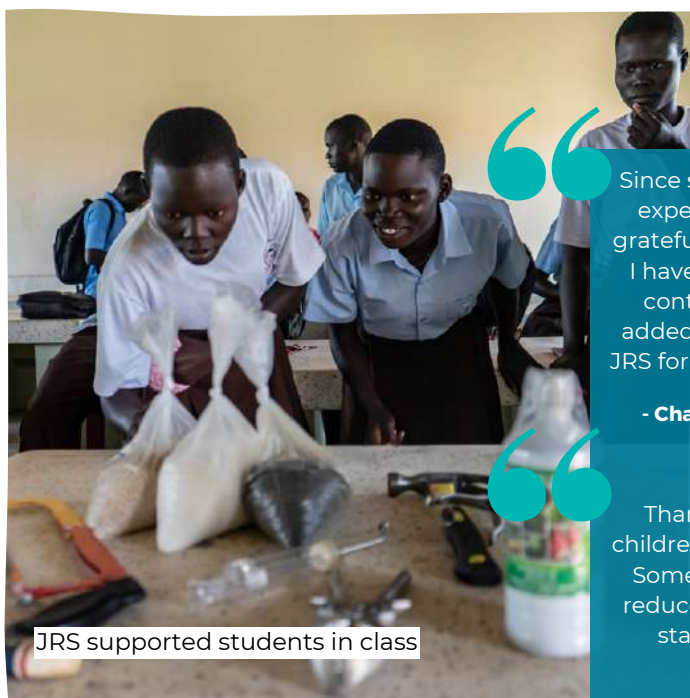
## DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SERVED.



## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Students received scholarships and were supported with scholastic materials and hygiene materials.
- Students receiving primary , secondary and tertiary scholarships.
- Primary and secondary schools were supported with scholastic and hygiene material in Adjumani, Moyo, and Obongi.
- Solar lamps were distributed so students could study in the evening.
- Solar radios distributed to students in 17 schools to allow students to catch up on their studies following the two yearlong school lockdown due to Covid-19. 246 radio lessons were broadcasted between January and June 2022 on topics such as History, Biology, English, and Geography.
- 6,215 textbooks from Book Aid International covering topics like physics, geography, business, and more were distributed.
- Secondary teachers received training in Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), positive psychology, management training, Gender-Responsive Education (GRE), Sexual Gender based Violence, Reproductive Health and Menstrual Hygiene.

Education for girls is still an issue due to the cultural and traditional background of those living in this area. JRS worked hard in 2022 to implement many activities to alleviate this issue. GRE training was provided to secondary school teachers to help them understand the principles of gender equality programming. Mother's groups were also set up to encourage girls to continue to attend school and have a safe place to discuss any concerns that come up. Girls' and boys' clubs were also established to put the learning of GRE into practice.



JRS supported students in class

“ Since starting school, I have had many experiences that I am proud of and grateful for. I am always happy because I have been given the opportunity to continue my education, and it has added a lot to my life. I am thankful to JRS for providing me with a scholarship.

- **Charity, Secondary Education student**

“ Thanks to the JRS Scholarship for our children, life has become a little simpler. Some of us have found peace of mind, reduced our worries, and improved our standard of living with better meals.

- **Charity's mother**

## CHALLENGES

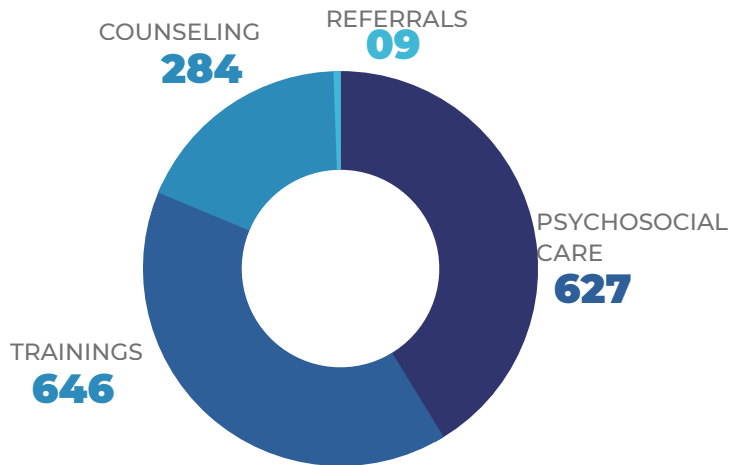
- One of the major difficulties that JRS encountered was the extensive dispersal of scholarships and educational/hygiene supplies across a total of 29 schools that encompassed the entire Adjumani district, Moyo, and the town of Gulu. The large number of schools and the considerable distances between them made it difficult for JRS to distribute the supplies in a timely fashion and to follow up with teachers after their training.

# MHPSS

## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

**1,566**

**DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SERVED.**



Members of a supported family in Adjumani.



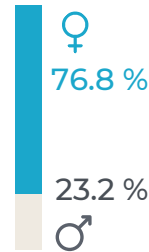
# MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

## KAMPALA

PEOPLE SERVED IN THE PROJECT:

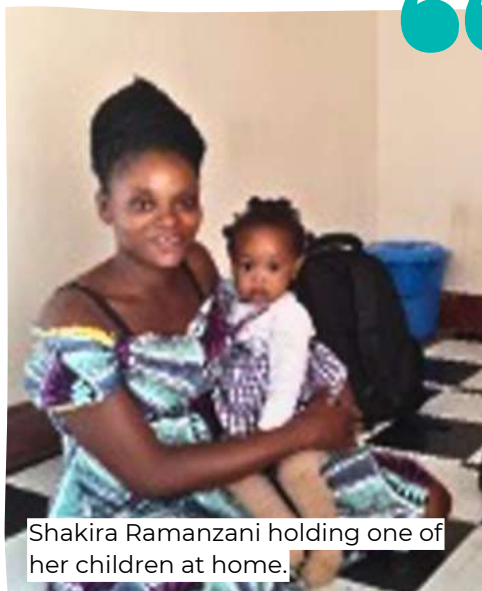
# 1,052

## DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SERVED.



## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Refugees accessed individual and group counseling services, all demonstrating an ability to cope positively with psychological stress after completing the services.
- Teachers from partner schools were trained in topics such as Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGVB) prevention, Child protection, and Psychological First Aid (PFA) and provided with psychosocial support.
- SGBV survivors were also taken through a positive thoughts and negative thoughts exercise to empower them in sharing experiences among other group members.
- The MHPSS department collaborated in the celebration of International Human Rights Day.
- Refugees, asylum seekers and host community became responsive to issues of SGBV/mental health and human rights having undergone awareness training.
- We conducted a radio talk show for two hours on creating an awareness about the international Human Rights Day specifically on the topics of who refugees are, rights of the refugees, and understanding the SGBV and response and preventions.
- SGBV survivors were supported with food, medical transport to access medical support facility, rent support and non-food items like cotton, maternity kits, sanitary pads, dignity kits, and mattresses.
- We received referrals from external partners such as International Red Cross, Norwegian Refugee Council, Young African Refugee for Integral Development, Refugee Law Project, International Fellowship Canadian Aid and Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants.



Shakira Ramanzani holding one of her children at home.



I lived in sorrow, and I thought of committing suicide many times because I never saw hope. Then I was looking for humanitarian organizations and thank God I found JRS, who welcomed me gave material support of rent, food, medicine and enrolled me for psychosocial counseling now proud of myself and gained back my self-esteem as I feel am not alone. I now do some business of selling milk and Irish potatoes to support my family.

**Shakira, Congolese refugee in Kampala, wife and mother of two. She is a survivor of sexual violence.**

## CHALLENGES

- Language proved to be a barrier, particularly among the Somali and Lingala speaking community. To mitigate this, they were asked to find trusted people to support them in translating.
- Our group counseling program operates on an 8-week cycle, but sometimes this has proven to be insufficient. To address this issue, we have added an additional week for evaluation and closing.
- The number of victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is increasing, with many people in Kampala being affected, especially women from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

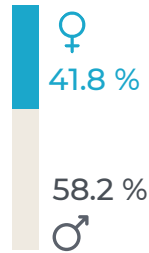
# PSYCHOSOCIAL PROGRAM

ADJUMANI

PEOPLE SERVED IN THE PROJECT:

# 514

**DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SERVED.**



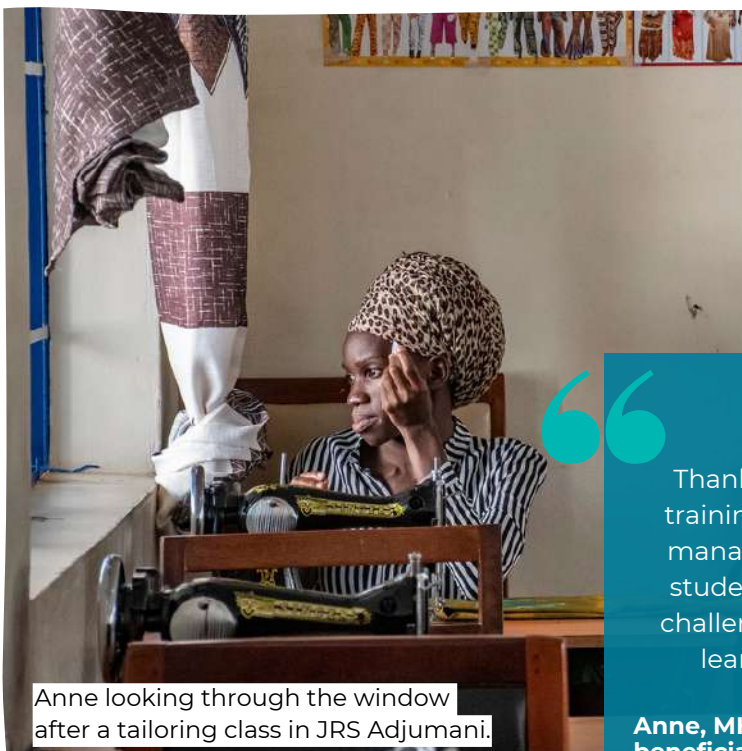
## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Beneficiaries received psychosocial support such as individual counselling and family mediation sessions.
- Teachers and school management staff were trained in MHPSS and Psychological First Aid (PFA) from 21 primary schools. The trainings introduced them to the basics of mental health and psychosocial support, how MHPSS can be integrated into education sector and provide basic skills and knowledge on MHPSS to serve the purpose of and being able to support children with needs and concerns and strengthen teachers and children’s resilience to cope with challenges.
- Following the MHPSS trainings, JRS provided mentorship to primary teachers by following up and aiding with their implementation of MHPSS and PFA principles learned.

There was a much higher need for counselling services but due to limited budget more individuals could not be reached. JRS has increased the budget and their capacity to provide more counselling in 2023.

### CHALLENGES

- Due to budget constraints, childcare was not provided during the trainings, making it challenging for many women to take part. The demand for MHPSS training was so overwhelming that not everyone who wanted to attend could be accommodated.



Anne looking through the window after a tailoring class in JRS Adjumani.

“ Thank you for the valuable training. We learned how to manage stress and support students with psychosocial challenges, creating a better learning environment.

**Anne, MHPSS and Tailoring beneficiary**

# PASTORAL

**277**

**DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SERVED.**

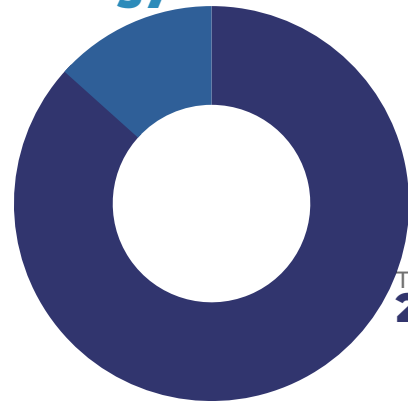
♀ 146

131 ♂



CATHECHISM

**37**



TRAINING  
**240**



Celebrating mass at JRS Kampala during World Refugee Day.

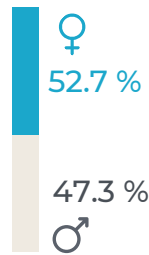
# PASTORAL SERVICES

ADJUMANI

PEOPLE SERVED IN THE PROJECT:

# 277

**DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SERVED.**



## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Pastoral training, leadership training, and formal Catechists training were all offered. Many Holy Eucharist celebrations were held.
- Holy Eucharist celebrations were conducted and each mass had on average an attendance of 600-700 refugees and host community members. 157 children were baptized during the year.
- Youth and women received refresher training on pastoral principles and leadership.
- Catechists receiving formal training at Lodonga Catechist Training Centre. The Catechists graduated successfully in the month of December 2022 and will start to work as catechists in their different parishes and chapels in the year of 2023.

## CHALLENGES

- Improving access to secondary education has been a challenging task, but we are making progress by actively engaging and mobilizing communities and community leaders.



Being a female catechist comes with its own set of challenges. However, the training I received today has helped me become a more disciplined, honest, and humble leader. It has also taught me the importance of being transparent to God, fellow Christians, and my family.

**- Clara Angu,  
Female catechist student**



I am currently participating in a brief catechetical course at Ladonga Catechetical Training Centre. This program is highly valuable, as the skills I am learning will help me improve my economic situation and contribute to the growth of my chapel.

**- Male catechist student**

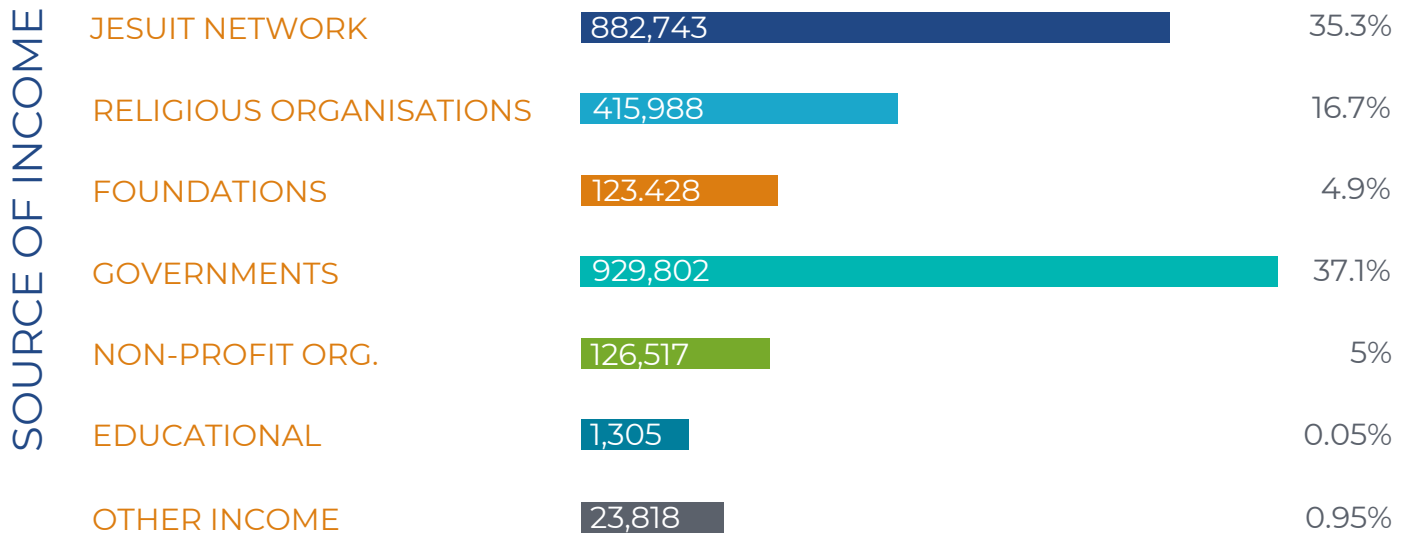


Jesuit priest holding the holy bread during a mass in JRS office.

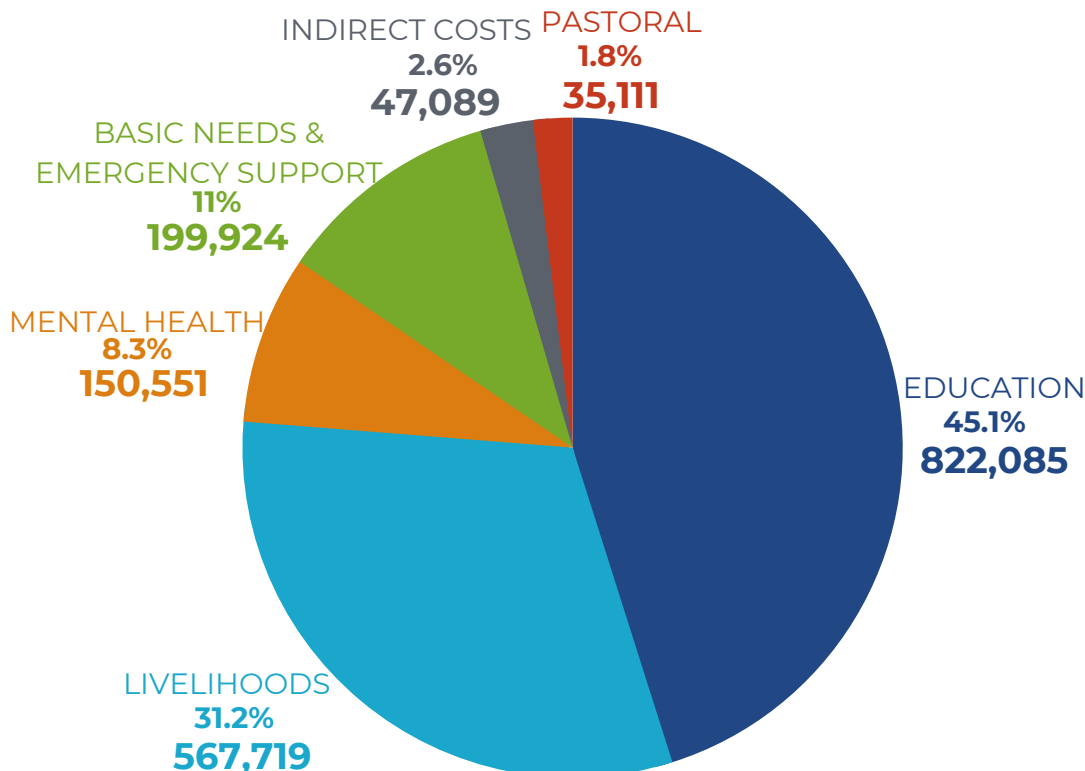
# 2022 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

TOTAL INCOME

# 2.503.602 USD



## EXPENSES BY PROGRAM\*



\*DIRECT COSTS ARE DIVIDED AMONG THE DIFFERENT PROGRAMMES

On behalf of all JRS Family,

# Thanks for your support

All this work would not be possible without you



Children at Day Care in JRS Kampala.



## **Where can you find us:**

**Website:** <http://ear.jrs.net>

**Instagram:** @jrs\_eastafrica

**Facebook:** Jesuit Refugee Service East Africa

**LinkedIn:** Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) East Africa

**Twitter:** JRS\_EastAfrica