



REGIONAL OVERVIEW EASTERN AFRICA 2023/24

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE:
JRS RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS
OF DISPLACED PEOPLES IN
KENYA, ETHIOPIA, UGANDA,
SOUTH SUDAN, BURUNDI
AND TANZANIA.

REPORT BY JESUIT REFUGEE
SERVICE EAST AFRICA



**JESUIT
REFUGEE
SERVICE**

Photo: JRS team in Maban, South Sudan during a home visit of a beneficiary child with specific needs

WHO ARE WE?



OVERVIEW

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an International Catholic Organisation, founded in 1980 by the Society of Jesus as a practical and spiritual response to the suffering displaced people. It started as a response of the suffering that Fr. **Pedro Arrupe, SJ, then Superior General of the Society of Jesus and founder of JRS**, saw on the refugees that were fleeing the Vietnam War. When he witnessed that suffering, he decided to mobilise human and financial resources of the Society of Jesus to offer relief and accompaniment to these people.

Shortly after, in 1982, the JRS moved to Ethiopia, their second project in our history, to respond to the suffering of the displaced people from the Ethiopia war. The Eastern Africa Region (EAR) was the first to be established in Africa and the second in the world.

Today, after more than 40 years of existence, JRS is active in **58 countries worldwide**, 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 include: Education and Livelihoods, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, and 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 which must find resonance in all our programming and support are: Hope, Dignity, Solidarity, Hospitality, Transparency, Accountability, Integrity, Participation and Justice

WHERE WE ARE ?

PROJECT LOCATIONS

JRS in Eastern Africa operates in 16 locations within 6 countries, divided among five Country Offices, namely:

JRS EASTERN AFRICA:

- Regional office: Nairobi
- Projects: n/a

JRS SOUTH SUDAN:

- Country office: Juba
- Projects:
 - Renk Refugee Site
 - Maban Refugee Camp
 - Yambio urban setting

JRS BURUNDI/TANZANIA:

- Country office: Bujumbura (Burundi)
- Projects:
 - Bujumbura urban setting
 - Makamba Refugee Camp
 - Muyinga Refugee Camp
 - Ruyigi Refugee Camp
 - Kibondo Refugee Camp (Tanzania)

JRS KENYA:

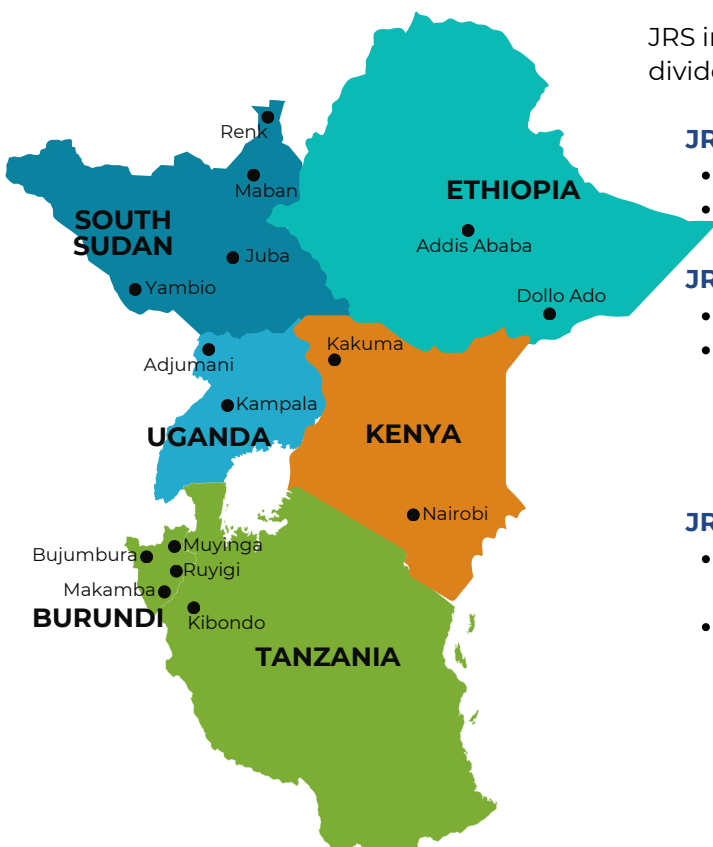
- Country office: Nairobi
- Projects:
 - Nairobi Urban project
 - Kakuma Refugee Camp

JRS UGANDA:

- Country office: Kampala
- Projects:
 - Kampala Urban project
 - Adjumani Settlement

JRS ETHIOPIA:

- Country office: Addis Ababa
- Projects:
 - Refugee Community Center (Addis Ababa)
 - Child Protection Center (Addis Ababa)
 - Dollo Ado Refugee Camp



REGIONAL CONTEXT



OVERVIEW ON DISPLACED POPULATION

3,654,525

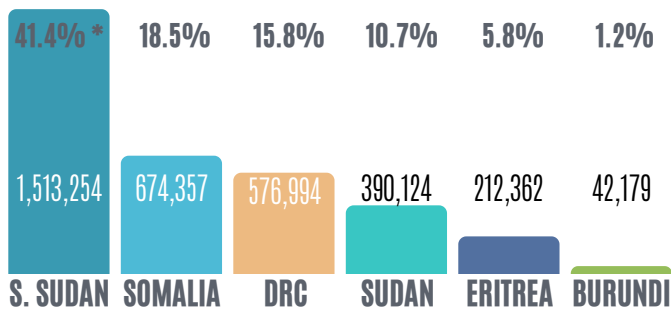
Registered **Refugees and Asylum Seekers** in Eastern Africa Region.

5,564,128

Registered **Internally Displaced People** in Eastern Africa Region.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

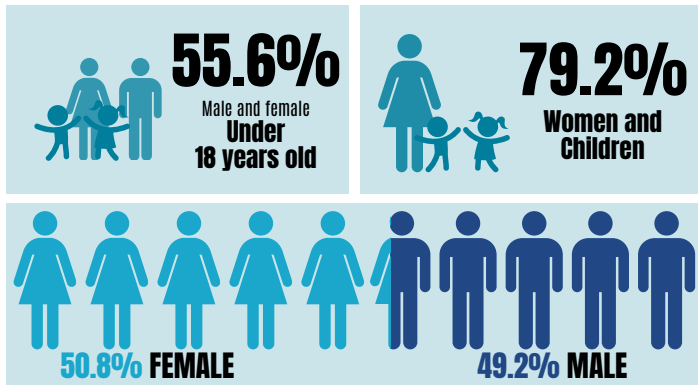
The main countries of origin of refugees and asylum seekers in Eastern Africa region come from the following countries:



*Percentages represent the percentage over the total number of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the region

DEMOGRAPHICS

If we look into the demographics of the refugee and forcibly displaced people in the region, it is as follows:



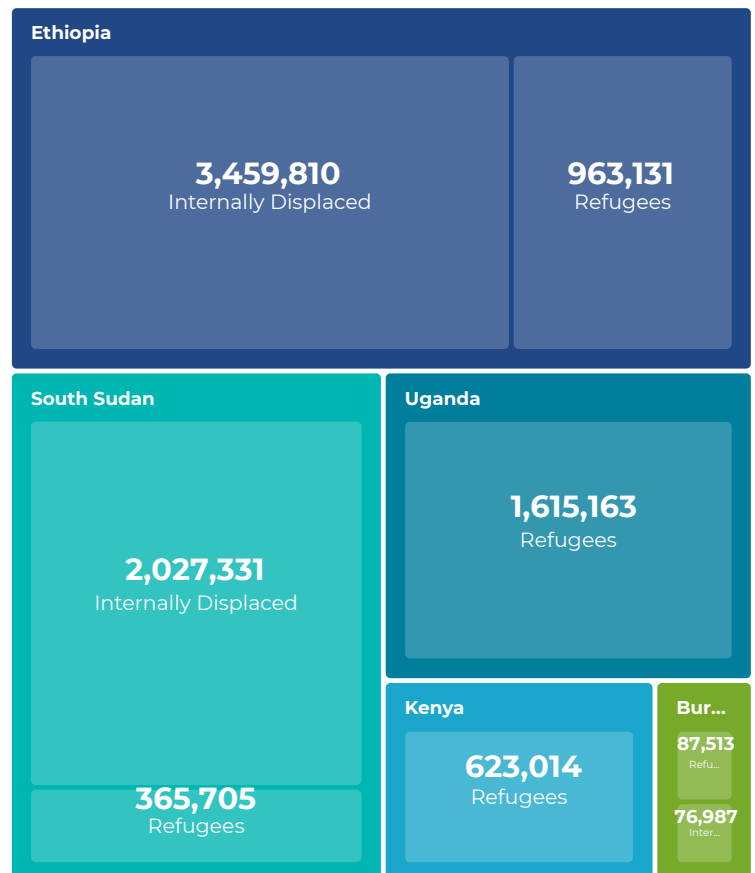
MOTIVATIONS FOR DISPLACEMENT

The majority of forcibly displaced people in our region is forced to migrate due to the following reasons:

- War and violent conflict
- Human Rights violations
- Access to land
- Climate: floods, drought and famine
- Terrorism

DISTRIBUTION PER COUNTRY

At the national level, our countries of operation host refugees & asylum seekers and Internally displaced as follows:



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:** 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 and flooding:** affecting mainly Burundi, Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan and Ethiopia, these are triggering more movement of people.



MAIN ACTIVITIES AND IMPACTS OF 2022

335,700

People served in 2022

4,507 in Kenya
22,645 in Ethiopia
29,653 in Uganda
241,834 in South Sudan
37,061 in Burundi & Tanzania

144,060 Male 42.91%
191,640 Female 57.09%

EDUCATION & LIVELIHOODS

177,881 people

served in [livelihoods](#) and [education](#) programmes.

Education is JRS' cornerstone, which combined with Livelihoods activities offer a range of projects that support the learning, access to market, and resilience of our beneficiaries.

The activities we offer in these programmes are:

- **Scholarships** and financial support for vulnerable students with a special focus on girls' education.
- **Inclusive Education** for children with special needs, combined with rehabilitation, physiotherapy, awareness raising and referrals.
- **Adult Education**: numeracy and literacy, and Accelerated Learning Programmes.
- **Teacher Training** and specialised Early Childhood Development Education.
- **Post-Secondary Education** (Pathfinder), aiming at training youths in Business Skills to facilitate their inclusion in the labour market.
- **Vocational Training** to get the required skills to access the labour market.
- **Market Linkage**.

BASIC NEEDS & MHPSS

118,273 people

served in [basic needs](#), and [Mental Health and Psychosocial Support](#) programmes.

MHPSS (Mental Health and Psychosocial Support) are also one of the strengths of JRS in Eastern Africa Region, as part of our mission to accompany the most vulnerable refugees and forcibly displaced people. MHPSS and Emergency Support programmes tend to be combined with others to ensure sustainability.

The main activities carried out in this programmes are:

- **Counselling** with professional counsellors as individual session or with group sessions.
- **Emergency Support** with different food or Non-Food Items to cover basic needs.
- **Referrals** to other NGOs or for resettlement.

RECONCILIATION & PASTORAL

31,432 people

served in [reconciliation](#) and [pastoral](#) programmes.

Being in a volatile region, programmes of reconciliation and social cohesion are key. Parallel, as part of our mission and identity as a faith based organisation, we also offer pastoral accompaniment services for the catholic communities who might want them.

Beyond the specific activities we have, reconciliation is mainstreamed to all other activities we do.

Within those programmes, we offer the following activities:

- **Peace Clubs** in schools to promote peace education and peaceful conflict resolution.
- **Peace Ambassadors** training to deal with conflicts in the community in a peaceful way.
- **Reconciliation Groups** mainly working with community or clan leaders, for peaceful resolutions.
- **Sunday Services** in camps as well as basic services like communion or baptisms when requested.
- **Bible Studies** in some locations.
- **Pastoral accompaniment** to people in need.

PROTECTION

8,114 people

served in [protection](#) and [advocacy](#) programmes.

With a special focus on Gender Based Violence (GBV) survivors and children, being next to the most vulnerable is part of our Jesuit mission, reason why it is core to our identity.

The main activities carried out in this programmes are:

- **Safe Shelters** for GBV survivors. This is combined with group and individual counselling for GBV survivors.
- **Child Protection** centres for unaccompanied minors accompanied by activities as referrals, foster care arrangements and resettlements.
- **Child Care** for children with special needs, including child care units or rehabilitation services.
- **Advocacy** activities to defend the rights of the forcibly displaced people.
- **Referrals** to other NGOs for specific vulnerable cases.

SUCCESS STORIES IN THE REGION



RECONCILIATION THROUGH PEACE CLUBS IN BURUNDI

JRS Burundi has been working in different schools to train children and youth on the importance of peace and non-violent conflict resolution. Bringing children from different ages and nationalities together, they are trained to become spokespersons and peace ambassadors in their schools. Watch the video to know more about the importance and impact of this project.



[Watch the video in here](#)

ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM IN SOUTH SUDAN

JRS has been offering an ALP (Accelerated Learning Programme) for adults in Yambio (Western Equatoria Estate) who could not finish their primary and secondary education as children. In many cases, war, the decease of the parents, or early marriage are some of the most common reasons for early school dropout.

Read the article to know more about it.

[Read the full article in here](#)



PROFESIONAL TRAININGS AND GBV SUPPORT IN ETHIOPIA

JRS has always been providing holistic support to our beneficiaries. By only providing a scholarship, a person might not be fully accompanied. So we try to look at the whole needs of the people to ensure they are accompanied. An example of it is Suben, a Somali refugee woman in Dollo Ado.

Read the article to know Suben's amazing story about how JRS changed her live and how she changed the lives of other women like her!



[Read the full article in here](#)

SUPPORTING GIRL'S EDUCATION IN UGANDA

JRS Education programmes follow a gender approach, to ensure that girls have also the same access to education as boys.

In Uganda, this has been out in place by offering scholarships, hygiene kits or radio lessons, among others.

Read the article and watch the video to know more about this wonderful initiative and how it is changing the lives of many refugee girls in the country!

[Read the full article in here](#)



ACCESSING TERTIARY EDUCATION IN KENYA

Accessing tertiary education for refugees in Nairobi can be one of their biggest challenges. That is why JRS Kenya has been providing support to post-secondary students to access University studies in Nairobi and Kakuma Camp through an agreement with Southern New Hampshire University and their GEM (Global Education Movement) initiative.

Watch the video to know more on how it is impacting the lives of students!



[Watch the video in here](#)

PHYSIOTHERAPY FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE IN SUDAN

Since April 2023, thousands of people have been forcibly displaced due to the war in Sudan, with many seeking refuge in Renk, South Sudan, where JRS has been operational since the crisis began. Among other services, we are the main partner providing physiotherapy and rehabilitation services for the vulnerable communities in Renk.

Read the article to know more about this work and why it is relevant!

[Read the full article in here](#)

