



Photo from JRS Jordan

JRS MIDDLE EAST

Syria - Lebanon - Jordan - Iraq



Empowering Girl Education -
Photo from JRS Lebanon -
Baalbek Project.

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in the Middle East region seeks to accompany, serve, and advocate the cause of refugees, other forcibly displaced people, and vulnerable local communities in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq, that they may heal, learn, and determine their own future.

WE PROVIDE:

- **High-quality Inclusive Education to vulnerable children.**
- **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Services.**
- **Access to livelihood opportunities.**
- **Safe gender-responsive learning environments at all levels.**
- **Reconciliation between refugee and host communities and their local governments.**
- **Emergency assistance programs.**



Empowering Vulnerable Women -
Photo from JRS Syria -
Homs Project.



@JRS_MENA



Background

Syria is currently facing a severe humanitarian crisis, with challenges reaching unprecedented levels. In 2023 alone, the number of people requiring urgent humanitarian assistance surged by over 1 million, compounded by the devastating earthquakes of February 2023.

The economic crisis persists, marked by widespread inflation, soaring unemployment, and crumbling infrastructure. The prolonged conflict since 2011 has caused catastrophic damage, disrupting trade, and destroying vital infrastructure, including healthcare systems.

Additionally, sanctions imposed by multiple nations have further compounded these hardships. Syria's GDP has shrunk significantly, while inflation has skyrocketed, exacerbating the suffering of its populace.

Despite the adversity, JRS Syria tirelessly operates in government-controlled areas like Damascus (Jaramana), Aleppo (Sakhour, Hellok, Bustan Al-Basha), and Homs (Bab Sbaa, Kafroun), offering vital assistance amidst the turmoil.

Implementation



EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

JRS Syria employed a multi-track response for those affected by the earthquakes of February 2023, with the support of donors from across the world, consisting of emergency food aid and non-food items, psychosocial interventions, and emergency health care. The response is focused on Aleppo City, one of Syria's most seriously affected areas. JRS Syria also assists families who have fled to Homs and the neighbouring areas, as well as those who have been displaced to Damascus.



EDUCATION / PROTECTION PROGRAM

In response to challenges, the JRS Education Program "Brighter Futures" seeks to strengthen the protection and well-being of vulnerable children aged 8 to 18, as well as improve their resilience and educational attainment. This is achieved through access to safe spaces, quality psychosocial support, holistic non-formal education programs, and the promotion of positive parenting practices. JRS's holistic non-formal education curriculum employs active learning tactics to improve children's skills and comprehension, allowing them to study independently and so increasing retention.



HEALTH PROJECT

Syria's healthcare sector has suffered significant damage, with hospitals and medical facilities targeted throughout the conflict. This has resulted in a shortage of medical supplies and competent healthcare providers. JRS Syria Health programs in Damascus and Aleppo focus on delivering basic healthcare to the most vulnerable communities in conflict-affected areas. This is accomplished by establishing clinics in three centers, providing medicine, and life-saving surgeries.



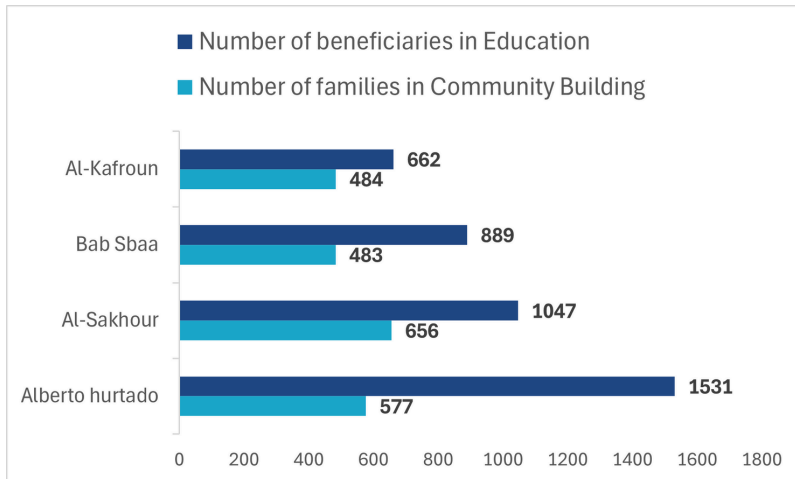
COMMUNITY BUILDING / MHPSS* PROGRAM

The JRS Syria Community Building program seeks to improve social cohesion in vulnerable communities by providing safe spaces where people can find trust, a warm welcome, and accompaniment to empower them, build their capacities, foster resilience, and a sense of peace through a variety of mental health, social and psychosocial activities that help to maintain their dignity, while also providing protection and participation.

* MHPSS = Mental Health and PsychoSocial Support

JRS Syria distributed food aid baskets to 12,094 families, impacting over 35,000 children, three times throughout 2023.

4,129 Students enrolled in JRS Syria projects in 2023



28,003

Individuals receiving health aid

3,232

Surgical operations supported

2,135

Individuals receiving Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in 2023

Agents of Change

Saham

Saham joined JRS Mental Health and Psychosocial Support sessions following the Aleppo earthquake. She suffered from mild depression after losing her children in the conflict and feared for her remaining ones during the earthquake. Individual counselling sessions and sharing experiences with other women made her feel more connected and supported. She gradually grew more engaged, smiling and participating with enthusiasm. Today, she finds solace in supporting other women with similar experiences. The sessions have helped Saham cope with her emotions and find strength in helping others.



Ahmad



Ahmad*, a 12-year-old from Aleppo, faced adversity after his father's death, becoming the sole provider for his sick mother. Neglected and forced into labor due to economic hardship, he suffered a life-changing accident, resulting in the amputation of his arm. Through the JRS education program, Ahmad found solace, gradually overcoming his aggression and insecurities. With newfound self-confidence, he excels academically, forms friendships, and protects others from harm, embodying resilience and growth despite his challenges.

**Name has been changed to protect privacy.*



Background

Lebanon grapples with alarming levels of **food insecurity**, a **healthcare system in decline**, and a **failing education system**. The escalating inflation, combined with limited access to essential services, compounds the crisis, adversely impacting more vulnerable individuals each day.

Moreover, the enduring **economic downturn** further strains the resilience of both Lebanese and refugees, casting a shadow over their ability to weather these challenging times.

Today, JRS Lebanon continues to respond to new and protracted displacement issues, education crises, mental health struggles, and a reduction in livelihoods, in a vulnerable Lebanese society where economic and social challenges are worse than ever.

JRS Lebanon operates in four locations across the country: Bourj Hammoud, Jbeil, Bar Elias, and Baalbeck.

Implementation



QUALITY INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

We improve access to **high-quality inclusive education opportunities** for refugees and vulnerable Lebanese. These initiatives range from formal to non-formal education. Learning restores dignity, confidence, and hope, while promoting self-reliance, integration, and social unity.



SAFE SPACES FOR ADULTS

We developed programmes to provide **adult education** at the Social Centres. It is a safe space for vulnerable women to participate in protection-focused awareness-raising activities, Psycho-Social Support activities, individual and group counselling, vocational training, life skills courses, and community events.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Our **Emergency Assistance Programme** focuses on offering immediate support and aid during emergencies or crises. It may encompass a range of services, including financial assistance, food baskets, winter clothing kits, diesel coupons, medicine, and other essentials.



FOSTERING RESILIENCE / MHPSS

Our **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)** program focuses on the prevention of and the response to mental health problems. Our services are provided at the individual, family and community levels to reduce suffering and improve mental health and psychosocial well-being, in all of our projects across Lebanon.



LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM

JRS Lebanon implements diverse livelihood projects aimed at enhancing the economic well-being and self-sufficiency of vulnerable people, by empowering them to rebuild their lives with dignity. Through **sustainable livelihoods**, JRS strives to break the cycle of dependency, fostering resilience and hope for a brighter future.



MIGRANT CENTRE

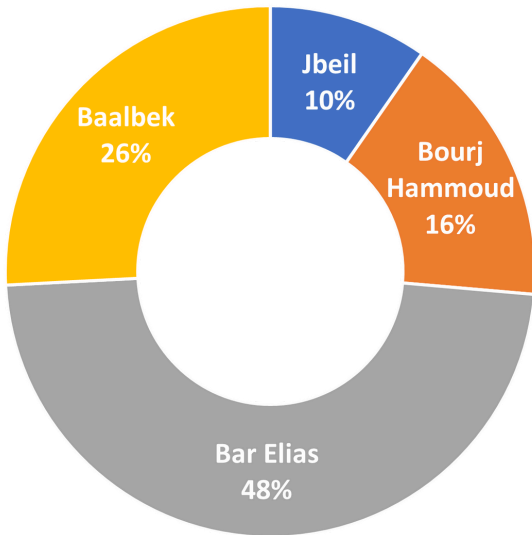
A new initiative developed in collaboration with the Arrupe Migrant Centre, a local Jesuit programme. We aim to establish a safe space for migrant workers, stateless migrants, and minority refugees. The migrant centre serves as a home for migrant-led groups, fostering various activities such as cricket teams, dance groups, and more.

JRS MIDDLE EAST 2023 REPORT

LEBANON

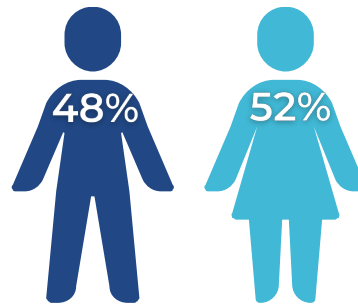
18,010

People served directly & indirectly
by JRS Lebanon programs in 2023



3,435

Students enrolled in JRS
Lebanon projects in 2023



JRS students per gender

5,560

Adults & children receiving
MHPSS services and
awareness sessions in 2023

100%

of students receiving
winter clothes and
educational kits in 2023

91%

Beneficiary
satisfaction rate

Agents of Change

Oussama

Oussama, a Syrian refugee in Lebanon, overcomes adversity, fueled by his love for education. Despite struggles during the pandemic, his exceptional academic performance leads him to a technical programming course, igniting his passion for innovation. Using everyday objects, he invents helpful devices like a water tank monitor. Oussama dreams big, aspiring to be a renowned inventor, showcasing the power of education and resilience.



Samar



Samar's* journey from Syria to Lebanon, marked by political unrest and medical challenges, reflects resilience amidst hardship. Supported by JRS Lebanon, Samar overcomes health struggles, finding solace and education. Despite her kidney issues, she dreams of becoming a doctor. JRS provides vital assistance, fostering hope and community. Samar's story illuminates the transformative power of compassion, education, and resilience in the face of adversity.

**Name has been changed to protect privacy.*

JRS MIDDLE EAST 2023 REPORT

IRAQ



Background

JRS Iraq plays a crucial role in addressing the human displacement crisis in Sharya, Duhok Governorate, Erbil, Qaraqosh and Sinuni, Ninewa Governorate.

In Duhok, where displacement has been ongoing since the 2014, JRS operates one community center, prioritizing support for victims of the 2014 Yazidi genocide. Services include home visits, education, community training, and psychosocial care, specialized Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services.

Meanwhile, in Qaraqosh and Sinuni, returnees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs) grapple with trauma from the ISIS occupation, requiring essential psychosocial support and protection for their well-being and community reintegration.

JRS Iraq work in both regions is pivotal in providing support, building resilience, and addressing the complex needs of displaced populations and returnees.

Implementation



EDUCATION PROGRAM

JRS Iraq continues its Education Program in 2024, aiding children in Duhok and Ninewa Governorates amidst Iraq's displacement crises. In Duhok, JRS assists Yazidis IDPs by offering crucial [educational](#) and [psychosocial support](#), including [transportation subsidies](#) and [kindergarten programs](#). In Ninewa's Qaraqosh, JRS assists [Christian returnees](#) with various educational programs, including a kindergarten program, preventing school dropouts despite challenges, through support classes for the main subjects. In Sinjar, JRS launched operations, striving to aid vulnerable families with [education initiatives](#). Overall, JRS's efforts mitigate obstacles and foster education in conflict-affected areas, offering hope amidst adversity.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR PROTECTION

JRS Iraq extends crucial protection lifelines to conflict-affected communities through its emergency assistance programs. [Multipurpose Cash Assistance](#) offers tailored support to vulnerable families in Sharya, Qaraqosh, and Sinuni, alleviating financial burdens and empowering them to meet essential needs. Meanwhile, [Emergency Medical Cash](#) provides urgent aid to individuals in Qaraqosh, ensuring access to critical healthcare services amidst medical emergencies.



A PATH TO HEALING / MHPSS

JRS Iraq places a paramount emphasis on the mental well-being of populations affected by conflict through its comprehensive Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) projects. It offers a range of services including [psychiatry](#) and [medical support-counseling](#), [therapy](#), and [psychosocial activities](#) designed to effectively address trauma, bolster resilience, and augment coping mechanisms. The program is tailored to accommodate cultural and contextual sensitivities, thereby fostering a sense of trust and rapport with participants to mitigate the psychological ramifications of displacement and conflict.

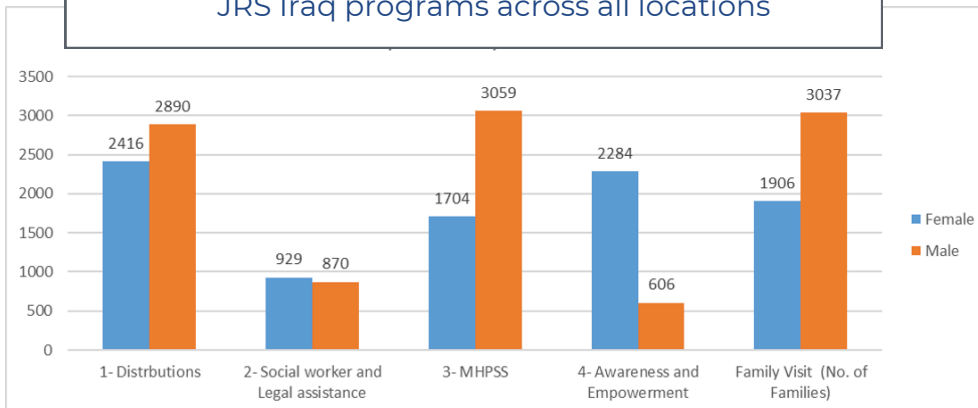


FAMILY VISITS

JRS Iraq conducts thorough family visits lasting 30-45 minutes to [accompany](#) them, assess their vulnerabilities and provide targeted [assistance](#), including [Mental Health](#) and [Psychosocial Support](#) services, [education](#) support, and [protection](#) services. With tailored vulnerability criteria, teams visit families door-to-door in Sharya and Sinuni, while coordinating with local stakeholders in Qaraqosh.

JRS Iraq has assisted a total of 24,557 individuals in 2023 across the governorates of Duhok, Ninewa, and Erbil, representing 135% of the annual target.

Total number of unique participants in JRS Iraq programs across all locations



5,306

Individuals receiving protection assistance

4,763

Individuals receiving Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services

2,191

Individuals enrolled in JRS Iraq education program

Agents of Change

Sara

Sara*, a 4-year-old from a vulnerable family displaced from Sinjar to Sharya, faced challenges adjusting to Arrupe kindergarten in JRS Sharya Community Centre. Initially, she resisted attending class without her mother or sister, displaying signs of isolation and communication difficulties. Through dedicated support from teachers and psychosocial workers, Sara gradually adapted, participating in class activities, improving her behavior, and developing communication skills.

**Name has been changed to protect privacy.*



Leila



Leila* initially struggled to adapt to JRS kindergarten. Persistent crying and disruptive behavior hindered her integration into class activities, affecting other children. With collaborative efforts between teachers and the MHPSS team, Leila gradually improved. She now participates actively, shows interest in learning, and enjoys attending kindergarten. This positive transformation not only benefits Leila academically but also positively impacts her family dynamic, fostering better relationships among siblings.

**Name has been changed to protect privacy.*



Background

JRS Jordan focuses on serving refugee minorities, that are often overlooked by major humanitarian actors and face heavy legal limitations in accessing services and enjoying full rights. Through learning opportunities and accompaniment, JRS Jordan has striven to favor creating a space and a community that thrives on mutual respect and support, solidarity in keeping hope alive, and intercultural dialogue.

Refugee communities from countries such as Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Eritrea, Somalia, are discriminated against and neglected because of significant barriers to integration and well-being due to lack of rights, limited access to services, prejudices based on nationality or ethnicity, lack of right to work, legal discrimination based on nationality, impossibility to register for refugee or asylum-seeker status since 2019. As a result, refugees - including Syrians - face marginalization and exclusion, feeling being forgotten, mental health issues, limited agency and opportunities, increased vulnerability.

JRS experience throughout these years has been built on the provision of English classes and other learning opportunities, mental health support and social cohesion opportunities. Through these initiatives, JRS Jordan strives to empower individuals, enhance community well-being, and promote positive change.

Implementation



HOUSE OF ENCOUNTER

This project, which will be implemented in 2024, aims to create safe spaces where refugees and members of the host community can meet and get to know each other, grow in mutual understanding and empathy, deal constructively with differences, and have a joint platform to advocate for refugees' rights. JRS strives to empower refugees and build social cohesion among local and refugee communities by strengthening their peacebuilding skills, knowledge, and attitudes and fostering inclusiveness. The project offers learning opportunities such as training and labs, community intercultural events, mentorship, accompaniment, and case management services, as well as participatory advocacy activities.



PEACE-BUILDING AND SOCIAL COHESION

JRS Jordan's Peace-building and social cohesion program works to amplify the voices of refugees and vulnerable communities, advocating for their rights and promoting social cohesion. Through storytelling, intercultural events and initiatives, arts and music, the program raises awareness of refugee issues and fosters understanding and empathy. It contributes to building bridges of acceptance and solidarity, dismantling barriers, and fostering connections between diverse groups.



FOSTERING RESILIENCE

JRS Jordan's **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)** project offers quality services to refugees and vulnerable host community members in Amman. Through case management, psychosocial support groups, individual counseling, and life skills sessions, the project aims to improve psycho-social well-being.



EDUCATION AND LIVELIHOOD

JRS Jordan empowers refugees and vulnerable Jordanians by providing tailored English language training, computer skills, career coaching, and well-being workshops, enhancing employability and fostering economic development, particularly for women.

919

Vulnerable youth, refugees, and Jordanians benefited from the education and livelihood program in 2023.

667

Individuals supported by JRS Jordan protection and mental health program (from Oct. 2022 to Dec. 2023)

88 %

Individuals' improvement in overall well-being through comprehensive case management.

78 %

Individuals' achievement in basic literacy and numeracy.

89 %

Individuals' improvement through structured psychosocial support group sessions and individual counseling.

96 %

Individuals' achievement in life skills services.

Agents of Change

Fowza

Fowza, a Somali refugee, found safety and opportunity in Jordan. Through JRS Jordan, she gained confidence, education, and an opportunity to put her passion for art in service of the community. Her paintings tell refugee stories of resilience and hope. Fowza leads art workshops, such as JRS Jordan Art Club, and advocates for refugees. While interning at JRS Jordan, she used art to amplify the voices of the marginalized, embodying messages of hope for positive change.



Lujain



Lujain, a 14-year-old Syrian refugee in Amman, struggled with social anxiety and public speaking. In 2023, she joined JRS Jordan MHPSS Program's Music, Art & Sports Project, focusing on rap. Led by talented volunteers, the project created an intercultural orchestra and provided psychosocial support. Lujain's participation helped her overcome challenges, culminating in a confident performance at the JRS Festival of Encounter. Through rap, she found her voice, expressed her experiences, and inspired others. Her journey highlights the transformative power of music and community support in fostering healing, growth, and resilience among refugee youth.



- **Accompany**
- **Serve**
- **Advocate**





Photo from JRS Lebanon

JRS MIDDLE EAST

Syria - Lebanon - Jordan - Iraq



Take Action

- DONATE DIRECTLY TO JRS MIDDLE EAST

Would you like to know more about how to support or partner with JRS Middle East?

PLEASE CONTACT:

Fr. Daniel Corrou S.J.
MENA Regional Director
daniel.corrou@jrs.net

- OR DONATE ONLINE

Make a gift and **donate** to help us in our mission.

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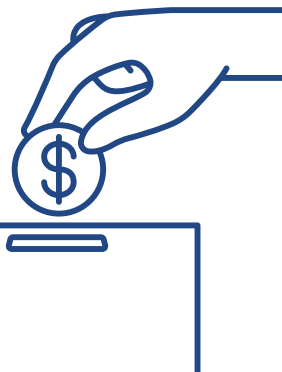
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Please clarify which project you want to support in the “Dedicate” section.

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