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# DIRECTOR'S LETTER



**Mr. Louie Bacomo**  
Regional Director

## Deepening our mission

This is a year of deepening our mission. We have reached in deep and reached out beyond. We have broadened our view of our mission towards working across and beyond borders. JRS joined Church partners at the Thai-Myanmar border to form a consortium that works inclusively with IDPs, refugees and host communities. JRS rekindled our desire to serve refugees in Malaysia with a partnership with the Diocese of Penang with a presence near the land and sea borders of Malaysia and Thailand. JRS conducted external evaluations of our programs in camp and refugee education in Thailand and Myanmar, and of our nascent refugee livelihood projects across urban, camp and IDP communities in Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand. The Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration imbued our service and advocacy with renewed energy that is shared with our networks. The Migration group of JCAP reflected on how GCR can advance our advocacy for migrants and refugees. We are buoyed by hope.

This is also a year of strengthening our organization to better serve the mission. These are some of the important steps taken: appointment of a new Regional Advisory Council who held its first meeting in August, creation of a regional education specialist position to ensure quality education programs across the region, and reflection of mission and renewal of accompaniment during the much-anticipated regional meeting of all JRS staff. As a universal work of the Jesuits, JRS is actively engaged in the Jesuit conference to promote the same mission manifested in the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs).

We are grateful to our teams including many refugees who carry the work on the ground, our donors and partners who help ease our burdens, and to the Spirit who lifts us closer to reach our mission.

# JRS IN ASIA PACIFIC



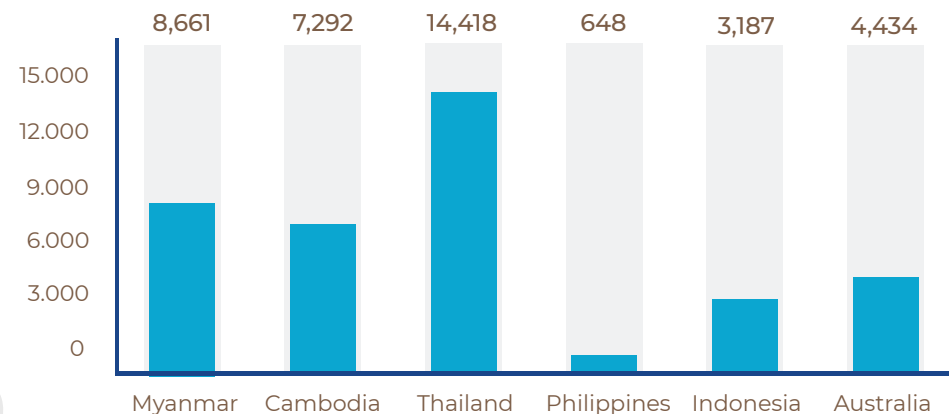
Since 1980, JRS Asia Pacific has accompanied, served, and advocated the cause of refugees and other forcibly displaced people, that they may heal, learn and determine their own future. JRS is currently found in 56 countries, including 7 countries in Asia Pacific, serving refugees and other forcibly displaced persons in conflict zones, detention centres, on remote borders, and in busy cities.

At the heart of our service to refugees is our commitment with them throughout their experience of displacement. From education to livelihood training, emergency aid, reconciliation, healthcare and so on, we always stand to comfort that they are not forgotten, and that they are not alone.

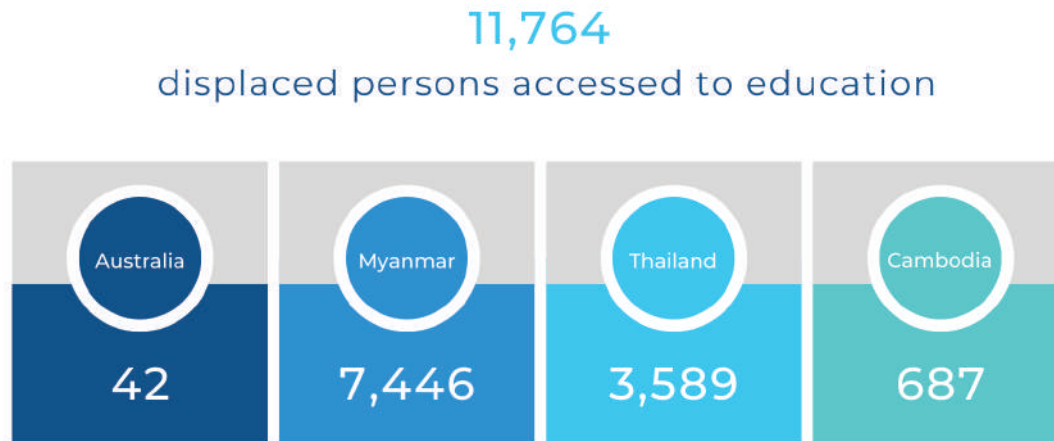
## JRS has made a significant impact on the lives of refugees.

Our accompaniment assures their well-being and protection. Our services are the most important way to express our solidarity with them. And we never cease to advocate for the rights of refugees to protect the most vulnerable.

### TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED IN 2019 38,640



# EDUCATION



*“Education provides stability and a sense of normalcy; it engenders hope while preparing refugees to meet future challenges. With the skills and knowledge provided by education, refugees find it easier to integrate into new communities.”*

JRS Asia Pacific implements educational services in emergency situations, offering several levels of formal and informal education programmes and adult vocational courses, by following the three areas of focus in its educational programming enshrined as key priorities in our 2019-2023 Strategic Framework, and form the pillars of the Global Education Initiative (GEI):

## Teacher Development

Enhance the capability of the staff in administering education services through increasing their management and teaching skills. Teachers can create the kinds of inclusive environments where children feel safe to learn, reflect on their experiences, and develop their potential.

## Enhancing Access to Secondary Education

Improve quality of basic education for children in refugee camps in Thailand and conflict-affected communities in Kachin and Kayah state, Myanmar. We recognise this disparity, and offers focused programmes that support them as they progress throughout primary school and transition to secondary education.

## Professional and Post-Secondary Education

Provide access to informal education opportunities of urban asylum seekers and refugees in Bangkok, Thailand, including language courses and professional skills trainings to promote sustainable livelihoods.

# ADVOCACY AND PROTECTION

## THAILAND

'Opportunity'



Teacher Lek shows Fareed in the hair salon course how to braid hair.

Seventeen-year-old Fareed\* came to Thailand in 2015 with his mother and three sisters. Back home in Pakistan as a kid, he worked countless hours in a carpet factory, while suffering verbal and physical abuse.

When they arrived in Thailand as asylum seekers, they were told to leave immediately, or face arrest. As they could not afford black-market visas, they stayed out of sight. This led Fareed to take on odd jobs like construction work.

His family was in despair. "It felt like a big mistake to come here. If we stayed, we would have died once. But here it felt like we had to die again and again."

Fareed met teacher Lek in the beauty salon course offered by JRS Urban Education Project (UEP) which includes nail painting and facial massage. Gradually, Fareed started to give back to refugee community.

"My hope is that my students can go out to find jobs themselves and be independent." said teacher Lek.

*"Advocacy means ensuring that refugees receive legal and humane treatment."*

JRS involves in supporting refugees the efforts to claim and exercise their rights, and lobbying governments and institutions for better and just responses to refugees and situations of forced displacement. Our advocacy takes place on many levels.

In the field, our staff frequently advocate on behalf of individual refugees who require help in protecting their rights and dignity, or to meet basic needs such as shelter and food. From refugee camps in Thailand to conflict affected areas in Myanmar and Cambodia, JRS ensures the overall protection of refugees and promote durable solutions through promoting overall protection of IDPs and anti-discriminatory practices.

Improve quality of basic education for children in refugee camps in Thailand and conflict-affected communities in Kachin and Kayah state, Myanmar. We recognise this disparity, and offers focused programmes that support them as they progress throughout primary school and transition to secondary education.

JRS advocacy also aims at enhancing the public perception of refugees, countering xenophobia and indifference, and promoting integration and social cohesion in urban context of Indonesia, Australia and Thailand. Through advocacy efforts at a regional and global levels, JRS worked closely with partners and international working groups to support changes in legislation or policy when called for, especially in areas such as immigration detention, rights to work, healthcare, and education rights.

## AUSTRALIA

### Advocacy at global levels

In Asia Pacific, JRS Australia worked closely with the JRS Regional Office and other JRS country offices, attending the biennial JRS's regional meeting in Thailand. JRS also presented at the Migration Network of the Jesuit Asia Pacific Conference (JCAP) in Seoul in April 2019 on the global compacts and how to use these new global tools for effective advocacy at the regional and national levels.

JRS continued partnership with Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) and presented at APRRN's Regional Protection Forum - Towards a 'whole of society approach' in the implementation of the Global Compacts in September 2019. JRS also shared our experiences with initiatives to shift hearts and minds at the community level at a roundtable organised by the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) on narratives of migration.



At the international level, JRS participated in various forums and platforms, presenting at the first-year anniversary of the UN Migration Network, UNCHR's NGO consultations, the Human Rights Council and a symposium organised by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants amongst others, focusing on the issues of mixed movements, pathways and gender equality. In December 2019, JRS Australia attended the first ever Global Refugee Forum (GRN), a major milestone on the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees.



## CAMBODIA

The Global Conference on Assistance to Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines and Other Explosive Remnants of War, and Disability Rights



Sister Denise Coghlan, member of the Governance Board of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC) and Tun Channareth, Ambassador for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, were panelists and speakers for The Global Conference on Assistance to Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines and Other Explosive Remnants of War, and Disability Rights was held in Amman, Jordan, on 10 -12 September 2019. This conference was called by the United Nations to try creating new ideas about successful improvement of the quality of life of the people suffering due to weapons of war.

The Cambodian Human Trafficking Advocacy Booklet



JRS Cambodia recently released a publication discussing the Human Trafficking Situation in Cambodia. As a popular source, transit, and destination for human trafficking victims, Cambodia ranks in the top 10 countries in the world where modern slavery is happening.

# LIVELIHOOD AND HEALTHCARE

*“Improving livelihoods opportunities is not just about economic self-sufficiency; it is also about restoring dignity, hope, and promoting social cohesion.”*

JRS recognises the resilience and resourcefulness of refugees, who want nothing more than to be independent and self-reliant. JRS Asia Pacific provides language courses and vocational training in various fields. JRS also develops an employment program for refugees to be ‘work ready’, and begin the job hunt.

To support the skills required to maintain one’s livelihood, we advocate for refugees’ right to work, facilitate access to employment markets and informal market economies. While JRS in the Philippines is promoting livelihood opportunities and food security to returned and extremely vulnerable Marawi IDPs by establishing agricultural projects, the opportunities for out-of-school children and youth (OOSC&Y) and youth-at-risks in refugee camps in Thailand are promoted through alternative education and skills learning activities.

## FROM SINGAPORE TO THAILAND Refugee Intern Programme

JRS Singapore has begun an internship programme which aims to link business partners with refugees and asylum seekers who are keen to take on internship/ skills training opportunities. In Singapore, as part of a local outreach programme, JRS volunteers have started to engage with migrant workers living in dormitories. We hope to provide a listening ear and support the needs of migrant workers.

CHARIS and JRS Singapore have jointly supported JRS Thailand’s Urban Education Project (UEP) since December 2017, helping more than five batches of students to successfully complete their course. JRS Singapore also established a Refugee Intern programme which links refugees with valuable internship experiences in digital marketing

1,464

people received livelihood and healthcare assistance



Livelihood

1,167



Healthcare

297

## INDONESIA

Mufeed Abdul Karim,  
39, living in Indonesia.

*“This cooking class was really good for me, I can do something with my family, and meeting new family in here. The skill that I learn can also give me some extra money. As you know, my wife was really depressed with the recommendation, she did not want to continue to go to hospital. I was really afraid that I will lose my wife, but with JRS support and I can join cooking class at the church, my wife feels useful again. And right now, we have a lot of order, we can have small income from here, and that’s made my wife happy.”*



# PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

A cornerstone of the JRS mission is to offer holistic services through companionship, warmth, and recognition of human dignity; through this mission and JRS's lens of accompaniment we provide psychosocial support to those in need.

In refugee camps along the Thailand-Myanmar borders, JRS offers psychosocial programmes by aiming to strengthen the spiritual and physical well-being of vulnerable refugees, improve community and family supports through emphasis placed on building hope, restoring human dignity, and strengthening social cohesion through pastoral care, food, and shelter, both in and outside the camps. JRS staff provide safe spaces and emergency assistances for vulnerable groups, case management services, individual and group counselling, and training among urban refugee and asylum seeker communities in Indonesia and Thailand. Much of JRS mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) is integrated into all JRS programmes.

## MYANMAR

### A major life change

*“My son is totally changed now. Before, he never wanted to go to the church; but now, he is the one to invite the family to go to church with him every Sunday. He does not drink alcohol nor make any troubles with others and he works hard.”*

Thomas La Wawm is a 26-year-old volunteer teacher who currently serves as a teacher-in-charge in IDP camps at Kachin state. He is a graduate of the 5th batch of the 9-month Teacher Training Course (TTC), a joint project of JRS and DCE-Myitkyina. He spent most of his teens and early 20s with an armed group while pursuing his undergraduate degree before he joined the TTC to become a community volunteer teacher at the IDP camps located in remote and conflict-affected areas in Kachin State. His share of negative life experiences as observed by his risky behaviours such as alcohol-drinking and inability to communicate well with his fellow TTC trainees in the first 2-3 months of training.



Sr. Rosemary Wong, always accompanied La Wawm throughout his study at TTC. A few months later, after accompaniment and reflection sessions with him, at times in between fights, La Wawm started to stop drinking alcohol and became a sociable person. He became an active and motivated learner, and helped his fellow trainees and trainers a lot. Undoubtedly, JRS could observe happiness and satisfaction in La Wawm's mother who was sitting at the front row during graduation day



11,061 people  
in 6 countries  
were provided  
psychosocial  
support

# RECONCILIATION

*“JRS Priority is given to building the capacity of communities themselves to mobilise to work for reconciliation and social cohesion.”*

JRS articulates reconciliation as a journey to “create right relationships” among the refugees we serve, and between refugees and host communities. On their journey to safety and once they reach a host country, many refugees face varying degrees of hostility. The lack of welcome is due to complex factors, which differ from one place to another.

The JRS mission of reconciliation unfolds differently from place to place, with a focus on building bridges through education and among youth, and on creating spaces of hospitality and welcome. In Marawi, the Philippines, JRS sees the urgent need to work for reconciliation and to build social cohesion by promoting peace and social harmony within conflict-affected communities, and raising awareness on IDP situation to the public.

JRS in Thailand and Myanmar develop a cross-border peace initiative by promoting trust and understanding to enhance peaceful

coexistence between the potential host communities in Myanmar and returning refugees from refugee camps in Thailand through raising awareness, training, and conducting a research on sustainable peace.

## PHILIPPINES

### A Woman's Journey to Peace

*“These wars made my life uncertain and difficult. It was very hard to be displaced from my home,”*

As a child, Normilah experienced war. She recalls how she and her family had to evacuate on three separate occasions when the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) attacked their village in Mindanao, Philippines. She was just nine years old when mortar shells were dropped on her village the first time in 2000. In 2003, When she was twelve. The ongoing fighting between the MILF and government forces made her flee her village again. She had to leave her school and friends in order to finish primary school in a bigger and safer town, Marawi City. Her third experience with war happened in 2007, when she was 16 years old. Once again, her family had to abandon their crops and livestock and flee the village.



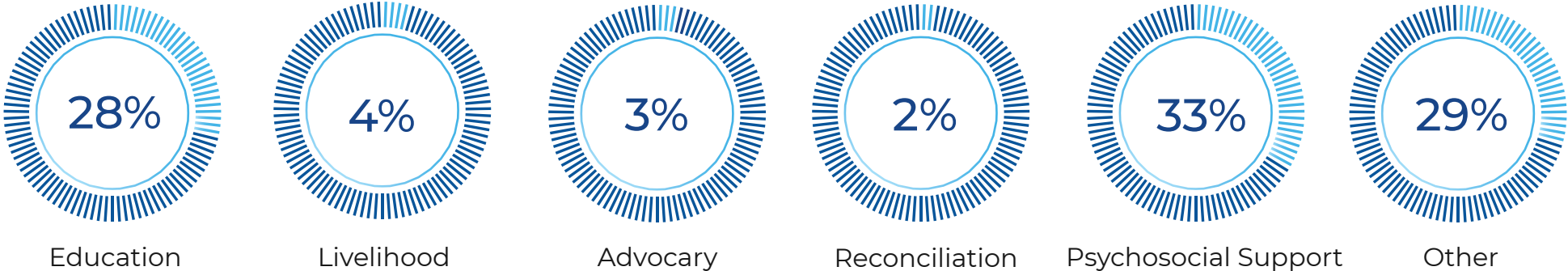
She experienced hunger, thirst, and fatigue. The worst part was the discrimination she experienced from her fellow Muslims in the evacuation areas. As a result, she did not want to return to her village. Unfortunately, she had no choice but to return there. Even though, she had to overcome these challenges, one of her goal was to promote peace in her community.

In 2015, the Jesuit Refugee Service began to help Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in her community to build peace and promote livelihoods. Normilah became a member of the JRS Women Peace Advocate group.

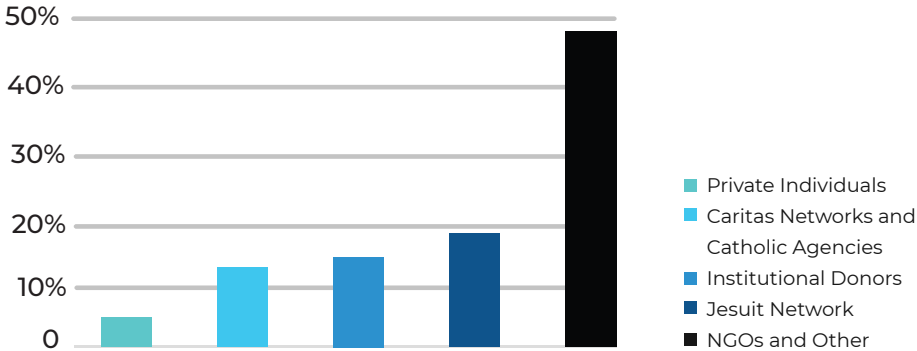
# FINANCIAL SUMMARY (USD)

**TOTAL INCOME** 3,890,781  
**TOTAL EXPENSES** 3,964,676

## PROGRAM EXPENSES



## SOURCE OF INCOME



## EXPENSES BY COUNTRY

