



WE ARE JRS

The 120 Day Report

"Words can't fully express the depth of my joy...this shelter has given me more than just a roof over my head; it has given me hope and a fresh start.

Thank you for showing me kindness when I had nothing, and for helping me rebuild my life. From being lost and alone, with nowhere to turn to now having a safe place to call home."

—a Congolese refugee accompanied by JRS Uganda

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OVERVIEW OF THE FIRST 90 DAYS:

On January 20, the Trump Administration issued an executive order mandating a “90-day pause in United States foreign development assistance.”¹ Following the executive order, the State Department announced a “stop-work” order that suspended all nine of Jesuit Refugee Service USA’s grants in Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, South Africa, South Sudan, Thailand, and Uganda.

The State Department partially reinstated JRS’s programs in South Sudan and Colombia in March but terminated the other seven grants. Added to the termination of the seven State Department grants, 13 other JRS offices faced significant funding reductions from partner organizations responding to federal cuts. **While many nonprofits were forced to close programs immediately, JRS/USA, drawing on its own reserves, the JRS/USA board, and private donors provided 2.5 million dollars of emergency funding to keep core programs running through 2025.**

While the Trump Administration has publicly stressed “lifesaving humanitarian assistance” in its statements on redirecting US foreign aid, the government has defined the term narrowly in contrast to integral human development.² JRS remains committed to serving the whole person and to programming that ensures displaced persons not only survive, but thrive. **JRS is grateful for the urgently needed support that has enabled us to extend strategic priority programming for impacted countries through the end of 2025—even beyond the fiscal year end.**

CHAD:

Chad is one of the least economically developed countries in the world, leaving a significant number of refugee children without access to education programs, health care, and basic needs. JRS Chad remains committed to serving refugee children in need of primary and secondary education. During the emergency period, JRS hired 14 teachers to prepare refugee students for the baccalaureate (BAC) exam, providing 1,838 students with the opportunity to sit for the exam and hopefully matriculate to university.



ETHIOPIA:

JRS Ethiopia prioritized the protection of over 580 unaccompanied refugee children in Addis Ababa. Over the 90-day period, JRS provided cash and food assistance to 500 children in foster care, enabling these children to remain in their foster homes. Funding for this program will end in August, leaving foster families, some with as many as 19 foster children, without vital support and foster children at risk of abandonment.

INDIA:

JRS India accompanies an estimated 37,800 people of concern from Myanmar living in Northeast India, in Mizoram and Manipur. During the emergency period, JRS provided schooling to over 1000 students, trained 74 new teachers, hosted reconciliation sessions for 756 students, administered psychological counseling and care for over 2000 people of concern, and distributed sanitary materials to 300 women and girls.

IRAQ:

Iraqi religious minorities are a deeply underserved population which JRS accompanies. It would be inconsistent with the JRS model to abandon those who need mental health interventions without creating a plan for further care. Over the 90 days, JRS administered mental health services to 1,632 refugees, conducted 831 medical consultations for 477 patients, held psychological wellbeing sessions for 43 ISIS survivors, and provided psychosocial support for 57 refugees experiencing suicidal ideation.



SOUTH AFRICA:

As a result of a revised budget, JRS South Africa re-oriented its health program to focus on the most vulnerable terminally ill and chronic patients, reducing their list of patient beneficiaries from 1500 to 100. Over the 90-day emergency period, JRS South Africa provided home-based and psychosocial support to 213 patients, food and rental assistance to 163 patients, and coverage for transport and medical consultation fees for 140 patients across Johannesburg.

VICTOR HOPE’S STORY:

“In 2021, I was diagnosed with a serious lung infection. My lungs are badly damaged, and I need a transplant. But as a foreigner, I cannot access one. I live with my family and five children. It used to be nearly impossible to get medical help. But since JRS came into our lives, everything changed. The assistance provided has made it easier for me to go to the hospital and get the care I need.”

THAILAND:

Due to funding cuts, several nonprofits closed in Thailand, leaving JRS as the leading provider of mental health services to the refugee community in Bangkok. During the emergency period, JRS provided 215 refugees with financial assistance, administered 61 individual and group counseling sessions, conducted 36 home visits, and facilitated urgent protection services for refugees in need.

UGANDA:

Throughout the 90-day period, JRS Uganda remained committed to combatting Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Kampala by training 147 teachers in psychological first aid, educating 148 community members on SGBV prevention, and providing counseling for 70 SGBV survivors. Additionally, JRS Uganda served the basic needs of the refugee community during the emergency period by providing 83 households with food support, 76 families with rent assistance, and 105 refugees with medical care.

BEYOND THE EMERGENCY PERIOD:

Although JRS hoped that State Department funding would resume following the “90 day review period,” foreign assistance has been reduced by 86% and we must not expect or rely on federal provision of foreign aid in the near future.³

Thanks to you, this abrupt loss of funding did not—and will not—stop our global lifesaving programs.

Every country in which JRS serves has been negatively impacted by the chaotic destabilization of the international humanitarian system. Our key partners providing basic needs, like UNHCR and the World Food Program, now operate at a reduced capacity.

During the past 120 days, the global reduction or loss of foreign aid has forced a humanitarian reset. In the face of enormous change, JRS’s mission, character, and values remain constant. JRS accompanies displaced people in 58 countries and will continue to do so because we are driven by spiritual imperatives, not political ones. **We walk with refugees, wherever they are, whatever condition they might be in, because our methodology is mobile and our presence unwavering.**

Thank you for your support during this extraordinary emergency. We will always accompany, serve, and advocate for refugees because **we are JRS.**

Make your gift to JRS/USA today!

🌐 jrsusa.org/donate | 1627 K Street NW - Suite 1100 | Washington DC 20006



Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) envisions a world where refugees and other forcibly displaced people attain protection, opportunity, and participation. JRS seeks to accompany, serve, and advocate the cause of forcibly displaced people, that they may heal, learn, and determine their own future. Learn more at jrsusa.org.

“Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated. Let us seek for others the same possibilities which we seek for ourselves. Let us help others to grow, as we would like to be helped ourselves. In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us provide opportunities. The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us.” — Pope Francis⁴

Citations:

1. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/reevaluating-and-realigning-united-states-foreign-aid/>
2. <https://www.state.gov/emergency-humanitarian-waiver-to-foreign-assistance-pause/>
3. <https://www.npr.org/sections/goats-and-soda/2025/03/10/g-si-52964/rubio-announces-that-83-of-usaid-contracts-will-be-canceled>
4. https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/september/documents/papa-francesco_20150924_usa-us-congress.html