

Strategic Framework 2026-2029

Vision

Recognizing the inherent dignity of each person, Jesuit Refugee Service/USA (JRS/USA) envisions a world where forcibly displaced people can obtain protection, opportunity, and participation in sustainable, just, and reconciled communities that allow them to thrive at home and to migrate safely.

Mission

Inspired by the generous love and example of Jesus Christ, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is a global apostolate of the Society of Jesus with a mission to accompany, serve, and advocate the cause of forcibly displaced people that they may heal, learn, and determine their own future in community.

Values

Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and the Ignatian tradition, JRS/USA is committed to dignity, compassion, hope, solidarity, hospitality, subsidiarity, and justice. Our engagement in this work is driven by faith and ethical principles, not ideology.

Model:

JRS/USA pursues mission and values through

Accompaniment.

Rooted in the Latin *companionem*, accompaniment means walking alongside people rather than acting for them by fostering mutual respect, trust, and transformation. It is a long-term, community-based commitment centered on displaced people's agency. Through this approach, JRS/USA cultivates social cohesion and accountability so every individual can thrive, while U.S. accompaniment network programs encourage communities and volunteers to support those seeking protection.

Cura Personalis.

Meaning "care of the whole person," *cura personalis* provides respectful, individualized support that honors each person's unique spiritual, cultural, and economic background. This holistic approach shapes how JRS/USA designs its programs and strategies. It is best reflected in their Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) work, which is woven through all programs in the U.S. and globally.

Partnerships.

JRS/USA pursues strategic partnerships to expand support for displaced people by growing networks on local, state, national, and international levels, maximizing resources. We work with persons of good will across Jesuit, Catholic, and other humanitarian spaces, including in four Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) networks, with other schools and institutions, with research partners, litigation counsel, interfaith coalitions, umbrella organizations, donors and volunteers, and governmental actors—when and where possible.



Organizational Priorities:

Guiding Resource Allocation & Institutional Investments

The following organizational priorities inform strategic planning and serve as criteria for budgeting, financial stewardship, program selection, institutional investments, and risk management decisions.

Integrative and Strengths-based Programming – Address the holistic needs of individuals and communities, emphasizing resilience and hope and building upon existing resources and approaches that reinforce each other and have proven successful.

Community Anchored and Led Approaches – Operate programs at the most local level, in line with our value of subsidiarity and ensuring displaced people and communities are key agents in addressing their needs, thereby encouraging social cohesion.

Commitment to Good Governance – Invest in staff and systems that provide a strong foundation for programmatic work and strengthen a culture of accountability, shared responsibility, and excellence.

Flexible, Innovative, and Strategic Work – Remain flexible in response to emerging needs while seeking longterm innovative and strategic solutions together with the people and communities we serve. This involves building a culture of learning that prioritizes evidence-based and data-driven approaches and strong communications.



Program Priorities:

At Home & Abroad

JRS/USA's Domestic Program Team works to ensure support for newcomers seeking humanitarian protection and to equip local communities to respond to needs, welcoming individuals and families, fostering community inclusion, protecting rights, and upholding human dignity. JRS accomplishes this through the following programs:

The Accompaniment Network – Mobilizes local Communities and volunteers to support new arrivals.

Caminar Contigo 2.0 – Delivers basic humanitarian aid, legal connections, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) at the border and in the interior for individuals released from detention.

Court Observation – Trains volunteers to stand in solidarity with displaced people during immigration and deportation hearings.

Chaplaincy Program – Provides spiritual care inside U.S. immigration detention centers.



Support for JRS Global Initiatives

JRS/USA **invests** resources in integrative global initiatives—specifically education and livelihood programs with strong Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) components, where there are clear needs and a proven track record of success.

Mission

Envision a world where forcibly displaced people obtain protection, opportunity, and participation in sustainable, just communities.

Accompany, serve, and advocate alongside displaced people so they may heal, learn, and determine their own futures in community.

Commit to dignity, compassion, hope, and justice, rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, faith, and Ignatian principles.

Advocacy, Policy & Thoughtful Leadership

Protect the legal rights and dignity of displaced people.

Shift public opinion and provide thought leadership for durable solutions.

Empower displaced people to be active agents in their futures.

MHPSS

Integrates Mental Health and Psychosocial Support across all global and domestic programming, reducing vulnerability to exploitative practices by employing tactics such as “Psychological First Aid” training and ensuring strong local community-based social support systems.

Education Plus (E+) Programs

Education is key to unlocking individual potential and ensuring displaced people have agency over their own futures. JRS/USA supported E+ programs:

Advance community-based holistic and integrative approaches that address the overall needs of the student, Fostering lifelong learning and hope in a changing world.

Operate on multiple levels to meet basic needs, such as access to nutrition and clean drinking water and safety from violence and exploitation—while providing quality and holistic education.

Establish flexible and adaptive pathways for people of all ages and walks of life that are contextually responsive and ensure the inclusion and protection of all, especially marginalized groups such individuals with disabilities.

Prospering in Place—Livelihood Programs

While JRS/USA works to advance a world where all people can prosper in place and migration is a voluntary decision, returning home is often not possible. Individuals must have the opportunity to live full, dignified lives where they are. JRS/USA supported livelihood programs:

Invest in pathways to dignified work, adopting market-systems approaches and expanding equitable access to digital tools, skills, and infrastructure.

Enable displaced people and affected communities to come together to design and implement solutions that strengthen their local economies so that all members can constructively contribute while earning a just income that satisfies essential needs.

Ensure inclusion of often marginalized groups and individuals with differing abilities and socio-economic factors.