In the Middle East and North Africa, JRS began its work five years ago in response to the huge number of Iraqi refugees fleeing the conflict in their country. Encouraged by the Jesuit Superior General, Adolfo Nicolás SJ, JRS went to Syria and Jordan in 2008. The following year saw expansion to Turkey, both a destination and major crossroads for refugees hoping to reach Europe or awaiting resettlement. In Turkey, JRS reaches refugees and asylum seekers from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Sudan. Following the violent events in Syria from 2011 onwards, JRS now provides emergency relief to Syrians both inside Syria, and in neighboring countries, including Lebanon most recently.

As of 2012, the main focus of JRS was to provide relief to Syrians in the form of food, non-food items, educational and psychosocial support as well as some medical support for people suffering from chronic illnesses who can no longer afford medical care. In addition to this, the projects in Amman and Ankara continue to provide educational and psychosocial support to Iraqis, Sudanese, Somalis and other refugees and asylum seekers.

When JRS started out, the first challenge was to find the refugees, many of whom were unregistered and living in isolation, poverty and fear. Contact was possible thanks to local Jesuit communities and Christian Churches, which paved the way for JRS involvement. In Amman, the community at the Jesuit center – which became the JRS base – was already supporting Iraqi families. In Turkey, the Ankara refugee support group based at Meryem Ana Parish served as a point of entry.

Meeting the scattered urban refugees and learning about their needs, JRS decided to bring them together in community, opening centers in Aleppo, Amman, Ankara and Damascus, places described by the refugees as a "second home". True to its pedagogical tradition, JRS started informal education in the centers – catch-up tuition, language and computer classes.

Another objective of JRS is to reach those refugees who are vulnerable and with scant hope of moving on. There are plenty – the demand for resettlement is great compared to the relatively few places available. Regular home visits enable our teams to discover and to help those in urgent need.

Mission

The mission of the Jesuit Refugee Service is to accompany, serve and advocate for the rights of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. As a Catholic organization and a work of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

"clean": "rimraf dist",

"copyfonts": "copyfiles -f node\_modules/font-awesome/fonts/\* dist/fonts",

"imagemin": "imagemin img/\* -o dist/img",

"usemin": "usemin qr.html -d dist --htmlmin -o dist/qr.html && usemin index.html -d dist --htmlmin -o dist/index.html",

"build": "npm run clean && npm run imagemin && npm run copyfonts && npm run usemin"