

**Title (10 words)**

Emergency Education for Displaced Syrian Children

**Summary (50 words)**

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) provides education to heal trauma, promote dignity, and build skills for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Syria. Pope Francis asked JRS to participate in the Year of Mercy by engaging partners to increase refugee education. With Holy Trinity's partnership, this program is a critical response.

**Nature and Significance of the Problem (100 words)**

The Syrian Civil War has deprived the Syrian people of basic health, nutrition, and water services. In the process, the country's education system collapsed. UNICEF estimates 6 million Syrian children need humanitarian assistance and 2.8 million are internally displaced. Approximately 2 million Syrian children are out of school, deprived of mental stimulation vital for their development and exposed to exploitation, trauma and abuse. The war is producing a lost generation of Syrians with too few years of schooling and stunted literacy levels. The negative long-term implications are unrealized human potential and reduced economic productivity compromising post-war recovery.

**What/Where/How (250 words)**

JRS improves education for IDPs and vulnerable Syrians in Jaramana, near Damascus. A JRS education center there offers supplementary instruction for students still enrolled in primary schools and literacy classes for out-of-school children. Schools are overcrowded and many children suffer severe psychological distress affecting their ability to learn in a traditional classroom. Tutoring reinforces formal education. Literacy classes impart foundational reading and writing skills. In each program, two groups attend lessons twice a week, three hours per day. All teachers are experienced and receive additional curriculum and pedagogical training. Students receive a light meal, sometimes their only meal of the day, bolstering food security for the entire family. Meals encourage attendance and improve health and nutrition, fostering cognitive and socio-emotional development. Students attend lessons in a child-friendly space, staffed by a full-time social worker, permitting them to escape the conflict's reality.

JRS's partnership with Holy Trinity will create opportunities for parishioners to actively engage in JRS's work. We will launch our collaboration on World Refugee Day, June 20<sup>th</sup>, with a parish event highlighting our work in Syria. We will connect the parish's youth with Syrian refugees and IDPs through [Any Refugee](#) – a JRS/USA initiative that sends postcards to displaced children. JRS will work with Holy Trinity to leverage parishioner support through direct advocacy to U.S. policymakers promoting the rights of displaced Syrians in the Middle East, Europe, and the United States. In November the Middle East Regional Director will speak to the parish about the program's impact on Syrian children.

**Impact (200 words)**

The program serves 300 (150 boys and 150 girls) primary school children between the ages of six and 15, including both internally displaced and other vulnerable Syrians, with 150 students in supplementary instruction and 150 in children's literacy. The program indirectly benefits the families of the students, roughly 1200 people. In education, we measure impact by improvements in literacy rates, examination scores, and final grades. Foundational skills enabling students to progress through their education and into adulthood are the enduring impact of the program. Absent these skills at the proper primary school age, students fall behind and suffer long term deprivations in income, health, and social inclusion. In addition, the psychosocial benefits of this program are critical to the children's lifelong development. They are empowered to form healthier and more optimistic perspectives on life and enabled to develop

aspirations for the future. Beyond education, this program equips students with emotional and social resilience needed to contribute to their communities and rebuild their country.

**Sustainability** (100 words)

Syrian children will need literacy programs and supplementary instruction for the foreseeable future. Even if peace is achieved, the rebuilding process will take time before schools resume normal activities and students are able to participate at the appropriate level.

This program is part of JRS’s Global Education Initiative and as such is a long-term priority of both JRS/USA and the JRS International Office. Both offices will actively explore the partnerships and financial support needed to ensure that this program operates.

**Operations and Timeframes** (100 words)

Indicators	Level
By October 2016, 150 children (75 girls, 75 boys) enroll in supplementary school instruction; 150 children (75 girls, 75 boys) enroll in the children’s literacy program.	Output
By June 2017, 32 education staff complete three training sessions on program curriculum and pedagogical skills.	Output
By June 2017, 80% of enrolled children improve their grades because of supplementary school instruction.	Impact
By June 2017, 80% of enrolled children acquire basic reading and writing skills from the children’s literacy program.	Impact

**Risk Management** (150 words)

Risks	Likelihood	Effect	Mitigation Measures
Government security services disrupt provision of services.	High	Severe	Maintain low organizational profile in Syria.
			Maintain discrete communications, avoid reference to international donors.
			Only key team managers informed of funding sources.
			Rely on trusted partners, vendors, and carriers.
Team members risk arrest, injury, and even death while conducting humanitarian activities in an active conflict zone.	Medium	Severe	Working under the Church umbrella offers low profile.
			Strong local contacts poised to alert staff when activities are under scrutiny.
			Obtain updated information from local partners, avoid risky areas, and suspend activities when required.
Increase in conflict results in suspension of activities.	High	Severe	Maintain staff and centers throughout the suspension of activities; resume operations when safe.
Foreign bank transfers need	High	Major	JRS maintains its bank account through

permission from Government.			the Jesuit Province in Beirut, minimizing visibility to Syrian authorities.
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**Management Capability and Structure (250 words)**

JRS is an international Catholic organization with programs in 45 countries that served more than 142,000 people in education in 2014 – including 6,000 inside Syria.

Education is JRS’s key contribution to the needs and hopes of forcibly displaced people. JRS launched the Global Education Initiative to improve its education interventions and double the number of people served by them to more than 220,000 by the year 2020. In November 2015 Pope Francis commissioned our Mercy in Motion education initiative as a concrete response to the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

JRS is unique among non-governmental organizations in its ability to provide services within conflict zones. Our partnerships with local church institutions allow us to serve communities that others cannot reach. JRS is one of the only charitable organizations currently working inside Syria.

The JRS Regional Office in Beirut, Lebanon, manages the program in Jaramana. Reporting and program implementation in Syria are directly overseen by the Program Officer and Grant Manager who speak daily with the Country Office in Damascus and Project Director in Jaramana. The Country Office has Program and Finance officers who support the project team. The Country Office recruits and hires all education center staff in Jaramana and provides crucial management support and guidance in response to the evolving situation in Syria. The Project Director oversees 36 staff – an Education Coordinator, an Education Team Leader, 30 teachers, a Social Worker, and three support staff. The Country Office liaises with the JRS Regional Office to provide updates and progress reports to the JRS/USA Program Officer semi-annually.

The JRS/USA Assistant Policy Director will lead the outreach activities with Holy Trinity. The Communications and Development teams will support her work.

**Project Size (25 words)**

The total annual project budget is \$180,000. JRS/USA will present a detailed budget with a full proposal, but we seek \$50,000-100,000 from Holy Trinity.