



# SALESIAN MISSIONS

*What's your mission?*

## Refugees & Internally Displaced Persons

According to the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, there were 45.2 million forcibly displaced people worldwide at the end of 2012, many of whom were youth. Salesian Missions provides humanitarian assistance as well as educational programs in camps for refugee and internally displaced persons throughout the world. Technical and vocational training as well as workforce development services empower refugees and internally displaced persons with marketable skills which are necessary and utilized to help with integration into new communities.

### INDIA

In the state of Tamil Nadu, India, the Salesian “New Beginnings” program helps to educate Sri Lankan refugees while giving their families the chance to achieve stability and the opportunity to send their children to school. The program offers technical and vocational courses and skill training as well as job placement support to aid refugees in finding employment. For women with children who are unable to leave the refugee camp and attend traditional classes, a special program has been developed within the camp. Through it, women receive training in skills such as jewelry-making and sewing and are also provided entrepreneurial workshops. In addition, they are eligible for financial assistance to start up new businesses where they can use their new skills while continuing to take care of their families, such as the business cooperative created with sewing machines and equipment financed through a micro-credit program. Today, there are close to 400 women taking advantage of this program.

### AFGHAN REFUGEE SCHOOL CHILDREN IN PAKISTAN

In Pakistan, a Salesian Missions program is serving Afghan refugee school children and their families in Quetta, the capital of the Baluchistan Province, Pakistan. The program—which began in 2012 and recently received continued funding—centers on reinforcing

primary education systems at six schools in highly volatile Quetta, Pakistan. The focus of the program includes everything from teacher training and resource improvements for child learning, to infrastructure improvement and web-ready computer labs. The goal of the Quetta program is to mainstream struggling Afghan refugee schools so they may become a part of the Pakistani education community and benefit from its shared institutional resources. Close to 2,200 students ages 4 to 13 are benefitting from Salesian Missions’ comprehensive approach to strengthening their education.

### COLOMBIAN REFUGEES

In recent years, more than 450,000 people have fled the violence of Colombia to neighboring Ecuador, Venezuela, Panama and Costa Rica. Salesian Missions’ “New Beginnings” initiative, which started in 2011, is working with more than 1,000 Colombian refugees in these four countries providing vocational and human development training as well as job placement services. Through the program, each refugee student receives 260 hours of technical training as well as 40 hours of human development workshops. These training programs coupled with the job placement services work to assist Colombian refugees to start over and build successful lives in their new communities.