

INDIA

January 2022

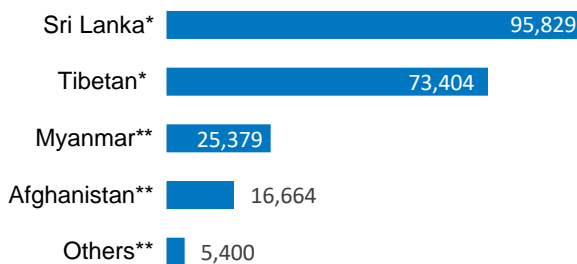
As of 31 January 2022, **47,443** refugees and asylum-seekers are registered with UNHCR in India. **1,213 individuals** were registered in **January 2022**.

UNHCR India provided a 24x7 hotline for refugees and asylum-seekers seeking protection assistance and information. Through these numbers, **3,125 people have reliable information** about social assistance support, documentation, shelter, vaccination for COVID-19 among other topics in January 2022.

UNHCR is grateful to the Government of India for having included refugees and asylum-seekers in the COVID-19 vaccination drive. By January, **49,291 refugees and asylum-seekers are reported to be vaccinated**.

PERSON OF CONCERN AS OF 31 JANUARY 2022

Origins¹



¹ Country or Territory of Origin

*Refugees registered and assisted by the Government of India. Statistics with regard to Sri Lankan refugees and Tibetan are taken from MHA Annual Report 2019-2020

<https://www.mha.gov.in/document/annual-reports/annual-report-ministry-of-home-affairs-2019-2020>

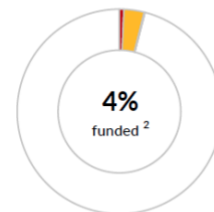
** Refugee and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR India (as of 31 January 2022)

FUNDING AS OF 25 January 2022

USD 14.2 M

Requested for India in 2022

FUNDING UPDATE | 2022



INDIA

as of 25 January 2022

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

India has a long tradition of playing a host to a large number of refugees. India is a reliable partner, guaranteeing that people who need help will find a place and safety.

UNHCR has worked since 1981 for the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers in India. In support of the efforts by the Government of India, UNHCR works with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, NITI Aayog, United Nations Country Team, and its NGO partners based across 15 states of India.

Recently, due to violence and instability in neighbouring countries, there has been a rise in asylum-seekers approaching UNHCR India for registration and assistance.

Further, the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect refugees and asylum-seekers. The number of refugees and asylum-seekers requesting basic assistance has increased, including food, rent, and medicines.



The most vulnerable refugees depend on UNHCR cash assistance. Faria Zanat Rumesa, 10, a refugee from Myanmar, lost her left eye to cancer three years ago. The monthly medical expenses for Rumesa, who aspires to be a doctor, are partly met by the monthly Subsistence Allowance from UNHCR. ©UNHCR/ Harsha Vadlamani

Working with Partners

UNHCR coordinates the protection and assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers in collaboration with:

- **The Government of India:** Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, NITI Aayog.
- **United Nations (UN):** UNHCR is a member of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and contributes to India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) for 2018-2022 and UN India-SERF.
- **Formal partnership agreements with 10 national NGOs:** Bosco Organisation for Social Concern and Operation (BOSCO), Socio-Legal Information Centre (SLIC), Bal Raksha Bharat (Save the Children), Development and Justice Initiative (DAJI), Gandhi National Memorial Society (GNMS), ActionAid (AA), Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), and Sphere Network.

Main Activities



Protection responses

In India, UNHCR supports local institutions and NGO partners with setting up protection referral mechanisms and case management for vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in India. UNHCR works with authorities, local NGOs, and refugee communities to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV) and promote child protection (CP).

- 21 training sessions on GBV, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and legal awareness were conducted by UNHCR partner BOSCO in Delhi through children, youth, and women clubs reaching about 1,162 refugees and asylum-seekers. Additionally, 30 Afghan women in Delhi were trained on legal awareness related to Gender-Based Violence.
- UNHCR partners provided psychosocial support and linkages for legal services to 8 GBV cases in Mewat and Dera Bassi, and 3 individuals in Hyderabad.
- Two consultative meetings on child rights, reporting mechanisms, and relevant Acts were covered with 21 participants at Nuh and 17 participants at Hyderabad by UNHCR partners.
- Psychosocial support was provided to 5 new arrival children through the Child Welfare Committee and ChildLine in Nuh by UNHCR partner, Action Aid.
- UNHCR partner BOSCO provided psycho-social support and counselling to 160 refugees and asylum-seeker children and 44 children with disabilities.
- UNHCR and its partners with the support of the 24/7 helpline provided supportive counselling and timely referrals on issues related to protection (health, mental health, food, livelihood) to 142 refugees and asylum-seekers. 1,071 emails from persons of concern were received and responded to.



Health, Water, and Sanitation

UNHCR's WASH programming aims to create a healthier environment for refugees and host communities. UNHCR works with the local health authorities and NGO partners to strengthen local health services benefiting both refugees and host communities. It facilitates access for refugees to safe and dignified life-saving water supply and sanitation services.

- 354 refugees and asylum-seekers were assisted with access to basic health services at local hospitals in Delhi. 146 refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with medicines.
- Access to sufficient and adequate sanitary materials is central to women and girls' dignity and well-being, and lack of sanitary pads often leads to serious health implications. In this regard, under the WASH programme, 601 women and girls received dignity kits in Hyderabad and 91 in Jaipur.
- To ensure the dignity of refugees and prevention of disease outbreaks, UNHCR partner, Save the Children constructed 18 new toilets and repaired 37 dysfunctional toilets.
- UNHCR partner, Action Aid ensured access to health services for 250 refugees and asylum-seekers through linkages with the Senior Medical Officer in Dera Bassi and 350 individuals in Mohali.



UNHCR is thankful to Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives for their contribution which has enabled UNHCR India to support 10,000 families in the country.
 ©UNHCR/ Muneer Alam

©UNHCR/ Hershie Vadlamani

Providing life-saving assistance and supporting communities



Beyond the immediate health impacts of COVID-19, the socio-economic impact of the pandemic was particularly grievous on refugees and asylum-seekers. In this context, UNHCR and its NGO partners in support of the efforts by the Government of India continued to deliver lifesaving assistance to support refugees and host communities.

- 2,528 households in Hyderabad, 1,546 households in Delhi, 93 individuals in Jaipur, 30 families in Pune, 434 households in Nuh, and 135 families in Dera Bassi were provided with food assistance.
- 140 refugee girl children were provided with cash-based assistance to promote gender equality and education in Nuh.
- 2537 educational and recreational kits were distributed in Hyderabad to support refugees and asylum seekers' children to continue learning, and 81 school uniforms were provided in Dera Bassi.
- As a part of winterization programme, 126 families in Dera Bassi were provided with blankets.

Community-based interventions



UNHCR through community-based interventions works on mitigating protection risks and builds the resilience of refugees and host communities, promotes peaceful co-existence, and builds social capital and protection networks.

- 10 meetings with the refugee community (Afghan, Chin, Rohingya, and Congolese) took place in Delhi, Nuh, and Hyderabad. The community groups continue to raise issues of increasing financial difficulties, inability to meet basic needs, and concerns about increasing situational stress during the pandemic.
- 85 education support letters were provided for the admission of refugee and asylum-seeker students in schools and universities.
- To increase literacy in language and computer skills, 1,490 refugees and asylum-seekers are enrolled in the language and computer classes for adult learning. 465 children between the age group of 5-17 are enrolled in bridge and tuition classes to supplement their education by UNHCR partner BOSCO.
- Through the refugee helpline and toll-free number (1800 103 5635, +919810173130, +917303154009), 3,125 people received reliable information about registration and refugee status determination process, documentation, assistance support, among other topics in January 2022.

Durable solutions and promoting self-reliance



UNHCR India remains available to assist refugees in India with durable solutions including voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement to a third country. Persons determined to be in need of international protection and who meet the resettlement criteria can be resettled. A small number of refugees are resettled each year.

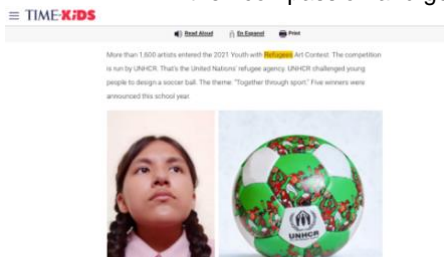
- 3 individual departed on voluntary repatriation as of January 2022 to Ethiopia. 4 individuals departed on complementary pathways in January.
- 133 refugees and asylum-seekers in Delhi were registered for job opportunities and received guidance on the labour market in the field of hospitality and retail. 100 individuals were provided with skill development training in tailoring and mechanical work by UNHCR partner, Action Aid in Nuh.

Campaigns and working with partners



In observing the 73rd Republic Day, UNHCR expressed its gratitude to the Government of India and its people for their compassion and generosity for hosting refugees and their families.

- UNHCR in collaboration with Wada Na Todo Abhiyan organised virtual sessions with over 100 Civil Society Organisations in India on refugees and asylum-seekers. This initiative was a follow up to the VNR consultation held in January 2020 under NITI Aayog and UN in India.
- Nadira, a 17-year-old Afghan refugee artist was featured in an interview with TIME for Kids magazine on winning the UNHCR Dreamball design competition.
- UNHCR is grateful to its individual donors and private sector partners who have been steadfast in their support of refugees and asylum-seekers in India.



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_16352

