

# India

31-December 2019

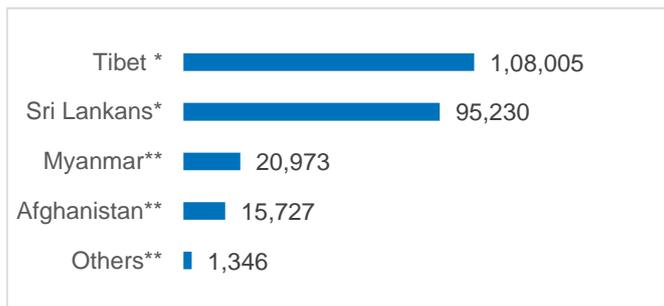
**Government of India** directly provides protection and assistance to **203,235 refugees** from Sri Lanka and Tibet, and **39,960 refugees and asylum seekers** of other nationalities are registered under UNHCR mandate.

**25 refugees' youths' groups with 1078 members, with support of UNHCR partners,** have become an active agent of change within their communities. They are at the center of decision-making concerning their protection and wellbeing'.

In December, **626 individual asylum seekers** were registered with UNHCR; **61 UNHCR resettlement submission; 14 resettlement departures; 77 Sri Lankan refugees** assisted to voluntarily return to Sri Lanka.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN (210,201 AS OF DEC 2019)

### Country of origin



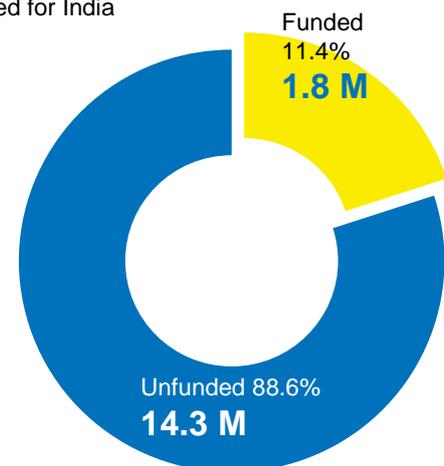
\* Refugees registered and assisted by Government of India. Statistics with regard to Sri Lankan refugees are drawn from Statistical report of Department of Rehabilitation, Tamil Nadu (as of 31 Dec 2017). ( 62,146 Sri Lankan Refugee are staying in camps) The Statistics on Tibetan refugees in India are based on the information provided by Bureau of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama (as on 30 June 2013) **Source: Annual Report Ministry of Home Affairs 2017-2018; Pg. 255-257** <https://mha.gov.in/documents/annual-reports> )

\*\* Refugee and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR India (As of 31 Dec 2019)

## FUNDING (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2019)

### USD 16.1 M

Requested for India



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

29 National Staff

6 International Staff

31 Affiliate work force (30 National and 1 International)

### Offices in India

1 Country Office in New Delhi

1 Field Office in Chennai

Picture 1 (Right) Maisan is an artist and refugee youth from Afghanistan who wants to become a lawyer and work hard each day till the time when no child will ever have to live as a refugee.



## Working with Partners

UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for persons of concern in collaboration with:

- **Government of India:** Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs.
- **UN:** UNHCR is a member of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and contributes towards Government of India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) for 2018-2022.
- **Formal partnership agreements with eight national NGOS:** Bosco Organisation for Social Concern and Operation (BOSCO), Social Legal Information Centre (SLIC), Bal Raksha Bharat (Save the Children), Fair Trade Forum India (FTF-I), Development and Justice Initiative (DAJI), Gandhi National Memorial Society (GNMS), ActionAid, and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI).
- **Operational Partners:** Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and Migration and Asylum Project (M.A.P).

## Main Activities

### Biometrics, Registration and Refugee Status Determination

- **Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS)** is an integral part of new arrival process, registration and refugee card renewal process. So far, **30,900** (excluding closed cases), **which is 78%** of active refugee and asylum-seeking population is enrolled. In the month of December **559 (317 male | 242 female) individual** refugees and asylum-seekers were **enrolled under biometrics**. (No Biometrics is recorded for children under the age of five).
- At the end of December 2019, total number of refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR were **39,960** out of whom **6,817** individuals were registered between January and December 2019, mainly from Afghanistan and Myanmar; of which 626 (353 male | 273 female) individuals were registered in the month of December 2019 alone. **Interpretation service** was provided for interviews, protection outreach, and other sessions.

### Protection

- UNHCR and partners worked towards protecting women and children at risk through case management, legal aid, and psycho-social support. **27 best interest assessment** for unaccompanied/separated children (UASC) were conducted.
- **16 new incidents of SGBV** (6 from country of origin and 10 in country of asylum) were reported and documented, and survivors were supported through multi-sectoral responses such as psycho social support, health, legal, and safety.
- UNHCR partners provided legal aid and counselling to person of concern (PoC) at risk of detention/ in detention. As of 31 December 2019, **a total of 264 PoC are detained at prisons, detention centres, children's homes and shelter homes in 16 different states of India**.
- UNHCR staff conducted a lecture on "*International Refugee Law and National Security*" at the Ninth Winter Course on International Law and National Security organised by Indian Society of International Law in Delhi, attended by 170 students and academician.
- SCI in Hyderabad facilitated **awareness raising session on four thematic area in partnership** namely, legal awareness training with NALSAR for 41 PoC, Prevention of Child Sexual abuse with CWC for 54 PoC, Prevention of SGBV incidents in collaboration with My Choices for 55 PoC, Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health with Service Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Fund attended by 28 women.

## Education

- A total of 399 refugee students (between January and December 2019) in Delhi are enrolled in the distance learning education and are supported by BOSCO through tuition classes.
- 62 refugee youth are supported under Albert Einstein German Academic Initiative (DAFI scholarship) in 2019, which enables refugees across the globe to pursue higher education.
- Save the children organised a **painting exhibition in Jammu, to showcase the work of refugee children**. Child Welfare Committee members, refugee community, schools' teachers participated in the event.
- Action Aid runs four **bridge learning centres in Nuh attended by 154 children** (between January and December 2019), to boost refugee's education and help them move into a formal learning environment.
- SCI in Hyderabad organised a three-day special drive in collaboration with Child line, Child Welfare Committee (CWC), District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) to create **understanding and awareness around child labour and to attract children back to school**, who had dropped out for various reasons. 3 children were rescued from child labour and the 3 employers are penalized. 132 parents were counselled.
- SCI together with State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) conducted **training on inclusion of refugee children in education for 27 government school teachers** at Hyderabad. Additional topics that were discussed included prevention of school drop outs, feedback on mid days meals and functioning of the School Management Committee (SMC).

## Health and Sanitation

- Save the Children, in collaboration with Directorate of Health Services in Jammu organized a **general health camp**, to provide medical treatment and to prevent disease outbreak, **benefitting 297 PoCs**.
- 37 children benefited from **immunisation** during regular reach out by government ANM / ASHA workers (Jammu and Nuh).
- SCI distributed **217 water tanks (500 litres) to 217 vulnerable families** to promote access to clean drinking water.
- Action Aid raised **awareness on health and non-communicable diseases** through a workshop attended by 71 women, and an awareness raising sessions reaching out to **214 individuals** in Nuh. Action Aid also conducted a **capacity building training of 28 community volunteers** to promote health through preventive care, identification of problems, and seeking timely appropriate care.
- BOSCO in Delhi, conducted one session on " *Prevention and treatment of those who have bone disease*" attended by 47 refugees.

## Cash Based Interventions

- UNHCR India provides Cash-based Interventions (CBI) to refugee with specific need. However, under the current regulatory regime, UNHCR and partners are unable to continue to provide this assistance effectively. Engagement with financial providers is on-going.
- As of December 2019, through its partner in Delhi NCR, UNHCR provided cash assistance to 608 individuals, which includes 22 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), 84 persons living with disability, 62 elderly, 352 living with serious medical conditions. Others included 38 to promote girl child education, 49 women at risk, and 1 to promote institutional delivery.

## Self-reliance and livelihood

- Four community-based production groups (supported by Silaiwali, Conserve India, Archisha, and SCI) participated in two events namely, Global Refugee Forum (Geneva) where products of three refugee groups were at sales event, and one group participated at Kukdukoo literature festival. These groups also received orders during the festive season.
- SCI in Hyderabad organised one job fair, four skills development training with self help groups and 26 micro enterprises were given assets.

## Community Empowerment

- As part of the streamlined UNHCR Outreach services, 105 refugees and asylum-seekers were provided protection counselling over the phone or through face-to-face sessions on issues related mainly to their protection situation, RSD timelines, partner assistance including on CBI support, and resettlement.
- UNHCR jointly with BOSCO organised **five Open House meetings** with refugee community from different nationalities in Delhi. The meetings provided a unique opportunity to over 800 refugees and asylum seekers to interact with UNHCR's senior managers, including the Chief of Mission.
- Save the children organised a two-days **training and orientation on peaceful co-existence and prevention of violence against children** in Jammu, to empower 60 community and religious leaders to build peaceful communities and safe environment for children.
- Action Aid organised two **training sessions to provide refugee women with skills** to organize and advocate for themselves and direct participation in decision-making. 73 women participated in the training.



Picture 2: Refugees participated in the peaceful coexistence event organized by FTF-I and Archisha



Picture 3: Children take the spotlight at the painting exhibition organised by Save the children in Jammu

## External Relations

- UNHCR in collaboration with Save the Children and Action Aid organized a two-day workshop on “Reporting on refugees, migrants and other vulnerable population”. 30 journalists and media professionals attended and indicated a need to conduct such workshops at state level for vernacular press.
- UNHCR in partnership with UN supported national youth event “Youth Ki Awaaz”, wherein refugee youths participated in two events, namely, open mic session and refugee rock band performance.
- UNHCR collaborated with UNV to jointly organise series of events (open mic, dance for inclusion, book reading, painting, performance by young refugee musician) in build up to international volunteers’ day in New Delhi, and Chennai. The event saw the participation of more than 500 individuals.



Picture 4 Refugee youths participated in a youth event organised at UN house in New Delhi



Picture 5 UNV in partnership with UNHCR organised a dance for inclusion at a mall in New Delhi

### Durable Solutions

- UNHCR facilitates voluntary repatriation of refugees to their country of origin. In December, a total of **77 Sri Lankan Refugees** (36 men | 41 women) **voluntarily repatriated** with UNHCR's assistance (cumulative for 2019 is 963).
- UNHCR promotes resettlement as a protection tool for the most vulnerable individuals. A total of **61 refugees were submitted for resettlement** by UNHCR and **14 departed for resettlement** during the reporting period. **126 refugees** (individuals) were able to benefit from **different complementary pathways** (family reunification, private sponsorship, special humanitarian visa to different countries). **2 Afghan Hindu/ Sikh refugees were naturalised in the month of December.**
- **NGO Consultation was organized by UNHCR in Chennai on Durable solutions** for Indian Origin Tamil and Sri Lankan refugees. Around 60 individuals participated.



Figure 1 UNHCR in partnership with SCI and ActionAid workshop for Journalist

## Financial Information / External Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

### EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

United States of America | Australia

### BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD\*

**Private donors Australia** 12.5 million | **Canada** 3.8 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 2.6 million  
United States of America | Norway | Malta | Private donors

### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD\*\*

**Sweden** 99.8 million | **Private donors Spain** 73.8 million | **United Kingdom** 44.6 million | **Norway** 44.5 million | **Netherlands** 43.1 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 37.9 million | **Germany** 26.7 million | **Japan** 25.7 million | **Denmark** 24.4 million | **Private donors Japan** 20.5 million | **Private donors Italy** 17.5 million | **Switzerland** 15.1 million | **France** 14 million | **Private donors Sweden** 12.3 million | **Private donors USA** 11.7 million | **Ireland** 10.2 million | **Italy** 10 million

*\* Due to their earmarking at the region, or to a related situation or theme, softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used in South Asia. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.*

*\*\*Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contribution \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.*

## CONTACTS

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## LINKS

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