

INDIA

31-July-2021

1025 refugees and asylum-seekers were assisted by UNHCR through its helpline.

457 asylum-seekers were registered by UNHCR in July 2021.

868 individuals received an RSD decision from UNHCR under its mandate since 01 January 2021.

As of July 2021, **15,036** refugees and asylum-seekers have been vaccinated across India.

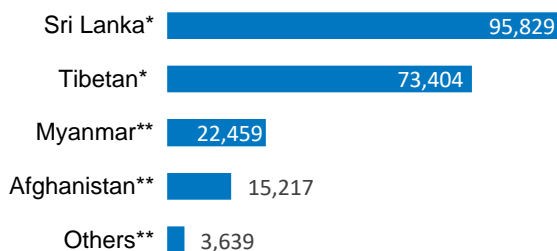
30,612 food ration kits were distributed by UNHCR partners among **10,204** households till July.

1274 educational kits were distributed among children in the Delhi-NCR region.

624 women and girls were provided with sanitary materials.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (211,249)

Origin¹



¹ Country or Territory of Origin

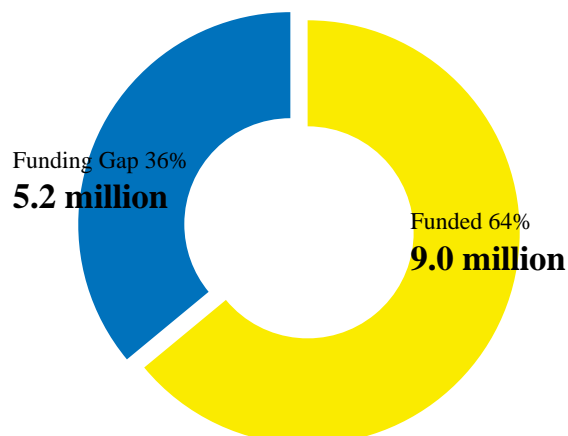
*Refugees registered and assisted by the Government of India. Statistics with regard to Sri Lankan refugees and Tibetan are taken from MHA Annual Report 2019-2020
<https://www.mha.gov.in/document/annual-reports/annual-report-ministry-of-home-affairs-2019-2020>

** Refugee and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR India (as of 31 July 2021)

FUNDING (AS OF 17 AUGUST 2021)

USD 14.2 million

UNHCR India financial requirement for 2021



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

28 National Staff

06 International Staff

32 Affiliate Workforce (29 National, 3 International)

Offices:

1 Country Office in New Delhi

1 Field Office in Chennai



"As a youth leader and a humanitarian worker, I continue to draw inspiration from the goodness of humanity. It helps me go the extra mile to volunteer and create a sense of belonging with the refugee youth," says 17-year-old Hanan Ali Mohammed, a refugee from Ethiopia living in India. (©UNHCR/ Daniel Ginsianmung)

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.
- **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.
- **Formal partnership agreements with eight national NGOs:** Bosco Organisation for Social Concern and Operation (BOSCO), Socio-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 (AA), and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), Sphere Network.

Main Activities

Registration and Refugee Status Determination

- As of end-July 2021, the total number of refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR is 42,882, mainly from Afghanistan is 15,402 and Myanmar is 23,478. Between January to July 2021, 3013 individuals were registered by UNHCR India, of which 457 individuals were registered in July 2021.
- UNHCR has resumed the issuance of hard copies of UNHCR documents to asylum seekers and refugees to replace the electronic documents introduced during the COVID-19 lockdown from public health perspective. Over 11,000 hard copies of UNHCR documents have been issued in the first half of 2021 (Jan-June).



An individual receives a UNHCR refugee card after undergoing document renewal procedures at UNHCR in Delhi. Refugees approach UNHCR for document renewal every two years and to report changes in their personal circumstances (©UNHCR/ Daniel Ginsianmung)

Child Protection and Education

- 1397 refugee children across Delhi, Jaipur, Mewat, and U.P. were supported with remedial classes, bridge education, accelerated learning, and life skills by UNHCR partners. UNHCR and its NGO partners supported 104 refugee children with admission in National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and local government school in Delhi and Mewat.
- UNHCR and its partners reached 195 refugee children (including 35 differently abled children) in Delhi with psychosocial support to mitigate stress and anxiety-related issues.



Basel Almatir, 33, is a Syrian refugee living in India. Due to his hard work and determination, Basel is now pursuing his dream to complete his education. (©UNHCR/ Anurag Banerjee)

Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response

- UNHCR together with NGO partners delivered 13 sessions on prevention and response to SGBV. Through these sessions, UNHCR reached 507 refugees and asylum seekers across Delhi, Jaipur, Aligarh, and Mathura.
- 624 women and girls were provided with sanitary materials.

Community Engagement

- The network of community centres and mobile teams with its outreach, volunteers, and services are a fundamental tool for reaching out to urban-based refugees registered with UNHCR India. 22 refugees and asylum-seekers received interventions and referral support on issues related to their protection situation and unmet basic needs. UNHCR maintains a very close communication with the community focal points and volunteers using messaging app such WhatsApp (an increasingly preferred channel of communication for refugees).
- 1375 emails from refugees and asylum-seekers were received and handled by UNHCR. 1025 calls were handled by the UNHCR helpline, with basic needs (assistance, document renewal) being the top reason for calls.
- With the pandemic taking a toll on the socio-economic conditions for both refugees and host communities, funding is urgently needed to provide life-sustaining assistance, including shelter, food, access to safe drinking water, education, and health services.

Durable solutions

- UNHCR assists refugees in India with durable solutions, including resettlement to a third country, voluntary repatriation, and local integration. The cases of persons determined to require international protection and meet the resettlement criteria specified by countries are submitted/assisted for resettlement.
- In July, 12 individuals departed on voluntary repatriation to Afghanistan and Somalia. In 2021, A total of 45 individual went on voluntary repatriation to Afghanistan.
- One individual departed to the U.K. on complementary pathways in July 2021, making an aggregate of 59 individual complementary pathways departure till July 2021.
- 5 individuals departed to USA, Sweden, and Netherlands in July 2021. A total of 40 individuals have departed to different countries on resettlement so far.

External Relations

- As of July 2021, UNHCR India reached out to more than seven educational institutes/ universities through Model United Nations, and webinars to increase awareness about refugees and UNHCR's work.
- UNHCR continues advocating with multiple stakeholders, i.e., national authorities, civil society, humanitarian and development organizations, and donors, to support refugees and asylum-seekers in the full range of COVID-19 prevention and response programs.

Non-Food Items and Cash Assistance

- 45 Tarpaulin Sheets, 11 Plastic Mats, and 65 Mosquito Nets were distributed by UNHCR partners across Delhi, and Jaipur in July 2021. This will help refugees to be better prepared against heavy rainfall during the monsoon season.
- 377 One Time Assistance (OTA) cheques were provided to refugees by UNHCR partner in Delhi. Refugees use this financial assistance to fulfil their immediate needs such as rent payment, education fee, and debt repayment.



UNHCR and its partners continue to work in responding to monsoon preparedness by reinforcing existing shelters and providing basic assistance of life-saving supplies such as tarpaulin, mosquito net, and plastic mats in Jaipur and Delhi. (©UNHCR/ Mohd Shahzeb Khan and Akrar Ahmad)

Self-reliance

- 61 refugees' women received a small self-reliance grant from UNHCR in July, and got a chance to learn a new profession, earn a living and contribute to the society.
- UNHCR and its partner is helping refugee artisans access markets and generate income through MADE51 (an innovative, market-based model that promotes economic inclusion of refugees in global value chains) In July, refugee women working with three local support enterprise (Silaiwali, Archisha, and LAL 10.) received an order for handicraft products from RICE Co. Hong Kong.
- UNHCR and its partners BOSCO and Action Aid supported 53 refugees to access work. For refugees, self-reliance is vital for reducing vulnerability, enhancing resilience, and securing dignity. Grooming sessions on placement interviews for more than 40 refugees in July 2021.



Refugee artisan in Hyderabad wrapping threads of hope for MADE51 holiday line. (©UNHCR/ Naresh)

Water, Health, and Sanitation

- UNHCR partners in Delhi, Jaipur, Aligarh, and Mathura assisted 781 refugees and asylum-seekers to access basic health services in nearby government hospitals.
- 145 refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with medicines by UNHCR partner BOSCO in Delhi.
- UNHCR partner in Delhi organized a session on the COVID-19 third wave preparedness with 63 DAFI scholars (29 Male and 34 Female). The session entailed discussion on preventive measures like COVID appropriate behaviour, use of protective facemasks, vaccination, etc. that could restrict the COVID-19 transmission

Funding

UNHCR is grateful for all contributions received in 2021 with special appreciation to the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: the USA, European Union, Canada, Private Donors Canada, UN COVID-19 MPTF, and other private donors. We are also grateful to donors who provide unearmarked or softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR, which help support India operation and enable us to respond in a timely and flexible manner. These donors include Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Private donors Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

36% of UNHCR needs are still unmet. We rely on the generous support of countries, organizations, and private donors to meet the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers in the country. The COVID-19 pandemic in India has negatively impacted the socio-economic conditions for both refugees and host communities, and funding is urgently needed to provide life-sustaining assistance, including shelter, food, access to safe drinking water, remote education, and health services.

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LINKS

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IndiaUNHCR>
UNHCR India website: <https://www.unhcr.org/india.html>
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GLOSSARY

- **Asylum-seeker:** An individual who is seeking international protection. In countries with individualized procedures, an asylum-seeker is someone whose claim has not yet been finally decided on by the country in which the claim is submitted. Not every asylum-seeker will ultimately be recognized as a refugee, but every refugee was initially an asylum-seeker.
- **Complementary pathways for admission to protection and solutions for refugees:** Safe and regulated avenues by which refugees may be admitted and stay in a country, and have their international protection needs met while they are also able to support themselves to potentially reach a sustainable and lasting solution. Complementary pathways are not meant to substitute the protection afforded to refugees under the international protection regime – they complement it and serve as an important expression of global solidarity, international cooperation, and more equitable responsibility sharing. These pathways may include family reunification, scholarship, and education programmes, as well as labour regional mobility schemes.
- **Solutions:** The means by which the situation of persons of concern to UNHCR can be satisfactorily and permanently resolved to enable them to live normal lives. In the refugee context, this generally involves voluntary repatriation to the country of origin, local integration (including through naturalization) in the country of asylum, or resettlement to another country.
- **Refugees:** Someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.
- **Refugee Status Determination (RSD):** Legal and administrative procedures undertaken by States and/or UNHCR to determine whether an individual should be recognized as a refugee in accordance with national and international law.
- **Resettlement:** The transfer of refugees from the country in which they have sought asylum to another State that has agreed to admit them. The refugees will usually be granted asylum or some other form of long-term resident rights and, in many cases, will have the opportunity to become naturalized citizens. For this reason, resettlement is a durable solution as well as a tool for the protection of refugees. It is also a practical example of international burden-and responsibility-sharing.
- **Voluntary repatriation:** Return to the country of origin based on the refugees' free and informed decision. Voluntary repatriation may be organized (when it takes place under the auspices of the concerned governments and/or UNHCR) or spontaneous (the refugees return by their own means with no involvement of UNHCR and governments).