

# INDIA

30-June-2021

India includes refugees and asylum seekers in its on-going vaccination drive. Vaccination drive for refugees and asylum seekers are on-going.

**Over 1451 dignity kits** distributed to adolescent girls and women during June.

As of June 2021, **6561** refugees and asylum-seekers have been vaccinated across India.

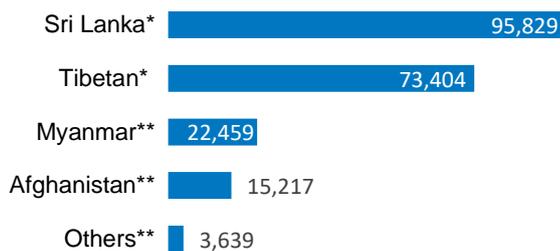
**24,144** ration kits were distributed by UNHCR partners among **10,204** households till June.

**398** refugees and asylum-seekers were registered by UNHCR India in June 2021.

**1417 thermometers** distributed to refugees and asylum-seekers in Delhi and Jaipur as part of UNHCR's COVID-19 response.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN (208,065)

### Origin<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Country or Territory of Origin

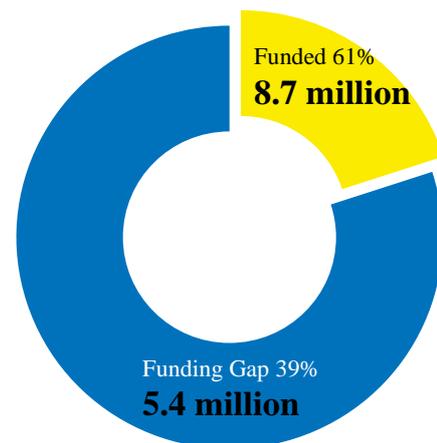
\*Refugees registered and assisted by the Government of India. Statistics with regard to Sri Lankan refugees and Tibetan are taken from MHA Annual Report 2019-2020 <https://www.mha.gov.in/document/annual-reports/annual-report-ministry-of-home-affairs-2019-2020>

\*\* Refugee and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR India (as of 30 June 2021)

## FUNDING (AS OF 2 JULY 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



*In a global effort to fight against coronavirus, vaccines are now reaching refugees such as Zahra Shafaie living in India.*

*The Government of India's inclusive approach is providing lifesaving protection to ensure that no one is left behind in this fight against COVID-19. ©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 (UNSD) 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).

## Main Activities

### Registration and Refugee Status Determination

- As of June 2021, 42,492 refugees and asylum-seekers are registered with UNHCR. Between January to June 2021, 2,556 individuals were registered by UNHCR India.
- Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) is an integral part of the new arrival process, registration, and refugee card renewal process. So far, 29,991 persons have been enrolled (over 4 years of age), which is 79% of the active eligible refugee and asylum-seeking population. Children under five are not eligible for BIMS, which makes up 10% of the active refugee and asylum-seeking population. As UNHCR premises have not been open since the end of March 2020, no enrolment in biometrics has taken place in May 2021.



*UNHCR and partners have resumed UNHCR document distribution in Delhi since mid-June. The process of in person document distribution had been paused due to the pandemic. ©UNHCR/Daniel Ginsianmung*

### Child Protection and Education

- UNHCR and its NGO partners have scaled up interventions on child protection, including psychosocial support. In collaboration with our partner organization, BOSCO, 184 children, including 36 differently abled children were provided psychosocial support in June.
- 1367 refugees and asylum-seekers children were assisted with their scholastic needs like educational kits, accelerated education, and bridge education in June.
- 807 participants (Male: 429, Female: 378) participated in a campaign against child labour and child marriage supported by UNHCR and its partners in Delhi.
- 14 virtual sessions and in-person meetings on child protection were conducted by the UNHCR partners in June.

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

- 13 SGBV sessions were conducted by UNHCR local partner BOSCO in June. These sessions were attended by a total of 250 participants.
- UNHCR and its local partner Save the Children conducted 10 sessions on SGBV with refugee girls/women and boys/men in Jammu.
- 4 awareness-raising sessions on SGBV were conducted with MPTF participants, community leaders, and volunteers in Jaipur.
- UNHCR conducted a training for Delhi Police officers which included sessions on SGBV protection challenges faced by refugees.

### 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. 31 refugees and asylum seekers received interventions and referral support provided by UNHCR outreach services on issues related to their protection situation and unmet basic needs.
- 1,905 emails from refugees and asylum seeker were received and handled by UNHCR. 914 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 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.

### Water, Health, and Sanitation.

- UNHCR partners in Delhi, Jammu, and Mewat have distributed 1451 dignity kits to adolescent girls and women in June.
- UNHCR's local partner distributed medicines to 165 refugees and organized a session on health awareness. The session was attended by 690 participants (514 female and 176 male).
- UNHCR's local partner distributed COVID-19 lifesaving medical kits to 90 refugee families in Jaipur during the month of June.
- UNHCR and partners are working continuously towards the vaccination of refugees against COVID-19. As of June 2021, 6561 refugees have been vaccinated, including 4763 Sri Lankan refugees in the camp, and 1798 mandate refugees.

### Non-Food Items

- 391 refugees were supported with one-time cash-based assistance in June.
- 1332 Rohingya families were provided with emergency shelter materials like tarpaulin.
- 1417 thermometer kits were distributed to refugees in Delhi and Rajasthan by UNHCR partners, BOSCO and DAJI.
- 8,913 masks and 150 hand sanitizers were distributed among refugees in June.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers have been deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in India, including loss of livelihood, spiralling poverty, and insufficient saving to meet a basic need. UNHCR, together with generous support from its donors, aims to further scale up the COVID-19 relief response in subsequent months.



*Forced displacement disproportionately affected persons with disabilities and puts them at a greater risk. 63-year old Dawng Liana and her 9-year-old daughter receive subsistence allowance and medical support from UNHCR.  
 @UNHCR/Daniel Ginsianmung*

### Self-reliance

- Under the Multi-Partner Trust Fund project (MPTF), UNHCR partner, FTF-I conducted an entrepreneurship development training program for 143 refugee women. Microgrants were provided to 22 refugee women.
- UNHCR partner, Save the Children assessed the skill level of 27 refugee women in Hyderabad and provided micro-grants to 21 of them.
- 75 refugees were successfully placed in jobs until June 2021. Furthermore, life skill training organised by UNHCR partner, Action Aid for 60 refugees is ongoing in Mewat and Uttar Pradesh.



*Training of refugee women in garment making at the Livelihood Hub in Hyderabad. ©UNHCR/Naresh Babu*

### Assistance and advocacy to end the detention of refugees and asylum-seekers

- UNHCR continues to advocate and work with partners to end the detention and release of refugees and asylum-seekers, especially women, children, and other vulnerable individuals.
- 22 forcibly displaced persons continue to be held in a welfare centre in Delhi and 222 individuals in a holding centre in Jammu.
- In addition to the above, as of June, there are 248 Rohingya in immigration detention (including 68 women and 90 children), of which 119 are refugees, 54 are asylum-seekers and 75 individuals are not registered with UNHCR.
- UNHCR has strengthened its hotline response to improve its outreach and provide information to refugees and asylum-seekers. Queries to UNHCR can be directed to [indne@unhcr.org](mailto:indne@unhcr.org).

### 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 be in need of international protection and meeting the resettlement criteria specified by countries are submitted / assisted for resettlement
- A total of 5 individuals departed on voluntary repatriation to Afghanistan in June 2021, making the total of individual departures 32 in 2021.
- 3 individuals departed on complementary pathways in June 2021. 2 departed to Canada and 1 departed to the UK. A total of 58 individuals have departed the country via complementary pathways in 2021.

### External Relations

- UNHCR India marked World Refugee Day week from 18-20<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate the resilience of refugees under the heading of “together we heal, learn, and shine”. This three-day event was led by refugee youths and witnessed participation from donor embassies, the private sector, UN heads of agencies, high-profile supporters, and representatives from the government of India.
- UNHCR India reached out to 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.



Snapshots of the virtual World Refugee Day event held from 18-20 June 2021.

## 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 | Private Donors | UN COVID-19 MPTF. 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, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and Private donors of Japan, Republic of Korea, and Spain.

64% 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.

## CONTACT

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## HIGH PROFILE SUPPORTERS

**Ms. Anita Nair**  
**Mr. John Abraham**

## LINKS

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

## 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:** A person who meets the eligibility criteria under the applicable refugee definition, as provided for in international or regional refugee instruments, under UNHCR's mandate, and/or in national legislation.

- **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).