

Response Highlight July 2020

UNHCR INDIA July 2020

503 food packages distributed to refugee and asylum seeker families in July bringing the total number of packages distributed to **10,820**



878 families supported with WASH package in July bringing the total number of families supported to **9,777**



163 individuals supported with access to health for COVID-19 since the COVID-19 response were initiated



More than 800 phone calls through the toll-free number and another dedicated line were attended.



8 remote sessions on story-telling and music organised in partnership with UNESCO-MGIEP to help refugee youth discover and hone skills while at home during COVID-19.



Reusable cloth masks made by refugee women donated by Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) to be distributed to refugees and host community for free.

UNHCR India continues to support refugees, asylum seekers as well as host communities living in a similar situation attending to their urgent needs since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. These interventions compliment those of the Government of India, UN agencies, partner organisations and other NGOs. UNHCR is grateful for the timely contributions both in cash and in-kind provided by donors, and we look ahead to continue supporting those who need our assistance.

FOOD



Refugees and asylum seekers continue to face challenges in meeting their basic needs, particularly access to food. UNHCR continues to step up food support for vulnerable refugee families. **Over 503 packages consisting of dry food such as rice, pulses and dry spices were distributed.** 31 extremely vulnerable families received enhanced assistance consisting of food and non-food items such as gloves, ORS, antiseptic liquid, gargle solution etc. Since March this year, **some 10,820 food packages have been distributed** in seven locations. Vulnerable host communities have also been supported by UNHCR to promote social cohesion.



Support items being packed for distribution by UNHCR partner in Delhi.

WASH



Health advisories and community messages on prevention and response to COVID-19 are regularly disseminated.

878 refugees, asylum seekers and host community families have been supported with soaps or toilet cleaners (WASH support) in July bringing the total number of

families supported to **9,777** since March 2020.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS



In partnership with **UNESCO-MGIEP**, a training session on story telling was conducted with more than 75 youth participating under the initiative **Voices of Youth**. UNHCR India has partnered with **UNESCO-MGIEP** under the **#KindnessMatters** campaign to collect more than 700 inspiring stories of kindness.



Than Dar Aung, a refugee girl in Delhi, shares a story about her and her cats. [Click the image to read more](#)

Mentorship sessions by Grammy winner Ricky Kej with 25 refugee youth continues to be organised on a weekly basis. The aim is to provide a platform to these talented refugees to discover, explore, hone and display their talents. **Ricky for Refugees is**

joint initiative of UNHCR India and UNESCO-MGIEP.



Ricky Kej during a mentorship session under the Ricky for Refugees Initiative

UNHCR India supported UNICEF's initiative to expand partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports under the YuWaah platform (a multi stakeholder platform formed by UNICEF in India) to promote volunteerism among India's youth to achieve goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat.



Launch of partnership between with the Ministry of Youth and Sports under the YuWaah platform (a multi stakeholder platform formed by UNICEF in India).

Under the campaign “Give As You Take, This Time” launched by UNHCR India with support of partners in May, vulnerable population including host communities continue to receive masks produced by refugee women.



#EVERYONECOUNTS

CELEBRATING COVID HEROES AND THE POWER OF EMPATHY!



Shaaz Mehmood

Founder, Youth Feed India



Farhana

Child Champion, UNHCR India and SCI



Suhani Jalota

Founder, Myna Mahila Foundation



Rajib

Child Champion, UNHCR India and SCI

July 17 @ 6PM /Instagram LIVE

YOUTH KI AWAAZ

Instagram live organised along with UN, YouthkiAwaaz and Save the Children to celebrate COVID heroes and power of empathy

Under the campaign #EveryoneCounts UNHCR together with UN, Youth Ki Awaaz and Save the Children organised an Instagram live event to celebrate the contributions of individuals during COVID-19 pandemic. 2 refugee children shared their experience during the remote event.

PROTECTION



Refuges and Asylum Seekers continue to report serious challenges as a result of loss of livelihood. These include inability to pay long pending rent dues, risk of eviction, difficulties to cover basic needs including food and medicines, problems in accessing alternative learning modalities for students and risk of possible negative

coping mechanisms, especially for women, children and persons with specific needs.

Refugees and asylum-seekers continuously requested UNHCR and **partners to urgently provide additional life-saving support in the form of food ration, sanitary items and cash assistance.** However, such assistance is currently available only to a limited number of vulnerable individuals, due to UNHCR's limited budget. Desperate to make ends meet, a growing number of refugees and asylum seekers are approaching UNHCR and partners daily. **Over 10 refugees and asylum seekers approach the UNHCR office on a daily basis, risking their health and safety.**

Growing anxiety and stress level among community members, concerns about the spread of the COVID-19, and uncertainty about the future has been observed widely. There are also an increased number of refugees and asylum seekers seeking **psychosocial support because of the situational stress.**



Refugees in Delhi repairing make-shift shelters during monsoons.
Photo Credit: BOSCO

The monsoon season brought with it serious repercussions to the Rohingya community living in slums with their houses flooded, loss of belongings and leaving them prone to water borne and vector borne diseases. Urgent needs remain mosquito nets, plastic sheets and shelter repair kits.

Since the COVID-19 response effort was initiated, **93 community group meetings have been held.** Meetings and remote communication with communities have contributed towards identifying gaps in basic needs and protection issues. There are increased number of refugee representatives and community members expressing **that they seem to have exhausted their coping skills for survival, despite their sincere efforts to overcome the COVID-19 related challenges.**



With the support from partners and individual donors, refugees in Nuh repair their makeshift shelters to protect their families from heavy rain during monsoon

In the month of July, **more than 800 phone calls through the toll-free number and another dedicated line were attended. Over 700 were from refugees regarding their inability to meet basic needs and mental stress.** Additionally, in July, **e-mail responses were sent to 136 persons** regarding their requests for protection interventions, assistance needs, durable solutions, livelihood and information on remote UNHCR/partners services.

Since the COVID-19 response effort was initiated **at least, 377 individuals have been provided with extensive phone counselling and referrals made where required.**

In July, at least **180** refugees and asylum seekers were assisted with **accessing government healthcare and medicines**. Since the COVID-19 response was initiated, **163 individuals** have been supported with access to health for COVID-19.

1,583 refugee and asylum seeker students have enrolled in remote bridge, tuition, language and computer classes in July. However, a majority of students are unable to enjoy enough educational opportunities at home, due to **lack of electronic devices and connectivity for remote modalities of learning and absence of appropriate learning space at home**. Consequently, the protection dividends earned over the years to ensure education of the girl child, is now lost, especially amongst the Rohingya community. Reinstating these girl children in schools will require extensive and expansive investment and funds are urgently required to support their alternative modes of learning and counselling.

A total of **31** sexual and gender based violence incidents (mainly domestic and intimate partner violence) have been reported since movement restrictions have been in place in March. UNHCR and partners continue to follow-up on these incidents and provide the needed support with the multi-sectoral approach. **A total of 9 sessions on GBV were conducted by partners in July, focussing on domestic and intimate partner violence.**

Remote registration interviews with the help of partners resumed in July. **1,264 UNHCR asylum seeker certificates and temporary refugee certificates were issued for electronic distribution** to refugees and asylum seekers whose documents expired. **In total 5,504 documents have been issued while movement restrictions have been in place.**



STAYING AND DELIVERING FOR REFUGEES AMID COVID-19

 1800 1035 635 (Toll free)

 indne@unhcr.org

[DO YOU NEED HELP? CLICK HERE](#)

FUNDING*

UNHCR remains grateful for the robust support from donors to the COVID-19 response including the Governments of Austria, Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America, as well as Australia for UNHCR, Badr Jafar, CERF, Country-Based Pooled Funds, Education Cannot Wait, España con ACNUR, Japan Association for UNHCR, Private donors from United Kingdom, Qatar Charity, Sawiris Foundation for Social Development (SFSD), Sony Corporation, United Nations Foundation, Unilever, UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe, and USA for UNHCR.

We also appreciate the support from private donors who have rallied swiftly to provide a range of in-kind donations for COVID-19 response in the region. We are also grateful to donors who provide unearmarked contributions to UNHCR, which help support operations in Asia and enable us to respond in a timely and flexible manner. These donors include Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and private donors in Republic of Korea, Japan and Spain.

**As of 4 August, 2020*

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