

# India

31-January 2020

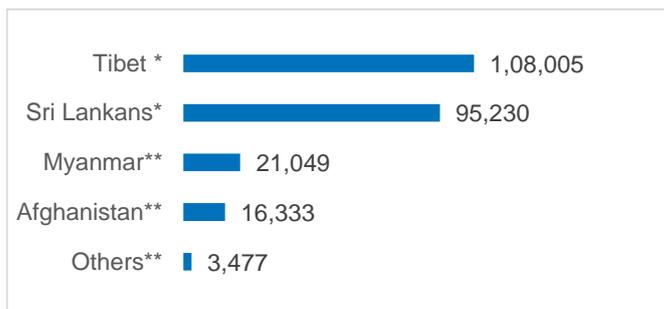
The Government of India directly provides protection and assistance to **203,235 refugees** from Sri Lanka and Tibet, and **40,859 refugees and asylum seekers** of other nationalities are registered under UNHCR's mandate.

UNHCR India in *partnership with academic institutions*, supports research, teaching and information sharing on topics related to refugee protection geared towards implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and the SDG Agenda 2030.

Cumulatively, at the end of January, **12,524 asylum seekers** were registered with UNHCR; **16 refugees were submitted for resettlement; 11 refugees departed for resettlement; 59 Sri Lankan refugees** were assisted to voluntarily return to Sri Lanka.

## ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES (210,201 AS OF JAN 2020)

### Country of origin



\* Refugees registered and assisted by the Government of India. Statistics with regard to Sri Lankan refugees are drawn from the Statistical report of the Department of Rehabilitation, Tamil Nadu (as of 31 Dec 2017). 62,146 Sri Lankan refugees are staying in camps.

The statistics on Tibetan refugees in India are based on the information provided by the Bureau of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama (as of 30 June 2013) Source: Annual Report Ministry of Home Affairs 2017-2018; Pg. 255-257

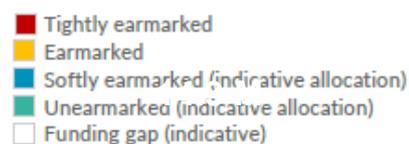
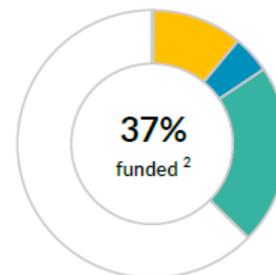
<https://mha.gov.in/documents/annual-reports> )

\*\* Refugee and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR India (as of 31 Jan 2020)

## FUNDING (AS OF 31 JANUARY 2020)

**\$16.2 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2019



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

29 National Staff

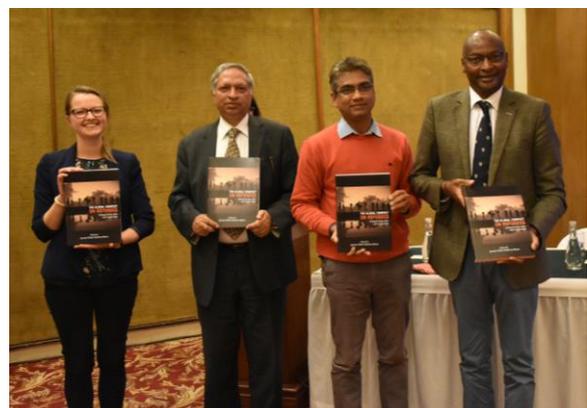
6 International Staff

31 Affiliate workforce (30 National and 1 International)

### Offices in India

1 Country Office in New Delhi

1 Field Office in Chennai



Picture 1: Launch of the volume 'The Global Compact of Refugees: Indian perspectives and experiences'

Book can be accessed here: <https://www.unhcr.org/en-in/publications/books/5e3174c54/global-compact-on-refugees-indian-perspectives-and-experiences.html?query=global%20compact%20on%20refu>

## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR coordinates protection and assistance for refugees and asylum seekers 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 the 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)**, including the recording of iris scans and fingerprints, is an integral part of the registration, refugee status determination and refugee card renewal process for persons 5 years and above. So far, **31,194 persons** are enrolled, **which is 78%** of the active refugee and asylum-seeking population. In the month of January 2020, **483 (274 male | 209 female) individual** refugees and asylum-seekers were enrolled.
- **634 individuals (359 male | 275 females)** mainly from Afghanistan and Myanmar were newly registered in the month of January. In 2019, 6,817 asylum-seekers (**3,878 male | 2,939 female**) were newly registered (including new births), a slight decrease compared to 2018 when 7,229 asylum seekers were registered. **Interpretation services** were provided for interviews, protection outreach, and other sessions.

### Protection

- **16 best interest assessment** for unaccompanied or separated children were conducted.
- **15** new incidents of SGBV (**8 in the country of origin and 7 in the country of asylum**) were reported and they included incidents of rape, domestic violence, sexual abuse, child sexual abuse, forced sodomy and emotional abuse. Appropriate multi-sectoral interventions were made for survivors opting for support, including fast-tracking for RSD, psycho-social, medical, legal counselling and shelter home support. **41** survivors (old cases) were also assisted.
- ActionAid conducted a session with **22 Rohingya refugee men on the role of men in prevention and response to SGBV** in Nuh.
- NGOs provided legal aid and counselling to asylum seekers and refugees at risk of detention/in detention. As of 31 January 2020, **a total of 259 asylum seekers and refugees are detained** at prisons, detention centres, children's homes and shelter homes **in 16 different states of India**.
- As a part of UNHCR's child protection framework, **children's participation in decisions affecting them and their capacity to understand issues affecting them, are integral to their protection**. In Delhi, **BOSCO** conducted interactive session with children (6-14 years) on prevention of abuse, vulnerabilities and their rights. In this session **331 children (138 boys | 193 girls) were reached**. In Nuh, ActionAid involved 28 children in a consultation on the children's programmes being implemented. In Hyderabad, SCI organised an awareness raising session on child labour with 55 adolescent girls and boys to prevent children from entering the labour market;

- In Hyderabad, **5 children engaged in child labour activities were rescued by the Labour Department**, Government of Telangana. Save the Children supported in identifying these children and supported the department to organise the rescue operation.
- UNHCR conducts regular dialogues and trainings with communities on **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)** as a part of its PSEA strategy. In Delhi, BOSCO conducted a PSEA training for 45 youth leaders to sensitise them on the prevention and response mechanisms and to work together to build a safe environment.
- UNHCR and partners remain committed to **strengthen children and women protection systems and services** and advocate for access of refugees and asylum seekers to services. ActionAid advocated with the State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights in Nuh for the effective inclusion of refugees in education; Save the Children advocated with relevant stakeholders on establishing multi-sectoral linkages for SGBV survivors in Jammu.



Picture 2: Session with children on SGBV



Picture 3: Child being given a polio vaccine

### Education

- To support mainstreaming into the formal learning environment and to boost refugees' education, a total of **442 refugee students (208 boys | 234 girls)** in Delhi are enrolled in distance learning education and are supported by BOSCO through tuition classes. ActionAid runs four **bridge learning centres** in Nuh **attended by 161 children**.
- ActionAid organised a guidance and counselling session for 64 parents on school enrolment and retention and conducted visits to two schools to strengthen the inclusion of refugee children. SCI organised an awareness raising event on the importance of girl-child education on "National Girl Child Day" and reached 120 children.
- In collaboration with partners, UNHCR **identifies local solutions to address gaps** in respect to access to education and addresses the need for school supplies, uniforms, textbooks and other school materials. In Hyderabad, 310 school going children received school bags, water bottles and umbrellas, and 60 children (32 girls and 28 boys) from Child Friendly Learning Space (CFLS) received school uniforms.

### Health and Sanitation

- UNHCR and partners support government health departments to reach out to refugee and asylum seeker children for **delivery of immunisation services**. In Jammu, Save the Children supported the Directorate of Health Services to administer polio vaccinations to 595 children under the **Government's Pulse Polio Immunization Programme**, and other routine immunisation was provided to 23 children (15 girls | 8 boys). In Hyderabad, over 700 refugee and asylum seeker children were immunized under **Mission Indradhanush** (Health mission of the government of India) supported by Save the Children. In Delhi, three general health

sessions were conducted on the importance of immunization including a polio vaccination camp which benefitted 216 children and five reproductive health sessions were conducted with Rohingya refugees at five sites including Faridabad which benefitted 302 refugees.

- UNHCR and partners advocate for and facilitate access to quality health services for refugees. A total of 17 persons (12 in Jammu, 5 in Nuh) were supported to access health services. In Hyderabad, 33 expectant mothers were supported and linked to antenatal care.
- In Jammu, Save the Children supported the Urban Health Centre to organise a free health check-up camp benefitting 61 asylum seekers and refugees.

### Cash Based Interventions

- As of December 2019, through its partners, UNHCR provided cash assistance to 1,264 individuals, including 28 unaccompanied or separated children, 164 persons living with disability, 218 elderly, 439 persons living with serious medical conditions. Other assistance included 228 persons supported to promote girl child education, and 69 persons supported to promote institutional delivery.

### Self-reliance and livelihood

- UNHCR and partners promote women self-help groups for sustainable livelihoods. ILHAM, an Afghan refugee women group, participated in **Dastkar's Design Fair**. **Archisha**, a refugee women enterprise, participated in the artisanal market at Bikaner house and received orders from prominent brands, and **MACQUUL**, a Somali refugee women group, received a permanent space for the Sunday market in Sunder Nagar Nursery.

### Community Empowerment

- As part of the streamlined UNHCR **outreach services**, 110 refugees and asylum-seekers were provided protection counselling over the phone or through face-to-face sessions on issues related to their protection situation, RSD timelines, partner assistance including on CBI, and resettlement.
- UNHCR and partners **promote community participation and development**. BOSCO organised two orientation sessions with Afghan refugee community leaders on services provided for refugees and involved 71 parents and children in a storytelling session to promote cultural harmony and unity, ActionAid conducted a session with 24 refugee youth on leadership skills and the role of youth in community development, and a session with 25 refugee women on women's health and hygiene.

### External Relations

- **National Civil Society led Consultations on Leave No One Behind (LNOB)** - as part of India's second voluntary national report (VNR) 2020 on SDG implementation, a session on refugees was organised by a consortium of CSOs (Wada Na Todo Abhiyan) and the United Nations India in Delhi. The overall preparations of the second VNR initiative were coordinated by Niti Aayog on behalf of the Government of India. The consultation first set the stage by providing a South Asian overview of the refugee situation including India. Then two thematic panel discussions examined elements of past and present work undertaken by civil society organizations (CSO) with refugees and which has contributed to the achievement of the SDG principle of 'leave no one behind'. The last session focused on open exchanges bringing refugee perspectives to the centre of the discussion. The United Nations Resident Coordinator in India closed the session and encouraged CSO's to work towards achieving no one left behind. Around 60 individuals from around 30 CSO participated including some refugees. The report will be presented at a high-level political forum in July 2020 and contribute towards the last decade of the 2030 Agenda.

- The Academicians' Working Group in partnership with UNHCR India launched a publication ***titled "Global Compact on Refugees: Indian Perspectives and Experiences"***. The publication is a compilation of 15 essays drafted by academicians, civil society representatives, journalists and law practitioners and draws on the Indian experience on refugee protection and solutions.



Picture 5 A civil society led consultation on the SDG principle 'leave no one behind' focusing on refugees was organised in Delhi



Picture 6 Consultation with communities on the SDG principle 'leave no one behind' in the context of the CSO-led consultation

### Durable Solutions

- UNHCR facilitates voluntary repatriation of refugees to their countries of origin. In January, UNHCR supported a total of **59 Sri Lankan Refugees** (28 camp-based refugees and 31 non-camp refugees) to **voluntarily repatriate** to Sri Lanka.
- The **Director of Rehabilitation** organized a **coordination meeting** on 29th January 2020 **with NGOs** working with Sri Lankan refugees. One of the important outcomes of the meeting was an agreement to conduct **information dissemination** sessions with non-camp refugees living in various districts of Tamil Nadu on the process to apply for a waiver for overstay penalties if refugees intend to return voluntarily to Sri Lanka.
- UNHCR promotes resettlement as a protection tool for the most vulnerable individuals. A total of **16 refugees were submitted for resettlement** by UNHCR in January and **11 departed for resettlement** in the same month. **12 refugees** were able to benefit from **different complementary pathways** (*family reunification, private sponsorship, special humanitarian visa*) to different countries.
- **No Afghan Hindu or Sikh refugees were naturalised in the month of January.**

## 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 regional level, 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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