Operation: Sri Lanka
People of Concern

DECREASE IN
21% 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>42,766</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>54,409</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>55,290</td>
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Refugees: 822
Asylum-seekers: 628
IDPs: 39,322
Returned IDPs: 408
Returned refugees: 1,586
Operational environment

UNHCR will strive to maintain the protection space and pursue durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas. People of concern will be registered and undergo refugee status determination (RSD) in accordance with the procedural standards. Resettlement, as a durable solution and a means to safeguard the asylum space, will continue albeit at decreasing numbers. UNCHR will also work to build the government's ownership of asylum by providing technical support, strategic coordination, and capacity building. Advocacy for people of concern to access to public schools and work in line with the 2030 SDG Agenda, and partnerships with UN agencies, NGOs and religious groups will remain pillars of UNHCR's community-based work. UNHCR will pursue stronger engagement of the rule of law entities, such as the Human Rights Commission and Legal Aid Commission.

Key priorities

In 2019, UNHCR will focus on:

- Continuing to work with the Governments of India and Sri Lanka to increase the successful voluntary return and reintegration of Sri Lankan refugees;
- Building linkages with additional partners who can incorporate urban refugees into national programmes, in light of the decreased resettlement opportunities.