



HIGHLIGHTS

354

Individuals were trained/sensitised on various topics related to international protection, UNHCR and POCs.

188

Refugees have departed on resettlement.

1,518

Sri Lankan refugees returned to their places of origin through UNHCR voluntary repatriation programme.

546

Government officers have benefited from trainings related to land, housing and property

Population of Concern

A total of **42,956** people of concern.

By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Afghanistan	191
Myanmar	36
Pakistan	1,136
Sri Lanka ¹	41,506
Iran	19
Others ²	68
Total	42,956

¹Includes Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), IDP returnees and Refugee returnees.

UNHCR has disengaged from the direct material assistance delivery to the IDPs at the end of 2016.

²Includes refugees and asylum seekers from Maldives, Nigeria, Palestine, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, Tunisia, Ukraine

Funding in 2018

USD 5.1 Million requested

USD 0 Million contributions

0% funded

UNHCR Presence in 2018

Staff: 29

26 National staff

03 International staff¹

Offices: 02

Representation Office in Colombo;

Field Office in Jaffna



¹Resettlement Officer, DRC deployment, supports UNHCR's work on solutions.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR collaborates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Ministry of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs and the Department of Immigration and Emigration (DIE), Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs (MoR), Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation, Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development, Ministry of Public Enterprise Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Provincial Councils, Local Government and Democratic Governance and authorities at the provincial, district and local levels in the North and East Provinces.
- In 2017 UNHCR partnered with Human Rights Commission, UNOPS, ICMC, ZOA Refugee Care, Muslim Aid Sri Lanka, Legal Aid Commission, Jaffna Social Action Centre, the British Council and the Bank of Ceylon to implement its activities.

MAIN ACTIVITIES*

Protection

- UNHCR monitors and assists 42,956 persons of concern, that includes 822 refugees, 628 asylum-seekers, 1,579 refugee returnees; 605 internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have returned and 39,322 IDPs.
- UNHCR conducts registration, refugee status determination, documentation and counseling for asylum-seekers and pursues durable solutions for refugees.
- Together with ZOA and Muslim-Aid, UNHCR maintains two refugee community centres that assist refugees and asylum-seekers.
- 4 information sharing sessions on refugee status determination process and resettlement process were conducted for asylum-seekers and refugees, highlighting the prevailing global challenges on resettlement.
- 9 trainings and awareness raising sessions on International Refugee Protection benefiting 354 government staff and students (i.e. students of the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI) diplomatic courses, immigration officers, police, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and hospital staff) were conducted. In addition, 18 trainings on HLP were conducted for 546 government staff of the Land Departments in the Northern Province. Two awareness sessions were held on Women's right to Decent Work. A workshop was also held for 115 youth in the North to reduce their vulnerability to cybercrime.
- More than 800 individuals participated in the film festival, discussion, monologue stage performance and the sports day held to commemorate World Refugee Day 2017.

Education

- Primary education was provided for 89 refugee children while 65 adolescents were provided with English language classes through two private schools. 28 adolescents also benefitted from English language classes through the British Council in Colombo.
- ZOA and Muslim Aid provided 252 refugees with English classes and 137 received basic ICT training.

Health

- UNHCR and the government's Anti-malaria Campaign and the National Programme for Tuberculosis Control/Chest Diseases assisted the medical screening of 1,518 returning Sri Lankan refugees and 181 asylum-seekers and refugees. In addition, two dengue awareness raising programmes were held for 103 asylum-seekers and refugees. UNHCR also provided spectacles for 81 individuals in 2017.
- 81 vulnerable individuals (including pregnant and lactating mothers, elderly, etc.) were assisted with knee-guards, wheelchairs, walkers, blood pressure monitoring devices, glucometers and nutritional formulas.
- 63 staff of the Negombo Base Hospital and the National Eye Hospital were supported with sensitization sessions on UNHCR PoCs.
- UNHCR provided administrative and medical equipment to the Colombo National Hospital, Negombo Base Hospital, Colombo South Teaching Hospital and the National Eye Hospital, Colombo.
- Psychosocial activities including therapy was provided for 324 asylum-seekers and refugees including children and adolescents. Family counselling and health education is provided for refugees and asylum-seekers throughout the year.

Land, Housing and Property

- UNHCR provides resources to assist land surveying and documentation to the Provincial Survey Department, Land Units and Divisional Secretariats in the Northern Province.
- Through the Legal Aid Commission, UNHCR has assisted the training of 546 government staff on state land laws and practices.
- Refugee returnees/IDP returnees benefit from legal counselling/legal aid to resolve their land related issues at the places of return.

Livelihoods

- 72 asylum-seeker and refugee families were assessed for vulnerability and 65 of them were given voucher assistance to buy the most essential goods.
- 914 refugees benefitted from UNHCR monthly assistance as they have no right to work and are liable for penalties if found to be working illegally.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR continues to advocate for the operationalization of the National Policy on Durable Solutions for Conflict-Affected Displacement with government, donors and UN Agencies.
- Protection assistance and legal advice on civil documentation was provided to all refugee returnees and to a number of IDP returnees.

- 1,518 refugees returned from India through UNHCR's facilitated voluntary repatriation programme. These returnees benefited from reintegration, transport and non-food items grants as well as access to legal advice on housing, land and property issues.
- 160 refugees were submitted for resettlement and 188 refugees departed to third countries during the year.
- The Statelessness draft study report prepared by the Centre for Policy Alternatives is currently under review. UNHCR is assessing the state of persons at risk of statelessness and the challenges in obtaining citizenship, be they persons in the Hill Country/Plantation area or refugee returnees in the North and East.

** Statistics in this Fact Sheet cover the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017*

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions in 2017 that benefits the Sri Lanka operation.

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