UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | India

SUPPORTING REFUGEES IN INDIA

ACHIEVEMENTS 2022



Contents

Acknowledgements **2**

A foreword **3**

The year in review | 2022 factsheet **4**

Documentation and registration 5

Access to health 6

Education 7

Well-being and basic needs 8

Women and girls 9

Self-reliance and livelihoods 10

Solutions 11

Legal aid 12

Communication with communities 13

Public information and advocacy 14

Partnerships and funding 15

India | 2023 **16**

Acknowledgements

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

With the support of
the Indian government

UNITED NATIONS
INDIA

Supporting the humanitarian response in India UNHCR is grateful for contributions by:



UNHCR coordinates the protection and assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers in collaboration with the Government of India, United Nations and formal partnership agreements with 10 national NGOs:

ADRA
BOSCO
fERR
SLIC
Socio-Legal Information Centre
DEVELOPMENT and JUSTICE initiative
GNMS Pune
Gandhi National Memorial Society
Save the Children
Sphere India
National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India
actionaid
ActionAid Association (India)
CHRI

Together, uplifting those forced to flee conflict and violence



A foreword

by **Mr. Oscar Mundia**
UNHCR Chief of Mission for India and The Maldives

Over the past year, we were able to register a few accomplishments in an otherwise challenging year with few tangible opportunities. Despite these bumps, we remain committed to the search for positive outcomes for the people we serve especially those affected by displacement and conflict. Across the globe, the year 2022, marked a grim milestone and one we would have wished never came as forced displacement breached the 103 million mark for the first time. Yet as we witnessed here in India, despite these gloomy headlines, there was hope;-

Hope in witnessing the Government of India's steadfast support for those forcibly displaced and forced to seek asylum such as refugees and asylum seekers, not just within the country, but on a global scale spanning Afghanistan, Yemen and Ukraine among other countries.

Hope in our implementing partners working night and day to support over 58,277 persons in need and refugees in turn standing up for their peers and supporting partners as community volunteers.

Hope in countries and communities opening their hearts and homes to refugees through resettlement opportunities with over 2,000 refugees finding new countries and locations they can call home.

Hope in refugees like Mursal Mohammadi carving out a place for herself as UN India YuWaah Advocate; Multi-Grammy Award winner, environmentalist and humanitarian; Mr. Ricky Kej agreeing to join hands with UNHCR as a Goodwill Ambassador and supporting our work in aid of refugees and those forced to flee their countries in search of safety and security. Ricky co-opted refugees to join his music band, giving meaning to putting words into action.

I am reminded of a young 21-year-old refugee girl who is looking forward to the year 2023 as Ashoka Young Changemaker. Farhana represents each refugee's wonderful potential and ability if they are provided with equal opportunities.

UNHCR, its partners and supporters across the country have once again stepped up and delivered, not just hope, but progress for the thousands of people who count on us.

UNHCR India spent over USD 13 million to cover the humanitarian needs of vulnerable individuals in 2022 through basic assistance such as food, cash, shelter support and other core relief items.

Our work cannot be undertaken by any one agency or individual. I'd thus like to acknowledge the efforts of our NGO partners, government entities, Embassies and Missions, civil society, the private sector, donors, the UN Resident Coordinator's office and other UN agencies for ensuring that "no one is left behind" in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals through their timely and inclusive response to our calls.

As you peruse this booklet, I encourage you to find the glimmers of hope for refugees and help us build on it to make the country, and the world a safer and kinder place for those forced to flee their homes and countries.

It is conceivable that the challenges we will face this year will surely be as difficult as those of 2022, but I am confident that with your continued attention, dedication and action, we will be able to deliver for those in need.

2022 | The year in review

Humanitarian snapshot

49,059 **persons of concern** were registered with UNHCR India as of 31 December 2022

33,219 refugees | **15,840** asylum-seekers

7,729 persons individually registered by UNHCR India in 2022

Over 3,300 individual RSD decisions released in 2022

43,238 **individuals** were given access to health care including medical tests and treatment

229 **vulnerable refugees** received skill-development training

484 **GBV sensitization/trainings and campaigns** were conducted including **16 Days of Activism**

17,487 refugees and asylum-seekers covered

23,311 **families** and over **58,277** individuals were provided with food supplies

19,778 **families** and **21,830** individuals received non-food items

3,906 **children** received learning kits

10,398 **individuals** received cash-based assistance

1,725 extremely vulnerable refugees received cash support for treatment in public hospitals

40,597 **refugees and asylum seekers** benefited from the Government of India's COVID-19 vaccination drive

824 **refugees** received financial and professional assistance

20,332 **emails** were received and responded to

18 NGO-run refugee support centres (supported by UNHCR)

13 locations in Delhi NCR, Aligarh, Mathura, Mewat, Jammu, Dera Bassi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, West Bengal, Assam, Maharashtra, Goa

4,900 refugees and asylum seekers were provided with free legal counselling and other support



UNHCR India staff supports an asylum-seeker as he receives his certificate. ©UNHCR/Daniel Ginsianmung

Documentation and registration



UNHCR's work on registration and documentation helps to ensure access to safety for people who need protection and assistance.

Registration establishes unique identities for those forced to flee and is the basis for profiling, targeted delivery of protection and assistance and access to services.

It contributes to identifying trends and patterns in population movements and helps protect against refoulement.

UNHCR issues certificates to asylum seekers and refugee cards to recognize eligible claimants, enabling them to establish their identity and certify their refugee status while helping local authorities and partners in providing protection, humanitarian and life-saving assistance. In 2022, over 3,300 individual decisions were released on refugee status determination.

49,059 **individuals**

were registered with UNHCR India as of 31 December 2022

33,219 refugees

15,840 asylum-seekers

Access to health



UNHCR India works with the Government of India and its NGO partners to ensure that refugees can access effective and affordable health services.

UNHCR's approach to ensuring equitable access to health care prioritizes the inclusion of refugees in national policies.

The Government of India provides refugees and asylum seekers in the country access to basic healthcare in government hospitals and primary healthcare facilities.

UNHCR integrates mental health into its work to support public health programmes, training health workers to identify and manage mental health conditions.

Families and caregivers are critical to children's safety and well-being. To help them protect and care for children, UNHCR provides practical and psychosocial support for caregivers, offers legal counselling and support for families, and helps families to meet their basic needs.

11 locations
with healthcare facilities

87,000
individuals supported
with food

40,597
refugees and asylum-seekers
vaccinated against COVID-19 with the support of the Government of India

43,238
individuals
provided access to health care including medical tests and treatment



Through the support of the Government of India, over 40,500 refugees and asylum seekers have been vaccinated against COVID-19 including Sri Lankan refugees. ©UNHCR

Education



UNHCR India strives to ensure sustained access to education for all refugee learners and supports formal and informal programmes including language classes, tuition classes and accelerated education programmes.

Access to education remains one of the most effective ways of empowering and protecting refugee communities and building refugees' resilience.

In India, refugees and asylum seekers have access to primary education under the inclusive Right to Education Act. However, children who are forced to flee still struggle to attain admission at the secondary level and tertiary levels.

UNHCR with its partners provide students with 'bridge classes' which are specialized remedial classes that bridge the learning gap among refugee students to ensure that they are well adjusted to the Indian formal schooling system. The education system and Indian languages are often different from their home countries and these classes allow for greater learning among refugee students and also boosts their confidence.



Sri Lankan refugee children learning at a government-run Anganwadi Centre in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. ©UNHCR/S. Kolari

62 students received a scholarship from the **Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI)** to enrol in or continue their university studies.

2,231 **students** were enrolled in school and the National Institute of Open Schooling through NGO partners.



4,310
children supported with bridge, tuition and language classes



691
children supported with early childhood education

Well-being and basic needs



UNHCR increasingly uses Cash Based Interventions (CBI) as a preferred modality for delivering assistance, offering greater dignity and choice to those forced to flee in line with UNHCR's core protection mandate.

Cash is an effective tool to respond to immediate life-saving and basic needs, as well as a way to foster resilience and unlock the potential for sustainable inclusion.

The flexibility that CBI offers makes it a more dignified form of assistance, giving them the ability to immediately prioritize and choose what they need.

150 extremely vulnerable refugees were provided cash support to undertake their treatment in government hospitals. 581 individuals were provided with medical support and approximately 2,500 individuals were facilitated access to health care including medical tests and treatment.

This included children at risk, persons living with disabilities, elderly without effective family support, persons living with serious medical conditions, women at risk and multi-purpose cash grants to promote behavioural change such as to encourage girl-child education and institutional delivery.

3,291 households comprising 8,228 individuals were provided with one-time cash assistance as their livelihoods were severely impacted and they were unable to meet their basic needs or pay rent and were at high risk of eviction.

UNHCR and its partners continued to assist refugees and asylum seekers at heightened risk which included 253 refugees living with disabilities and 339 older refugees. Services offered include access to health including assistive devices and medicines, counselling support, food, core relief items and cash-based interventions.



2,170
extremely vulnerable refugees were provided monthly multi-purpose cash support

Women and girls



UNHCR works together with the Government of India, UN agencies, local and international NGOs and refugees to prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

In 2022, UNHCR strengthened its national social protection systems and expanded access to gender-based violence prevention and response services. UNHCR's response included psychosocial, health, security and legal assistance to survivors, and cash assistance when needed. Cash assistance enables women at risk and survivors to access safe accommodation, food, and non-food items.

UNHCR also focuses on innovative gender transformative programming that empowers women and girls and engages men and boys as allies for change.

The pandemic exacerbated gender inequality with women and girls disproportionately affected by the loss of livelihoods and economic autonomy, the increase of unpaid care work, disruption to education and heightened health risks.

Forcibly displaced and stateless people have a right to participate in decision-making about assistance and services that affect them directly. Engaging with communities and promoting gender equality remains at the core of UNHCR's operational engagement, to ensure that the needs, capacities, knowledge and views of communities and individuals of different age, gender and diversity characteristics inform UNHCR's programmes.



17,487
refugees including women, men and boys trained in 484 GBV awareness sessions



21,830
women and girls received sanitary materials



12,022 women and girls received dignity kits (including sanitary napkins)

Self-reliance and livelihoods



Being forced to flee does not rob an individual of their ambitions or skills. UNHCR seeks to enable refugees to work, earn, learn and live up to their potential as active members of society.

After fleeing war or persecution, one of the most effective ways people can rebuild their lives with dignity and peace is through the opportunity to work and earn a living.

UNHCR works to promote livelihoods and economic inclusion for refugees. We advocate for their right to work and support them in becoming more resilient and achieving self-reliance.

Rebuilding one's life implies more than having a roof over your head and a safe place to sleep. It means reclaiming control of your future.

Oftentimes, refugees have skills that can be leveraged but they require support to be market ready.

UNHCR and its partners conduct various initiatives including skill development, entrepreneurship development, support refugees to begin small businesses by providing micro-grants and provide professional assistance.

45%
of livelihood program participants were women



Member of Parliament Kanimozhi Karunanidhi has a meal at 'Olai Puttu'. With the support of the Government of India, a group of Sri Lankan refugee women launched the eatery in Toothukudi, Tamil Nadu supported by UNHCR in collaboration with Advantage Foods Private Limited. ©UNHCR



813 refugees received financial and professional assistance

553 refugees were supported with opportunities in Delhi, NCR, Nuh, UP and Telangana

110 refugees were supported with Micro Grants enabling them to start small businesses

229 refugees were supported with skill development training

981 refugees were provided guidance on labour market opportunities across all locations

324 individuals were provided Entrepreneurship Development Training

Solutions



Durable solutions such as finding a home in the country of asylum and integrating into the local community can mean a lasting solution to a refugee's plight, with a chance to build a new life.

UNHCR continues to play a leading role in collaborating with authorities and other partners, to promote, facilitate, and coordinate durable solutions for refugees.

243
refugees
departed on resettlement

Solutions available to refugees:

Local integration
A durable solution for refugees that involves their permanent settlement in a host country.

1,802
refugees and asylum seekers departed on complementary pathways

Resettlement
The transfer of refugees from a country in which they have sought protection to a third country that has agreed to admit them with permanent residence status.

Complementary pathways
Safe and regulated avenues by which refugees may be admitted and stay in a country. These may include family reunification, scholarship, education and private or community sponsorship programmes, as well as labour mobility schemes.

78
Hindu and Sikh Afghan refugees
were locally integrated through naturalization

Voluntary repatriation
The free and informed return of refugees to their country of origin in safety and dignity.

216
individuals
returned home in 2022

Legal aid

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Safety and access to justice encompass a broad range of actions without which the enjoyment of rights would be restricted.

UNHCR works with a diverse range of partners to provide legal aid to refugees and asylum seekers as many are unable to access such services due to the associated costs, language barriers and other administrative and procedural difficulties.

4,900
refugees and asylum seekers
received free legal counselling from skilled advisors

34
refugees and asylum-seekers
released from immigration detention

1,000
refugees and asylum seekers
attended 120 legal awareness sessions

40
police sensitization
sessions conducted on refugee protection



UNHCR's legal partner in India conducting sensitization sessions for police in New Delhi. ©UNHCR

Communication with communities

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

UNHCR is investing in relationships with communities, particularly structures and organizations led by women, youth and persons with disabilities to facilitate their meaningful participation and support their role as active agents in response.

UNHCR continued its 24x7 Helpline including a toll-free number to respond more effectively to refugees' and asylum seekers' calls, for easier access to UNHCR services.

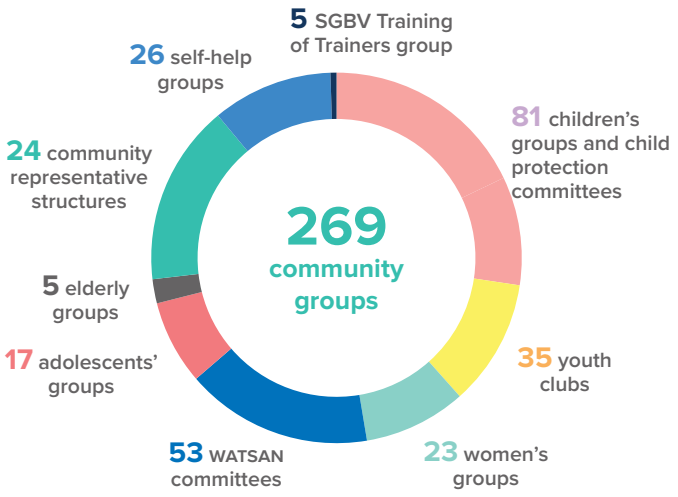
Outreach services counselled asylum seekers and refugees on various matters such as services available, mental health and rights and responsibilities.

The refugee call centre fills the gap for information offering vital support to struggling refugees.

Additionally, UNHCR and its partners work with various community groups that play a critical role in identifying and responding to the protection and assistance needs of refugees including those with specific needs.

155 community service providers from the refugee community worked with UNHCR's implementing partners to help refugees as first responders to a crisis, with translation services, information about health and providing vital support to access local health facilities. Individuals with specific needs are prioritised for their registration, RSD and other assistance.

UNHCR also worked with partner organizations to capacitate 269 community groups through 123 community meeting engagements held with refugee participants on GBV, child protection, legal awareness, COVID-19 protocols and PSEA. Representative structures were supported to enhance community-based protection.





UNHCR protection team members interacting with a community representative during a field visit to Mewat. ©UNHCR

Public information and advocacy

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

UNHCR strives to foster solidarity between refugees and host communities by educating the public and mobilizing support through a variety of public education and awareness-raising activities.



Mursal Mohammadi, center, a UN India advocate and Afghan refugee at the YuWaah advocates' launch on International Youth Day in Delhi. ©UNHCR/Daniel Ginsianmung

UNHCR works in close cooperation with the Government of India, UN agencies, NGOs, CSOs, media, professional associations and academic institutions in India, as well as with private sector to help refugees and asylum seekers in India.

Through Model United Nations, UNHCR has supported more than 20 schools in generating an understanding of refugee issues.

Key campaigns and initiatives in 2022:

- UNHCR announced multi-Grammy Award winner and humanitarian Ricky Kej as Goodwill Ambassador.
- UNHCR announced acclaimed actor, R. Madhavan as High Profile Supporter. Madhavan will be joining
- Anita Nair, an existing High Profile Supporter to help amplify the voices of refugees in India and globally.
- UNHCR organized trainings for journalists on refugee protection in Chennai, Madurai and Trichy.
- UNHCR partnered with SMART for 'The Radio Fair: SDGs on the Air', the 5th edition of The Radio Festival in partnership with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.
- UNHCR conducted training for CSOs in India on refugee protection in association with Wada Na Todo Abhiyan.











UNHCR India announced multi-Grammy Award winner and humanitarian Ricky Kej as Goodwill Ambassador in December 2022 ©UNHCR

Partnerships and funding

UNHCR partnered with the private sector and local NGOs and CBOs to support the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers in the country.

In support of the efforts by the Government of India, UNHCR works with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, NITI Aayog, United Nations Country Team and its 10 NGO partners based across 15 states in India.

UNHCR also partners with private sector organizations and stakeholders to enhance assistance to the forcibly displaced.

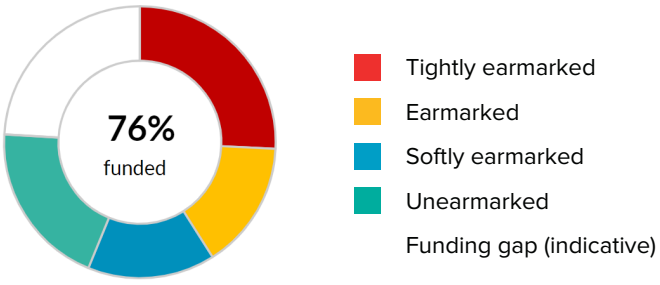
In 2022, UNHCR has worked with partners such as Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, Kuwait Humanitarian Relief Society, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration and Virgin Atlantic Foundation.



A Rohingya refugee family in Mewat carries home food ration provided by Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives. ©UNHCR/ActionAid

The economic impact of COVID-19 continues to affect the livelihoods and self-reliance of refugees.

Thanks to the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, over 47,400 refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with food support in 2022.



Priorities for 2023

- Ensure that every refugee child has access to education and is equipped with materials and skills to learn and develop.
- Create opportunities that enable refugees to become self-reliant.
- Support refugees, particularly women, to participate in decision-making processes that affect them.
- Collaborate with the Government of India and stakeholders in expanding access to durable solutions.
- Increase advocacy for access to territory for all people who flee war, conflict and persecution
- Seek support from all stakeholders including development actors and private sector partners for increased funding and in-kind assistance
- Leverage best practices from around the world to support persons forced to flee in India

UNHCR Team India at an internal training to strengthen refugee protection and response ©UNHCR



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