

INDIA

December 2023

Protection

- **Registration:** **46,572** refugees and asylum-seekers are registered with UNHCR as of December 2023.
- **Refugee Status Determination:** **325** individuals received decisions on their RSD application determining their status as refugees as per UNHCR's mandate.

Solutions

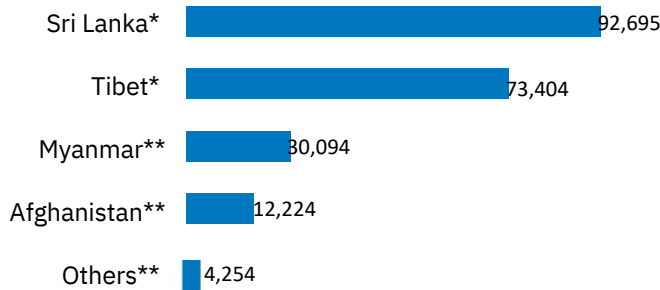
- **Resettlement:** **188** individuals departed to Canada, Australia, and the USA through complementary pathways and resettlement programmes.
- **Voluntary Repatriation:** **17** individuals departed through voluntary repatriation to Sri Lanka, Somalia, and Afghanistan.

Assistance

- **Livelihoods:** **20** refugees and asylum seekers gained employment in various informal sector jobs within the hospitality and retail industries.
- **Education:** **1,853** students attended accelerated learning programmes such as bridge and tuition classes in December.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2023

Country/Territory of Origin

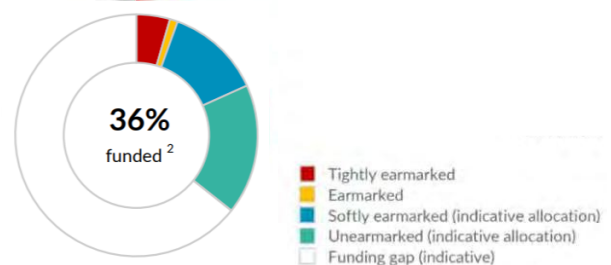


*Refugees registered and assisted by the Government of India. Statistics regarding Sri Lankan refugees and Tibetans are taken from MHA Annual Report 2022-2023 https://www.mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/AnnualReportEnglish_11102023.pdf
 **Refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR India (as of 31 December 2023)

FUNDING AS OF 15 DECEMBER 2023

USD 21.7 million

Requested for India in 2023



OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

India continues to be a generous host to refugees and asylum-seekers from across the region and beyond. UNHCR works in close coordination with the Government of India, NITI Aayog and other UN agencies in fulfilling its mandate of ensuring access to protection, solutions, and humanitarian assistance to persons forced to flee.

Civil society organizations, working in partnership with UNHCR are at the forefront of the refugee response ensuring that assistance reaches the most vulnerable within the overall objective of “leaving no one behind”. Partnership agreements are in place with nine national NGOs.

A community-based approach underpins all UNHCR's activities involving active engagement with refugees in decisions impacting their lives and strengthened links with host communities.

To ensure that refugees are included in the UN's development planning, UNHCR maintains close engagement with the UN Country Teams in India and the Maldives. In 2023, resilience building and self-reliance remain top priorities in furthering UNHCR's efforts to support refugees and asylum seekers.



UDHR@75

Fostering dialogue on displacement and the right to seek asylum

UNHCR India and the Partition Museum co-organized an event on the occasion of Human Rights Day to commemorate the 75th year of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The event focused on India's commitment and generosity in providing asylum to people forced to flee.



Protection responses

- **364** individuals were registered with UNHCR in the month of December, a majority of whom were from Myanmar, Afghanistan, and Sudan.
- **223** individuals at first instance and **102** individuals on appeal received RSD decisions.
- **51** awareness and sensitization camps, reaching out to **1,646** participants in Delhi, Mewat, and Hyderabad, were organised as part of a strategy to prevent gender-based violence and child marriages.
- **315** children at risk and **22** survivors of gender-based violence were provided with psycho-social counselling support in Delhi, Jammu, and Hyderabad.
- **1,853** students attended accelerated learning programmes such as bridge and tuition classes conducted by UNHCR partners in Mewat, Derabassi, Jammu, Telangana, Jaipur, and Delhi.



Children at learning classes conducted by UNHCR's partner Action Aid in Mewat. ©UNHCR/AAA



Community engagement sessions conducted by UNHCR's partner DAJI in Jaipur as part of the 16 days for activism campaign to end gender-based violence. ©UNHCR/DAJI



Community-based interventions

- **6** refugee communities were engaged in Hyderabad, Delhi, and Bangalore through community representatives' meetings to understand and address their key protection concerns.
- **101** support letters were furnished by UNHCR for refugees and asylum seekers who required them in support of the issuance of Long-Term Visas, opening bank accounts, and accessing higher education.
- **739** email and phone queries from refugees and asylum seekers were responded to by UNHCR with information provided regarding services and assistance.
- **1,072** children in Bangalore, Delhi, Mewat, Derabassi, Telangana, and Jaipur benefited from awareness sessions on child rights and the importance of education.



Providing life-saving assistance and supporting communities

- **2,812** refugee and asylum seeker women and adolescent girls were supported with menstrual hygiene kits and dignity kits in Mewat, Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad, and Derabassi.
- **51** refugees and asylum seekers benefitted from **1** Health Awareness Campaign that was conducted in Aligarh and Mathura.
- **513** refugees were provided referral services and access to government health facilities in Delhi, Hyderabad, Jammu, and Mewat.



Health awareness camp conducted by UNHCR's partner Gandhi National Memorial Society in Maharashtra. ©UNHCR/GNMS



Durable solutions and promoting self-reliance

- **133** individuals departed to Canada, Australia, and USA on complementary pathways in the month of December. Complementary pathways are safe and regulated avenues by which refugees may be admitted and stay in a country, and have their international protection needs met while also supporting themselves to potentially reach a sustainable and lasting solution. Opportunities may include family reunification, scholarship, education and private or community sponsorship programmes, as well as labour mobility schemes.
- **55** individuals departed by way of resettlement to third countries such as Canada, Australia, and USA.
- **17** individuals departed through voluntary repatriation to Sri Lanka, Somalia, and Afghanistan.
- **20** refugees and asylum-seekers in Delhi, Dera Bassi, and Mewat were placed in informal jobs in the retail and hospitality sectors.



Enterprise development training facilitated by UNHCR's partner Action Aid in Dera Bassi. ©UNHCR/AAA



Industry visit to Skylynn Aviation facilitated by UNHCR's partner BOSCO for DAFI scholars in Delhi. ©UNHCR/BOSCO

UNHCR INDIA WORKS ON THE PROTECTION OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

- **The Government of India and relevant public institutions**
- **United Nations (UN):** UNHCR is a member of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and contributes to the India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) for 2023-2027.
- **Formal partnership agreements with 9 national NGOs:** Gandhi National Memorial Society (GNMS), Sphere Network, Bal Raksha Bharat (Save the Children), ActionAid (AA), Bosco Organization for Social Concern and Operation (BOSCO), Socio-Legal Information Centre (SLIC), Development and Justice Initiative (DAJI), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI).



SUPPORTING THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN INDIA

UNHCR is grateful for contributions by:



Belgium
partner in development



In partnership with
Canada



Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid



Irish Aid
Government of Ireland
Rialtas na hÉireann



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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