

INDIA

February 2024

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 eight national NGOs.

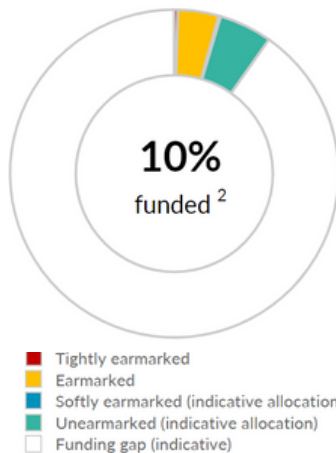
To ensure that refugees are included in the UN's work on Sustainable Development Goals, UNHCR maintains close engagement with the UN Country Teams in India and the Maldives. In 2024, resilience building, and self-reliance remain top priorities in furthering UNHCR's efforts to support refugees and asylum seekers.



FUNDING AS OF 29 FEBRUARY 2024

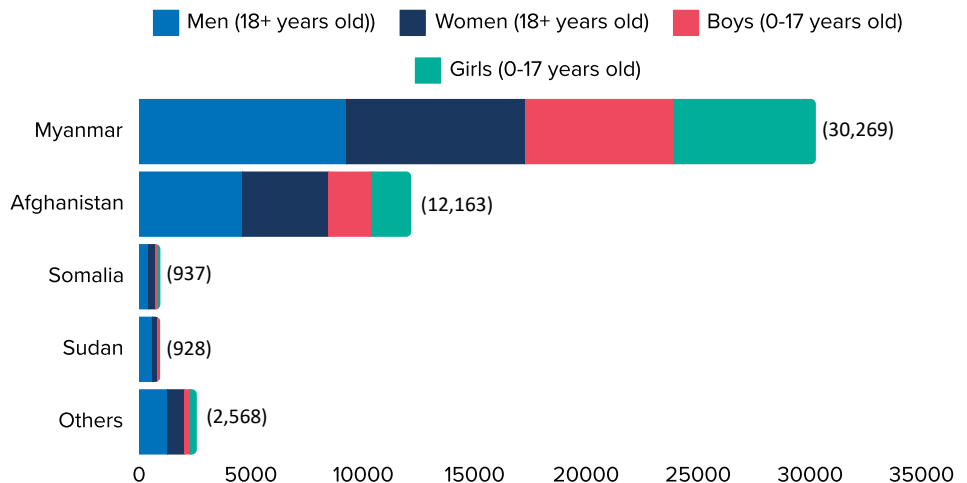
USD 21.7 million

Requested for India in 2024



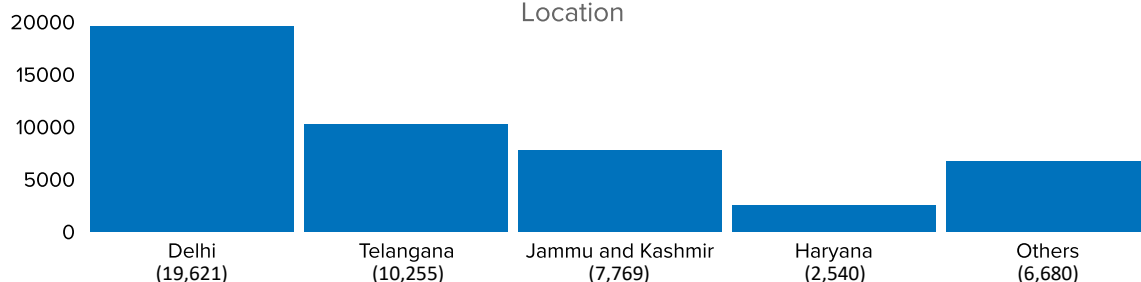
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS AS OF 29 FEBRUARY 2024






Country/Territory of Origin



REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS AS OF 29 FEBRUARY 2024

Location



Sector	Response	Location
 Registration and RSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 403 individuals registered with UNHCR. • 285 individuals at first instance and 43 individuals on appeal received RSD decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority of the individuals registered in the month were from Myanmar, Afghanistan, and Sudan.
 Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,326 students attended accelerated learning programmes such as bridge and tuition classes conducted by UNHCR's partners. • 140 children at risk received psycho-social counselling support. • 763 girls and boys reached out through sessions on child protection themes as part of a strategy to prevent gender-based violence and child marriages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerated learning programmes conducted in Mewat, Derabassi, Jammu, Telangana, Jaipur, and Delhi. • Awareness and sensitization camps organized in Delhi and Derabassi.
 Livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 refugees and asylum-seekers placed in informal jobs in the retail, wellness and hospitality sectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals placed in jobs in Delhi and Mewat
 Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 479 refugees and asylum seekers benefitted from 16 Health Awareness Campaigns. • 722 refugees provided referral services and access to government health facilities. • 447 participants reached through 21 sensitization sessions on gender-based violence and 44 provided with psycho-social counselling support. • 629 refugee and asylum seeker women and adolescent girls supported with menstrual hygiene kits and dignity kits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Awareness Campaigns conducted in Delhi. • Health referral services provided in Delhi, Hyderabad and Mewat. • Menstrual hygiene and dignity kits distributed in in Mewat and Derabassi.
 Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 252 individuals departed on complementary pathways. • 111 individuals departed by way of resettlement to third countries. • 28 individuals returned home through voluntary repatriation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure through resettlement and complementary pathways programmes to Canada, Australia and the USA. • Voluntary repatriation to Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

**the report reflects response figures only from the reporting period - February 2024*



Refugee Resilience Shines at Agricultural Summit

Sri Lankan refugees joined an Agricultural Summit organized by the South India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, showcasing their agricultural skills and products such as vermicompost, oils, and plant-based cosmetics. Additionally, two self-help groups of refugee women delighted attendees with traditional Sri Lankan delicacies, adding a taste of their homeland to the event.

This summit not only provided an empowering platform for economic advancement for refugee women but also underscored the ongoing partnership between SICCI and UNHCR in advocating for refugee inclusion and self-sufficiency, reflecting a shared commitment to fostering dignity and opportunity for displaced populations.

The refugee self-help groups are supported by the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils, Tamil Nadu.

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 8 national NGOs:** ActionAid (AA), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Bosco Organization for Social Concern and Operation (BOSCO), Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), Development and Justice Initiative (DAJI), Gandhi National Memorial Society (GNMS), Modern Architects for Rural India (MARI), and Socio-Legal Information Centre (SLIC).



SUPPORTING THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN INDIA

UNHCR is grateful for contributions by:



Belgium
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In partnership with
Canada



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