

INDIA

December 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.



47,630 refugees and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR India

237 individuals received RSD decisions



34 individuals departed to Canada, Australia, through complementary pathways programmes

21 individuals voluntarily repatriated

23 departures to Australia



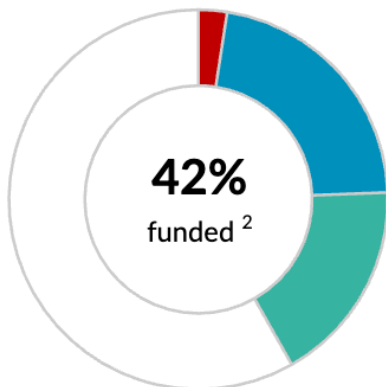
28 individuals placed for work in the hospitality, retail, and IT sectors

3,281 students attended accelerated learning programmes

FUNDING AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2024

USD 21.7 million

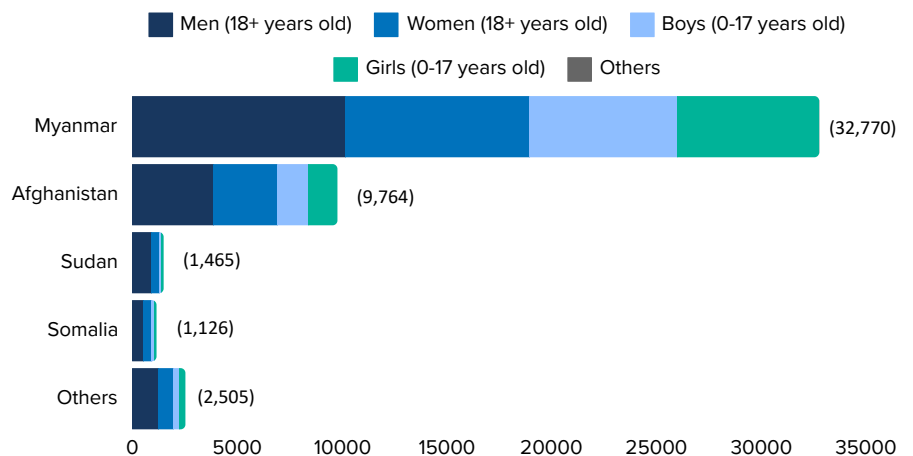
Requested for India in 2024



■ Tightly earmarked
 ■ Earmarked
 ■ Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
 ■ Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
 □ Funding gap (indicative)

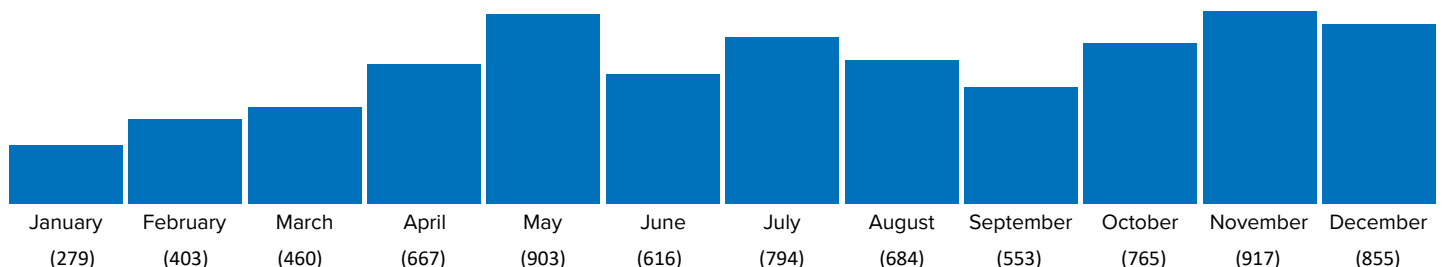
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2024






Country/Territory of Origin



NEW ASYLUM SEEKER REGISTRATIONS

Month



Sector	Response	Location
 Registration and RSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 855 individuals registered with UNHCR. • 237 individuals received RSD decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New and continuous registrations conducted in New Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Pune, Bangalore, and Chennai.
 Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,281 students attended accelerated learning programmes such as bridge and tuition classes conducted by UNHCR's partners. • 300 children at risk received psycho-social counselling support. • 1,315 girls and boys reached out through recreational sessions on various themes as part of a strategy to encourage holistic development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerated learning programmes conducted in Delhi/NCR, Jaipur, Telangana, Jammu, Derrabassi, Mathura, Aligarh, Mewat, Bangalore.
 Livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 refugees and asylum-seekers placed in informal jobs in the retail, hospitality, and IT sectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals placed in Delhi.
 Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 331 refugees and asylum seekers benefitted from 29 Health Awareness Campaigns. • 302 refugees provided with referral services and access to government health facilities. • 2,220 participants reached through 61 sensitization sessions on gender-based violence and 101 provided with psycho-social counselling support. • 2,578 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, Jaipur, Mewat, Dera Bassi, Jammu. • Gender-based violence sensitization sessions conducted in Delhi, Hyderabad, bangalore, Jammu, Mewat and Derabassi. • Menstrual hygiene and dignity kits distributed in Jammu, Mewat, Aligarh, Mathura, Dera Bassi.
 Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 individuals departed on complementary pathways. • 23 individuals departed by way of resettlement to third countries. • 21 individuals returned home through voluntary repatriation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure through resettlement and complementary pathways programmes to Canada, Australia. • Voluntary repatriation to Sri Lanka, Somalia, and Afghanistan.

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

Volleyball for Inclusion



"I enjoy playing volleyball, and today our team won. I am happy that we played alongside refugees living in our village; it deepened our appreciation for sportsmanship and brotherhood," says Krishan Chad, a young volleyball player from a Punjab village, who participated in a volleyball tournament with a mixed team of refugees and members of the local community. Krishan also shares how he made a new friend from the refugee community and decided to invite refugees living nearby to all future tournaments organised by his village.

A volleyball tournament was organised by UNHCR's partner Action Aid in Punjab, featuring three mixed teams of refugees and local villagers, all aimed at promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. "The refugee community never has a place to play or any sports equipment. The locals have now arranged a venue for us and included us in their teams," says Samir, a leader from the refugee community who played alongside Krishan. Sports not only have the power to bring people together but also support personal growth and individual well-being. Being forced to flee their homes and often feeling isolated in dire situations often leads refugees to adopt negative coping mechanisms. Engaging in sports and recreational activities can significantly enhance their mental well-being.

This volleyball tournament provided a valuable opportunity for locals to understand the refugees and their stories. "Such activities will increase familiarity and brotherhood between us and the local people. I made some new friends during this event, and I hope similar activities continue in the future," expresses Talha, a player from the refugee community.

As the day of the tournament unfolded, it became clear that this event was more than just a game; it represented hope, unity, and the beginning of lasting friendships. It strengthened the bonds between the two communities, each learning about the other's struggles and triumphs through the unifying language of sport.

*Names changed to protect identities

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:



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Canada



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