

INDIA

January 2025

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.



46,666 refugees and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR India

146 individuals received RSD decisions



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

15 individuals voluntarily repatriated

50 departures to third country



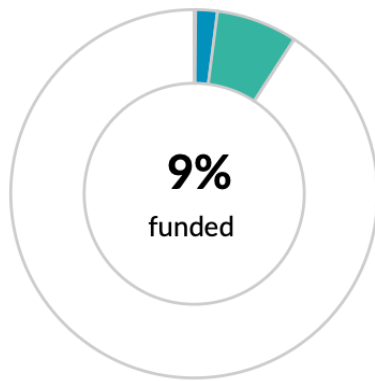
100 individuals supported through placement in the hospitality, retail, and IT sectors

4,042 students benefitted from educational services

FUNDING AS OF 31 JANUARY 2025

USD 17.3 million

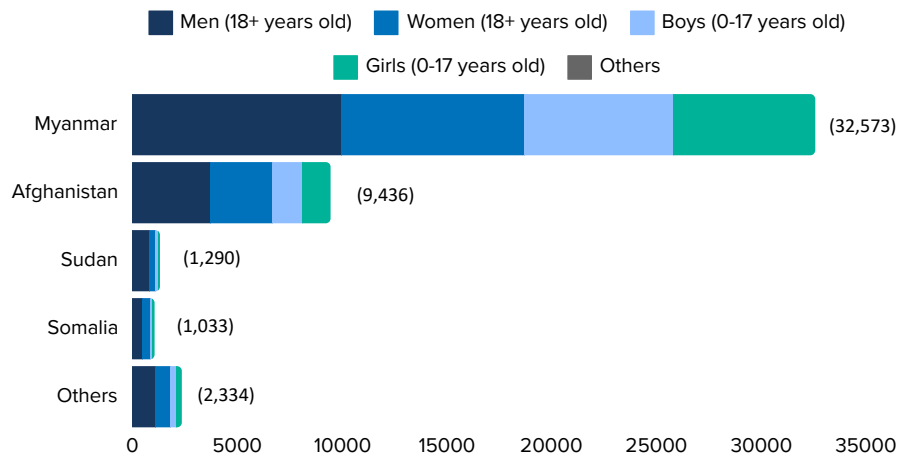
Requested for India in 2025



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

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS AS OF 31 JANUARY 2025

Country/Territory of Origin








NEW ASYLUM SEEKER REGISTRATIONS

Month



Month	Registrations
January	(753)
February	(0)
March	(0)
April	(0)
May	(0)
June	(0)
July	(0)
August	(0)
September	(0)
October	(0)
November	(0)
December	(0)

Sector	Response	Location
 Registration and RSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 753 individuals registered with UNHCR • 146 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"> • 4,042 benefitted from educational services • 1,230 children participated in community-based child protection programmes • 45 benefitted from life skills sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education programmes conducted in Delhi/NCR, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Jammu, Derrabassi • Community-based child protection programmes conducted in Delhi and Jaipur • Life skill lessons conducted in Delhi and Telangana
 Livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 refugees and asylum-seekers supported with placements in informal jobs in the retail, hospitality, and IT sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals placed in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR)
 Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 162 refugees and asylum seekers benefitted from a Health Awareness Campaign • 112 refugees provided with referral services and access to government health facilities • 140 Gender-Based Violence survivors supported with psychosocial, legal, security/safety, medical, shelter response. 29 PSEA trainings were also conducted • 118 children and caregivers received child protection services • 627 unaccompanied and separated children were supported through an alternative care arrangement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Awareness Campaign conducted in Dera Bassi • Gender-Based Violence survivors supported in Delhi/NCR, Bangalore, Jammu and Hyderabad • Child protection services for caregivers provided in Jammu, Delhi/NCR and Hyderabad • Alternative care arrangements for separated children in Jammu, Delhi/NCR, Mewat, Jaipur
 Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 individuals departed on complementary pathways • 50 individuals departed by way of resettlement • 15 individuals were supported with voluntary repatriation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure through resettlement and complementary pathways programmes to Canada, Australia • Voluntary repatriation to Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan

**the report reflects response figures only from the reporting period - January 2025*



UNHCR partner staff helping a refugee child to wear the winter jackets donated by Fabrecreate © UNHCR/Siva Sai Jeevanantham

Spreading warmth to refugee children

“Winter is the toughest time for me,” says Ahmed, a 15-year-old refugee living in India. As he touches the soft fabric of his new jacket, a smile spreads across his face. “But this jacket is so big and soft!” Ahmed’s parents are in a different country, and he lives with his extended family in India. The cold winters have always been a challenge for him, but this year, things are different.

Ahmed is one of over 500 refugee children who received Hope Jackets made by Fabrecreate. The jackets were distributed with the support of UNHCR and its partners, bringing smiles and warmth to refugee children across the city. One of the recipients, Amina, a refugee girl, shared her experience. “I often miss the language learning classes run by the Afghan Solidarity Committee (ASC) Centre because it’s too cold to sit through the class. I didn’t have a warm and soft jacket like this one,” she said.

Fatima, another teenaged refugee girl, was initially puzzled by the length of the jacket. “It’s too long for me,” she said, unaware that the jacket could also be used as a sleeping bag. When UNHCR’s partner staff explained this innovative feature, Fatima was amused. “Wow, my mom can use it too because it’s long! and at home, I can sleep in it” As she awaited the spring, Fatima rolled up the jacket and held it close to carry it home, resembling a warm hug. This jacket is not just keeping her warm but also her whole family.

For refugee children, accessing education is a challenge, and the lack of warm clothing in winter can add to the difficulties they face. The Hope Jackets are not just pieces of clothing; they are symbols of care and support from the host community. They also help keep children warm, allowing them to focus on their studies and attend classes and school regularly.

***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:



Belgium
partner in development



In partnership with
Canada



Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid



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