

INDIA

AUGUST 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 2025, resilience building, and self-reliance remain top priorities in furthering UNHCR's efforts to support refugees and asylum seekers.



48,810 refugees and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR India as of 31 August 2025

275 individuals received RSD decisions



171 individuals departed to Canada, Australia and other countries through Complementary Pathway programmes

28 individuals Voluntarily Repatriated

11 departures to third countries on Resettlement



40

individuals supported through placements in the hospitality, retail, and IT sectors



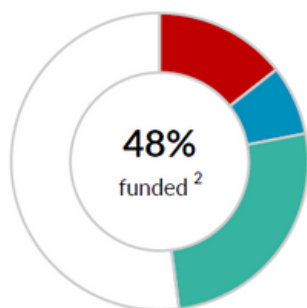
2,968

benefitted from educational services including remedial and bridge classes, support for enrolment in formal education structures

FUNDING AS OF 31 August 2025

USD 17.3 million

Requested for India in 2025

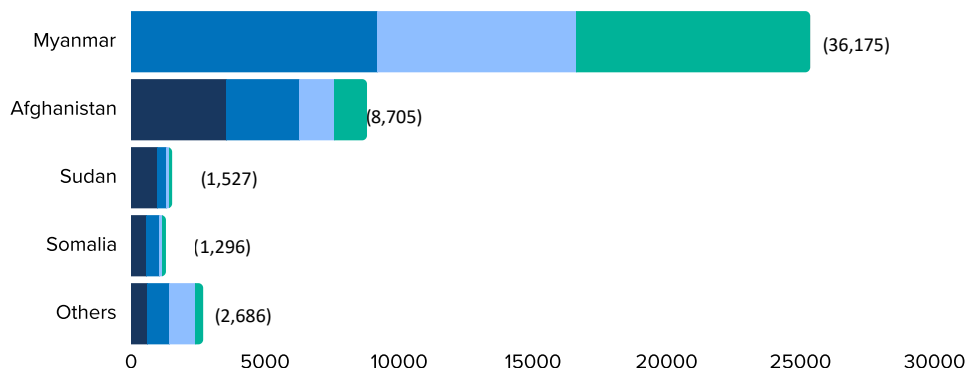


- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS AS OF 31 August 2025

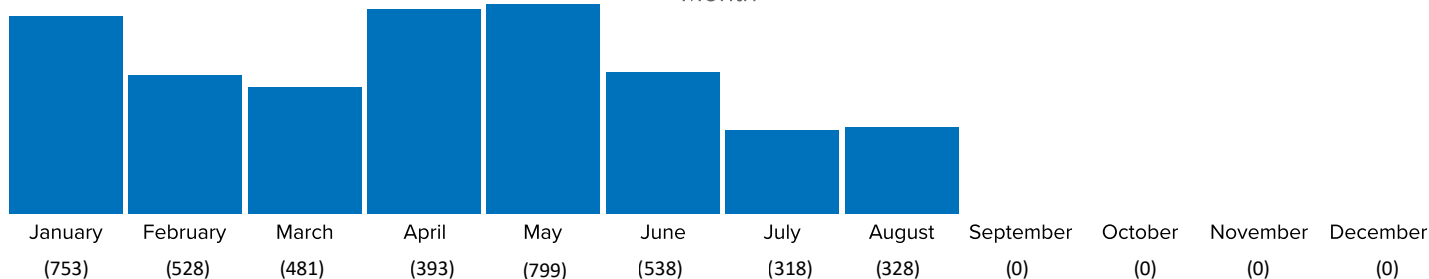
Country/Territory of Origin






- Men (18+ years old)
- Women (18+ years old)
- Boys (0-17 years old)
- Girls (0-17 years old)
- Others



NEW ASYLUM SEEKER REGISTRATIONS

Month



Sector	Response	Location
 Registration and RSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 328 individuals registered with UNHCR • 275 individuals received RSD decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New and continuous registrations conducted in New Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR), Hyderabad, Jaipur, Pune, Bangalore, and Chennai
 Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,968 benefitted from educational services through informal structures such as remedial and bridge classes; support for enrolment in government schools and through the National Institute of Open Schooling admissions • 1,543 children participated in community-based child protection programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education programmes conducted in Delhi/NCR, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Jammu, Derra Bassi and Mewat • Community-based child protection programmes conducted in Delhi/NCR, Jammu, Jaipur, Mewat, Hyderabad
 Livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 refugees and asylum-seekers supported with placements in informal jobs in the retail, hospitality, and IT sectors • 19 individuals supported with self-reliance activities such as micro grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placements in Mewat in construction, hospitality and service sectors • Livelihood skill development trainings conducted across Delhi/NCR, Jaipur, Mewat and Bengaluru
 Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 437 refugees and asylum seekers benefitted from 13 health awareness campaigns • 584 refugees provided with referral services and access to government health facilities • 82 Gender-based violence survivors supported with psychosocial, legal, security/safety, medical, shelter response. • 1,702 children and caregivers received child protection services like psychological counselling, legal support and alternative care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health awareness campaign conducted in Dera Bassi • Gender-based violence survivors supported in Mewat, Delhi/NCR, Jammu, Pune, Hyderabad • Child protection services for caregivers provided in Mewat, Delhi/NCR, Jaipur and Hyderabad
 Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 171 individuals departed on Complementary Pathways • 23 individuals departed by way of Resettlement • 11 individuals were supported with Voluntary Repatriation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure through Resettlement and Complementary Pathways programmes to Canada, and Australia • Voluntary Repatriation to Afghanistan, Iraq and Yemen

Standing Together Through the Storm – Refugee Volunteers Join Flood Relief Efforts in Jammu

In the wake of devastating floods in Jammu, refugees and asylum seekers joined hands with local communities — proving that compassion and solidarity flow stronger than any river.



Refugee and asylum seeker volunteers help clear debris from a flood-affected home in Jammu, August 2025. © UNHCR India



In August, Jammu witnessed one of its heaviest monsoon seasons in decades. Beginning with a devastating cloudburst in Chisoti Village, Kishtwar, and followed by intense rainfall across the region, floods breached the banks of the River Tawi and submerged hundreds of homes in low-lying areas such as Gujjar Nagar, Rajinder Nagar, and Sunjawan. Landslides and infrastructure damage further compounded the crisis, leaving families displaced and communities struggling to recover.

Among those affected were refugee and asylum-seeker families living in Jammu. Forty-one households suffered damage, and twelve shelters were completely washed away. Despite their own losses, refugee community leaders quickly mobilized to support the district administration's relief efforts.

Starting 28 August, around 270 refugee volunteers participated daily for a week to help clean flood-affected areas, including Gujjar Nagar and Jhogi Ghat. Their work involved removing mud, silt, and debris from lanes and homes, clearing damaged household items, and helping restore accessibility for affected residents. By the end of the effort, 113 homes, one temple, and one cremation ground had been cleaned.

Through these collective efforts, refugee volunteers worked alongside local communities to support recovery and restoration in the flood-affected areas of Jammu. Their assistance significantly improved accessibility in locations that had initially been difficult for both government and non-government agencies to reach. This was “reciprocity in action” — refugees extending support to local communities in their time of need, just as those communities had once welcomed and shown compassion to them.

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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