

INDIA

October 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.



48,644 refugees and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR India as of 31 October 2025



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



75

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



143

individuals received RSD decisions



4

individuals Voluntarily Repatriated



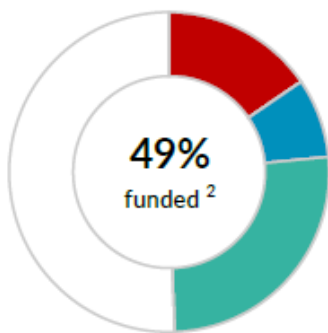
1338

people benefitted from specialized GBV programmes

FUNDING AS OF 31 October 2025

USD 17.3 million

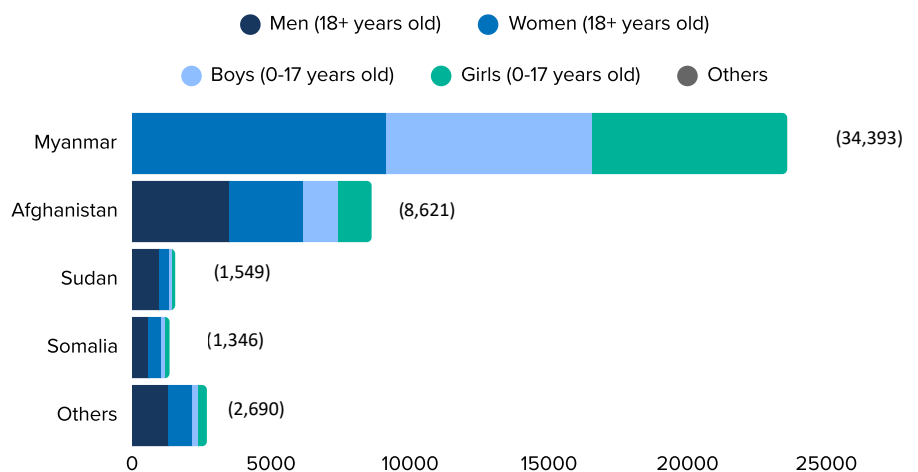
Requested for India in 2025



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

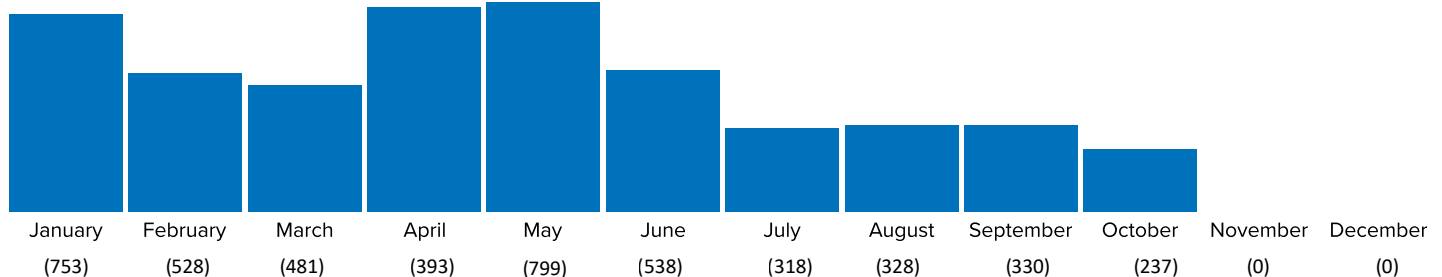
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS AS OF 31 October 2025





Country/Territory of Origin



NEW ASYLUM SEEKER REGISTRATIONS

Month



Sector	Response	Location
 Registration and RSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 237 individuals registered with UNHCR • 143 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
 Livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 refugees and asylum-seekers supported with placements in informal jobs in the retail, hospitality, and IT sectors • 4 individuals supported with self-reliance activities such as micro grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placements in hospitality, food beverage, retail and IT sectors • Livelihood skill development trainings conducted across Delhi/NCR, Jammu, Jaipur, Mewat
 Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1338 people benefitted from specialized GBV programmes • 72 Gender-based violence survivors supported with psychosocial, legal, security/safety, medical, shelter response. • 1,535 children and caregivers received child protection services like psychological counselling, legal support and alternative care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-based violence survivors supported in Mewat, Delhi/NCR, Jammu, Pune, Hyderabad and Goa • Child protection services for caregivers provided in Jammu, Mewat, Delhi/NCR, Jaipur, Punjab, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Goa and Pune
 Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41 individuals departed on Complementary Pathways • 4 individuals were supported with Voluntary Repatriation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure through Complementary Pathways programmes to Canada, Australia, Germany and USA in this month. • Voluntary Repatriation to Afghanistan and Yemen

Stiches that Build Connection

How embroidery brought Afghan refugee women and Kutch artisans together



Afghan refugee women and artisans from Kutch, Gujarat sharing embroidery techniques, stories and moments of connection.

October 2025 © UNHCR India

In New Delhi, women artisans from Kutch, Gujarat and Afghanistan came together to share embroidery techniques, stories and traditions — transforming craft into a space for connection and collaboration.

Over the course of the exchange, mirrored Kutch motifs blended with delicate Afghan embroidery, as participants learned from one another and worked side by side. What began as shared practice gradually evolved into collaborative, market-ready pieces, reflecting days of learning, creativity and trust.

For Afghan refugee Parveen Kakkar, the initiative opened new livelihood opportunities. With support from UNHCR, she displayed and got an opportunity to market her embroidered products, earning income while strengthening her skills. “Working together feels like a cultural exchange,” she says. “Our embroidery is different, yet connected.”

Local artisans also found the experience enriching. Dharmila Ahir, an artisan leader from Kutch who heads a collective of 80 women, describes the exchange as meaningful and empowering. “We learned new techniques, created joint products and built friendships that will continue beyond the workshop,” she shares.

Facilitated by the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design (IICD), Jaipur and supported by UNHCR India, the initiative strengthened technical skills, expanded market access and encouraged dialogue between refugee and host communities. By creating together, the women demonstrated how shared creativity can foster understanding, dignity and sustainable livelihoods — proving that sometimes, the strongest connections are stitched quietly, by hand.

Building on the success of this first phase, UNHCR India will seek funding for a second phase of the project, with a focus on developing specific, high-quality products for wider markets. Discussions are also underway with MADE51 to explore pathways for linking the initiative to global markets, while collaboration with IICD will continue to deepen design, production and market readiness. With these efforts, the project is set to be strengthened further in 2026, expanding opportunities for refugee and host-community artisans alike.

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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