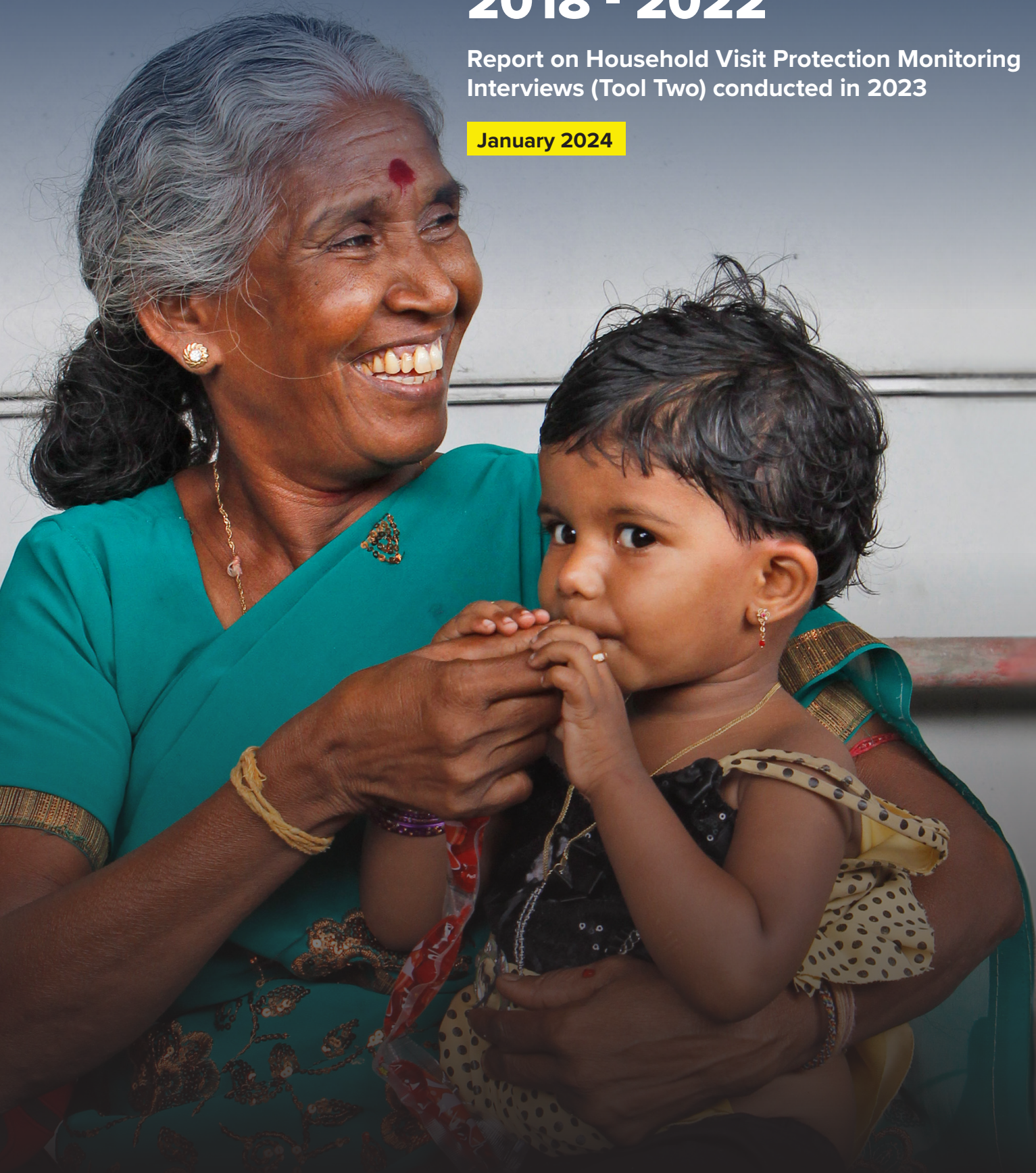


SRI LANKAN REFUGEE RETURNEES DURING 2018 - 2022

Report on Household Visit Protection Monitoring
Interviews (Tool Two) conducted in 2023

January 2024



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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

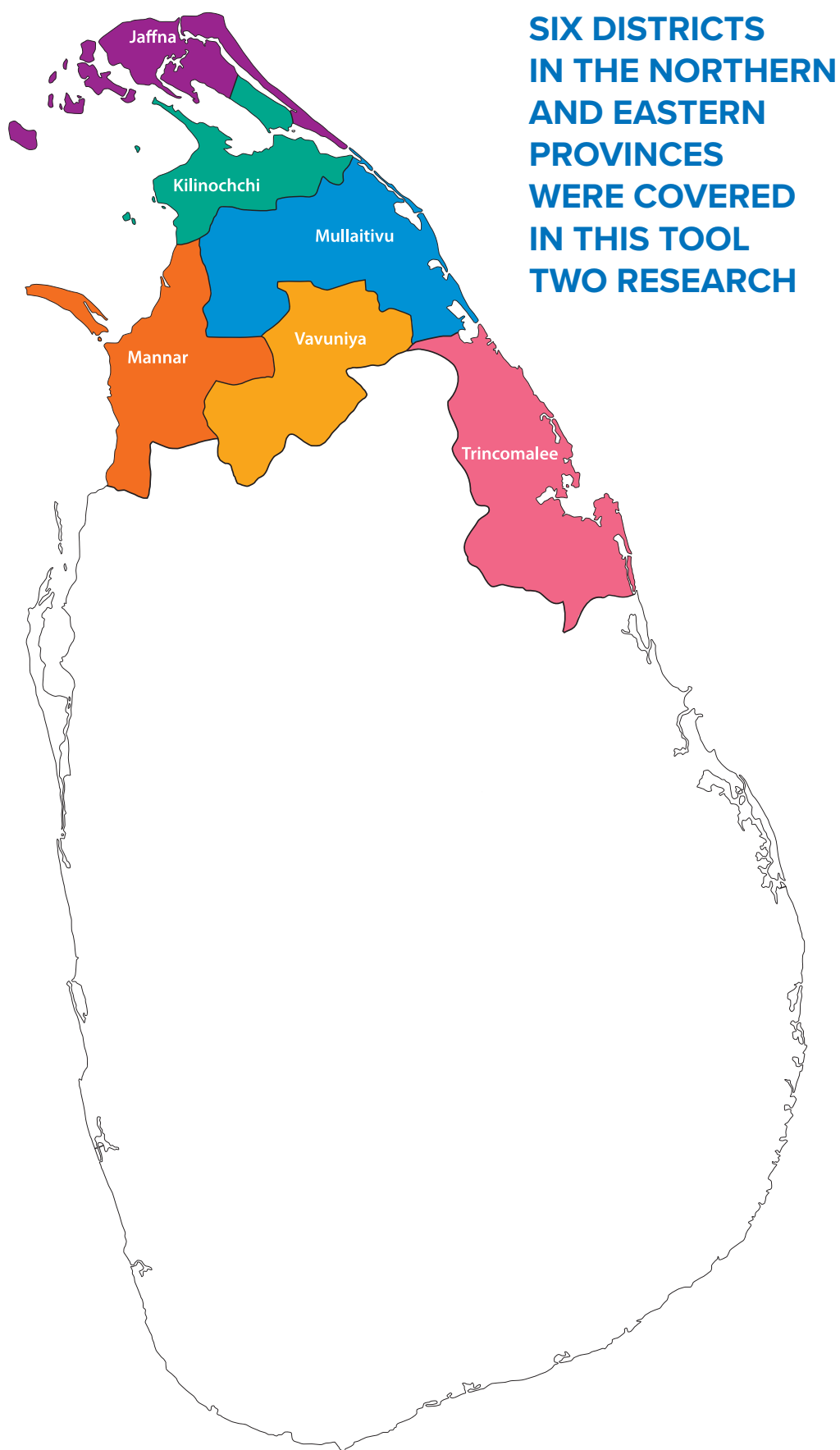


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POINTS TO BE KEPT IN MIND IN READING THIS REPORT

Retrospective feedback: While the protection monitoring assessment using UNHCR's Tool Two survey instrument is conducted annually or once in two years, this five-year survey (also using UNHCR's Tool Two survey instrument) is a snapshot in 2023, of the experiences and views of refugee returnees from 2018 to 2022 and was conducted among a representative household sample of refugee returnees who returned to Sri Lanka in each of the five years from 2018 to 2022. The assessment has been undertaken with the objective of obtaining retrospective responses of returnees one to six years after their return: from six years ago for those refugees who returned in 2018 to one year ago for 2022 returnees.

Refugee returnees, not IDP returnees: It should not be assumed that the findings reflect experiences and views of IDP returnees. Throughout this document, the term 'returnee' only refers to refugee returnees. Although each group was forcibly displaced, there are significant differences in their displacement situations, including in the case of refugee returnees, their place of displacement being beyond the national boundaries of the place of origin, the duration they were away from the area of origin, educational and work opportunities while in displacement, documentation needs (e.g., birth certificates), as well as programme assistance during the period of return and reintegration.

Impact of COVID-19: 2020 was the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic and responses should be looked at in this context, particularly the responses of the returnees in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Regions covered in the research: The research was undertaken in all five districts of the Northern province and in the Trincomalee district of the Eastern province, which are the districts housing significant numbers of returnees.

Data is self-reported: All data is as reported by the refugee returnee respondents. Interviewers did not attempt to verify answers provided by the respondents (e.g., independently inspect shelter for damage). Data is therefore accurate only if the respondents were truthful in response.

Rounding off data: Due to rounding off decimals to the nearest whole number, in some instances totals may not add up exactly to 100%.

Multiple responses: For questions where the respondents could give multiple responses, the sum of the responses could exceed 100%.

ABBREVIATIONS

UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
BC	Birth Certificate
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CRPO	Child Rights Promotion Officer
DS	Divisional Secretary
GN	Grama Niladhari
HH	Household
HoH	Head of the Household
HRCSL	Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka
HSZ	High Security Zone
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
LDO	Land Development Ordinance
MOH	Medical Officer of Health
MRE	Mine Risk Education
NFI	Non-Food Item
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIC	National Identity Card
PWSN	Person with Specific Needs
SL	Sri Lanka
TID	Terrorist Investigation Division
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WDO	Women Development Officer

OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH DESIGN AND OBJECTIVES

Since the end of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka in May 2009, increasing numbers of Sri Lankan refugees and asylum-seekers outside the country have been considering the possibility of voluntary repatriation.

Responsive to this demand, UNHCR Sri Lanka in cooperation with UNHCR offices in countries of asylum, particularly in Tamil Nadu, India, continues to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Sri Lankan refugees.

This initiative is aimed at obtaining and analyzing credible factual data regarding the return and reintegration experience of those who have already returned. Solid protection monitoring data of these returnees allows UNHCR to intervene as appropriate and improve the protection environment. The report produced based on data collected from the returnees every month upon their immediate return to their places of origin is known as 'Tool One' and the report produced based on data collected from the returnees every year thereafter is known as 'Tool Two'. This data and its analysis also assist UNHCR staff in countries of asylum to better counsel Sri Lankan refugees and asylum-seekers, who are considering 'return' as to the challenges and potential risks linked to repatriation. Such counselling, when backed by a solid analysis of the situation on the ground, helps to ensure that any decision to repatriate is an informed one. It is also a key advocacy tool as UNHCR shares this report with the donors and the government entities to highlight gaps which could be addressed by donor driven and government assistance programmes.

For facilitated repatriation, UNHCR staff in the country of asylum counsel prospective returnees and verify the voluntary nature of their decision. UNHCR then provides air transport for the refugees who wish to return. UNHCR Sri Lanka staff meet each facilitated returnee upon

arrival at the airport to ensure their safe arrival and provide protection counselling and social advice to the returnee. UNHCR also assists the returnee with reintegration and non-food item (NFI) cash grants and a modest transportation allowance for onward transportation to his / her village of origin under a UNHCR funded programme with the Bank of Ceylon. Upon arrival in the village of origin, the UNHCR Field Office located in Jaffna registers the facilitated returnees who visit the office or one of the six District Offices of the Social Services Department in the five Northern Districts and the Trincomalee District in the Eastern Province for post return protection monitoring and follow-up advocacy and interventions. The returnees also receive counselling on reintegration support, including procedures to obtain essential civil documentation such as birth certificates and national identity cards. Referrals are made to the government authorities to obtain further assistance. Furthermore, the returnees are directly linked to Mine Risk Education programmes in their areas of return.

A significant number of Sri Lankan refugees return spontaneously. Although spontaneous returnees are not eligible for UNHCR cash grants or NFI assistance, UNHCR encourages them to approach UNHCR for protection monitoring purposes and referral to specialized agencies that can support their reintegration.

In addition to collecting monitoring information from the individuals who approach UNHCR or during frequent visits conducted by UNHCR and the partners to returnee areas, UNHCR Sri Lanka utilizes the two tools to ensure a systematized approach to the returnee protection assessment and monitoring and has done so since 2011. These monitoring tools cover all the refugee returnees known to UNHCR, whether their return is facilitated or spontaneous.

In this particular research, refugees who returned to Sri Lanka over the five year period from 2018 to 2022 were interviewed in order to compare the early experiences and challenges of 2021-22 returnees with the longer term reintegration experiences of those who returned to Sri Lanka earlier (between 2018 and 2020).

Tool One:

UNHCR staff undertake a short, one-time standardized protection interview when the returnees approach the UNHCR field office. The report produced based on these interviews is known as Tool One and it has been operational in all areas of refugee return since May 2011.

Although Tool One interviews are one-time snapshots of the initial return experience for each family, the comparison of this data from month to month indicates trends and feeds into the protection monitoring.

While these initial interviews under Tool One provide useful information on the return and reintegration process, the interviews are relatively short, concentrating on quantitative data, and are undertaken within the first few days or weeks following the return. The methodology also disproportionately relies on responses from the heads of household, and thus, does not necessarily reflect the age, gender and diversity spectrum of the refugee returnees. Thus, soon after the launch of Tool One, it was apparent that an additional protection monitoring mechanism was required. This resulted in the commencement of Tool Two.

Tool Two:

For Tool Two, UNHCR field staff and UNHCR's protection partner staff, visit households of a representative sample of the refugee returnees, to collect a comprehensive mix of quantitative and qualitative data regarding the return and the reintegration experience (in general one year after the return).

UNHCR gains in-depth knowledge and information necessary to analyze the reintegration process and the protection challenges faced by the refugee returnees through both a mid and long-term perspective. Moreover, since the interviews take place inside the returnee's home and include open-ended questions, more accurate and in-depth responses are expected.

Tool Two functions as a detailed protection assessment. In order to ensure it meets its full protection potential, UNHCR analyses the findings of this Tool alongside the findings of Tool One.

This document reports the data, analysis, and conclusions of the Tool Two survey among refugee returnees in the five-year period from 2018 to 2022, and is the work of UNHCR Sri Lanka, with the combined efforts of protection and field teams in Jaffna and Colombo. The fieldwork was conducted May and June 2023.

METHODOLOGY

The Tool Two questionnaire administered for this survey was developed by UNHCR in direct consultation with key external experts in order to provide the most comprehensive data possible regarding the voluntary repatriation and the reintegration experience of refugees.

As mentioned previously, fieldwork was undertaken in all five districts of the Northern Province and in the Trincomalee district of the Eastern Province. The randomly selected sample represented facilitated refugee returnees who approached UNHCR field offices between 2018 and 2022. The sample selection technique sought to balance the return type and districts of returnees. The respondents were spread across Jaffna, Vavuniya, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Mannar and Trincomalee districts.

UNHCR Colombo office provided UNHCR Jaffna office with the (randomly) selected list of households to be interviewed in each district. The field staff visited sample households in May and June 2023 and interviewed the most senior member of the household present. The respondents were informed that the exercise was voluntary and that their participation or non-participation has no link to material assistance or other programmes.

Responses were recorded by the staff via pen and paper interviews. All completed questionnaires were sent to UNHCR Colombo. The questionnaires were scrutinized and keyed into a Microsoft Excel data base. Data analysis was then carried out using a combination of Microsoft Excel and SPSS software.

The planned sample size for the five-year period of return was 413 randomly selected households, which was over a third (34%) of all the refugee returnees during the five years. Although none of the families visited refused to participate, due to some respondents having moved out of the registered location at the time of the field visit, the achieved sample size was lower with a total of 87 households being not contactable. It should be noted that if a household was empty at the time of the visit, but the neighbours indicated that the family still lived there, the team returned for the interview subsequently.

A list of reasons for being unable to undertake the 87 interviews is listed out in Table 1 below. Predominant reasons given by neighbours were that the families have moved back to India or moved to another country, moved to another part of Sri Lanka, or that the head of the household had passed away. Consequently, the achieved sample was 326 households, 79% of the planned sample size of 413.

TABLE 1:
Reasons for unavailability of returnees as per neighbours, community or GN

Reasons given by neighbours, community, GN for inability to contact returnees	Total	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Returned, but since moved to India	41	23	13	3	2	-
Returned, but since moved elsewhere outside Sri Lanka	16	6	6	2	1	1
Returned, but since moved elsewhere in Sri Lanka	12	6	3	3	-	-
Head of the household had passed away	12	8	3	1	-	-
Returned, but since moved elsewhere, location unknown	4	1	3	-	-	-
Never lived at this address	1	-	1	-	-	-
Don't know	1	1	-	-	-	-
Total (Number)	87	45	29	9	3	1

While the planned sampling fraction was 32% of the returnee households in the five year period covered by the research, due to the reduction of 87 interviews, the achieved sample covered 25% of the returnee households in this five year period.

As shown in Table 2 below, the district wise contribution (i.e., the down percentage) was

similar for the total five year returnee universe of 1,282 returnee households, the total five year planned sample of 413, as well as the total five year achieved sample of 326. This was also similar for each of the five years, as shown in table 1 in the appendix to this report. Consequently, there was no necessity to reweight the data in view of the reduced sample size.

TABLE 2:
Planned and achieved sample sizes, compared with returnee households universe numbers by district for all five years of return (2018 to 2022)

District	Planned sample	Contribution (%)	Achieved sample	Contribution (%)	Universe	Contribution (%)
Jaffna	103	25	82	25	340	27
Vavuniya	78	19	57	17	242	19
Kilinochchi	35	8	27	8	102	8
Mullaitivu	26	6	22	7	77	6
Mannar	92	22	70	21	274	21
Trincomalee	79	19	68	21	247	19
Total	413	100	326	100	1,282	100
Sampling fraction	32%		25%			

SAMPLE SIZE AND AVAILABILITY FOR INTERVIEW

Because the sample sizes for 2021 and 2022 were just 11 and 32 respectively, in analysing and reporting the research findings, the data for these two years were added together and reported as the combined period 2021-22 with a sample size of 43. Table 3 shows the sample size for the periods 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021-22.

The total sample of 326 households (HHs) surveyed consisted of a total of 744 family members (including the respondents), resulting in an average household size of 2.3 (Table 4). Among 2021-22 returnees the average household size was markedly lower at 1.8. District wise sample details by year of return are included as table 2 in the appendix of this report.

TABLE 3:
Sample achievement comparison 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021-22 Total and Year

Sample Achievement	Total 5 yrs	2018	2019	2020	2021 - 22
No. of selected households	413	185	137	44	47
No. of successful interviews	326 (79%)	140 (76%)	108 (79%)	35 (80%)	43 (91%)

TABLE 4:
District wise five year sample details by the numbers of households, individuals in the households, and the average household size

District	Total sample size sought (No. of HHs)	Located and interviewed			HHs unavailable for interview
		No. of HHs	No. of individuals	Average household size	
Jaffna	103	82	177		21
Vavuniya	78	57	126		21
Kilinochchi	35	27	74		8
Mullaitivu	26	22	39		4
Mannar	92	70	155		22
Trincomalee	79	68	173		11
Total	413	326	744	2.3	87

In the survey that was conducted in 2022 (December 2021 to March 2022) among 222 respondents who were returnees in 2019 and 2020, the average household sizes were similar to those obtained in this survey: in the 2022 survey, the 2019 and 2020 returnees' average

household sizes were 2.2 and 2.5 respectively, which is close to the corresponding averages of 2.3 and 2.5 in this survey. The average household size among 2021-22 returnees was however much lower, being 1.8.

The remainder of this report is based on the responses received from the sample of 326 households who returned between 2018 and 2022 and were visited and interviewed in 2023. The data and resultant analysis could not incorporate the return and reintegration experience of sample households who had moved elsewhere. Their experiences may be different, possibly more negative than those who were interviewed and represented below.

SYNOPSIS

The Tool Two survey conducted in 2023 among returnees during the five year period 2018 to 2022, compares early experiences and challenges faced by refugees who returned to Sri Lanka in 2021-22 with the longer term reintegration experiences of refugees who returned earlier, between 2018 and 2020. This synopsis and the subsequent summary combine findings from this survey with findings from previous surveys among 2018, 2019 and 2020 returnees that were conducted one to two years after returning to Sri Lanka, in order to better illustrate time related changes in experiences and challenges.

From the 2023 five year survey: comparing early experiences and challenges of 2021-22 returnees with longer term reintegration experiences of those who returned earlier (between 2018 and 2020):

- The 2021-22 returnees appear to be more vulnerable than those who returned between 2018 and 2020, and may require longer term support in terms of livelihood assistance and healthcare.
 - The household size among 2021-22 returnees was just 1.8, well below the Sri Lankan average of 3.8. Among 2018 to 2020 returnees, the household size has remained between 2.2 and 2.5.
 - The 2021-22 returnees had a higher proportion of older family members (60 years or more) and a lesser proportion of working age adults compared to those who returned between 2018 and 2020.
 - The 2021-22 returnees also had a lesser proportion of 18 to 35 year olds employed (29%) when compared to the other three returnee batches (about 40%).

- Also, in a year or so after returning to Sri Lanka, only 44% of 2021-22 returnees had their own land compared to over 60% owning land in the other returnee batches.
- Perhaps due to the more pressing economic situation of the 2021-22 returnees, a higher proportion of them (47%) depended on remittances from families than the other returnees (20% to 30%).
- Just 63% of 2021-22 returnees were having three meals a day, less than the equivalent percentages among 2018, 2019 and 2020 returnees (74%, 77% and 74% respectively)

Comparisons with surveys conducted in 2019 and 2021/22 among 2018, 2019 and 2020 returnees: changes in experiences and living standards in the years following their return to Sri Lanka:

- While some reintegration and living standard measures being evaluated were low in the first year after arrival in Sri Lanka, in subsequent years there has been significant improvement.
 - **Voter registrations have increased**
Among 2018 returnees from 57% to 82%, and among 2019 returnees from 70% to 77%. In the case of the more recent 2020 returnees however, this percentage has remained at about 60%.
 - **Family members not having a BC have declined**
2018 returnees from 6% to 1%; 2019 returnees from 3% to 1%; and 2020 returnees from 4% to 0%.
 - **Adults without a NIC has also declined substantially**
From 11% to 2%, and 10% to 6% among 2018 and 2020 returnees, and remaining at 6% among 2019 returnees.

- **Incidence of household ownership of land has increased**

Among 2018 returnees from 60% to 78%; and among 2019 and 2020 returnees the incidence of owning land has remained at about 70% and 60% respectively.

- **The percentages of employed 18 to 35 year olds have increased**

Among 2019 returnees from 42% to 47%, and among 2020 returnees from 40% to 50%. Information on 2018 returnees after arrival was not in the relevant report, but was 51% in 2023.

- However, the following measures have worsened in 2023 compared to when returnees were first interviewed a year or two after returning to Sri Lanka

- **Households with PWSNs have shown an increase, particularly among 2020 returnees**

Among 2018 and 2019 returnees, from 11% to 13%, and among 2020 returnees, from 11% to 20%.

- **Proportions having three meals a day have declined due to the ongoing economic crisis**

From 92% to 74%, 96% to 77%, and 100% to 74% among 2018, 2019 and 2020 returnees respectively.

What UNHCR can do to improve its assistance

In terms of what UNHCR should do to improve its support to potential returnees, the predominant suggestion (by 56% of returnees) was to publicise and reassure Sri Lankan refugees in India that the ethnic conflict is over and that Sri Lanka is now a safe country to return to. About a fifth (18%) also suggested that UNHCR should provide more information on livelihood opportunities in Sri Lanka, but UNHCR should keep in mind that such information on livelihood opportunities should be provided in a realistic manner. Other suggestions were on providing information on how to go about obtaining government assistance in Sri Lanka (mentioned by 9%), and information on housing and the availability of land for housing as well as for income generation opportunities (mentioned by about 5% each).

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

Comparisons of this 2023 five year survey findings with the findings from previous research - the 2020 UNHCR report among 2018 returnees where fieldwork was conducted in 2019, and the 2022 UNHCR report among 2019 and 2020 returnees where fieldwork was conducted in 2021/22 - are stated below

1. Basic respondent and family profiles

Report reference	This UNHCR 5-year Tool Two report				Previous Tool Two reports		
Year of Tool Two report	2024				2020	2022	
Year survey conducted (fieldwork)	2023				2019	2021/22	
Year of return	2018	2019	2020	2021-22	2018	2019	2020
Sample size	140	108	35	43	301	153	69
Household size	2.4	2.3	2.5	1.8	2.5	2.2	2.5
Households with PWSNs	13%	13%	20%	13%	11%	11%	11%
Children up to Grade 11 in school	98%	98%	100%	100%	NA	94%	89%

Across all five years of return, about 80% of the respondents were the heads of household, about 15% the spouse and 5% were adult children. Respondents were equally split by gender.

The percentage of households with PWSNs had doubled among the 2020 returnees to 20% in this 2023 survey, up from 11% among 2020 returnees in the survey conducted in 2021/22.

The 2023 five year survey also found that more PWSNs were females (58%) than males (42%), and the majority were aged 60 or above. The most mentioned category of PWSNs was being single, mostly in relation to being an older person, followed by being a single parent. Other mentioned PWSN categories included physical and mental disabilities and diabetes.

2. Registrations by authorities

Report reference	This UNHCR 5-year Tool Two report				Previous Tool Two reports		
Year of Tool Two report	2024				2020	2022	
Year survey conducted (fieldwork)	2023				2019	2021/22	
Year of return	2018	2019	2020	2021-22	2018	2019	2020
HHs registered with GN / GS	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Adults registered to vote	82%	77%	57%	33%	57%	70%	60%

This 2023 five year survey highlights the increase in the voter registrations over time when compared to the findings from the previous research. For instance, only 57% of the adults who returned in 2018 were registered to vote as per the survey conducted in 2019, but in this 2023 survey the equivalent percentage among the 2018 returnees had increased to 82%.

While the numbers registered to vote among the 2020 and 2021-22 returnees remain low at 57% and 33% respectively in this 2023 survey, it would be expected that over the next couple of years these percentages should increase as more returnees get registered to vote. Nevertheless, the research findings indicate the need for the authorities involved in registering voters to relook at the voter registration procedure for refugee returnees with a view to speeding up the process.

3. Civil documentation

Report reference	This UNHCR 5-year Tool Two report				Previous Tool Two reports		
Year of Tool Two report	2024				2020	2022	
Year survey conducted (fieldwork)	2023				2019	2021/22	
Year of return	2018	2019	2020	2021-22	2018	2019	2020
Not having a BC	1%	1%	0%	6%	6%	3%	4%
Adults not having Sri Lankan NIC	2%	6%	6%	12%	11%	6%	10%

As in the case with the voter registrations, there appears to be a time lag of a few years for the applicants to receive their national identity cards. Among the 2021-22 returnees surveyed in the 2023 five year research, as many as 12% were without a NIC at the time this survey was conducted. A lag of even one year from the time of applying can significantly impact the ability of the returnees in their efforts to return to a life of normalcy.

4. Land, shelter, and sanitation

Report reference	This UNHCR 5-year Tool Two report				Previous Tool Two reports		
Year of Tool Two report	2024				2020	2022	
Year survey conducted (fieldwork)	2023				2019	2021/22	
Year of return	2018	2019	2020	2021-22	2018	2019	2020
Extent to which household has land	78%	73%	60%	42%	69%	73%	63%
Received shelter allowance	54%	46%	31%	14%	41%	41%	43%
Household has own toilet	94%	86%	94%	95%	85%	88%	91%
Uncontaminated drinking water	92%	91%	89%	84%	92%	91%	91%

When revisited in 2023, 78% of the 2018 returnees owned land, up from 69% when surveyed in 2019, indicating that over time, more of these returnees have been able to settle down and purchase land or have had land granted to them by the authorities.

Overall, in the five-year sample of this 2023 survey, about 70% owned land. Among the 30% who did not have their own land, only half the householders had applied for land. Even among those who had applied for land, an equal proportion of the respondents said that the applications were rejected or that they were still waiting for their applications to be approved.

Among the 2021-22 returnees the percentages owning land (42%) and receiving a shelter allowance (14%) were far less than among the previous batches of returnees.

In terms of sanitation and accessibility to water, about 90% of the returnees across each year of return had their own toilet and had access to uncontaminated drinking water.

5. Security and Justice

Report reference	This UNHCR 5-year Tool Two report				Previous Tool Two reports		
Year of Tool Two report	2024				2020	2022	
Year survey conducted (fieldwork)	2023				2019	2021/22	
Year of return	2018	2019	2020	2021-22	2018	2019	2020
Feel completely or generally safe	99%	96%	98%	96%	94%	95%	97%
Movements not restricted	98%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Presence of military in village / area	19%	16%	9%	16%	24%	13%	17%

In terms of feeling safe and the freedom of movement, opinions have continued to be favourable. Furthermore, the presence of the military in their village / area does not seem to have unsettled these returnees in terms of feeling safe and the ability to move about freely in the area.

6. Livelihoods

Report reference	This UNHCR 5-year Tool Two report				Previous Tool Two reports		
Year of Tool Two report	2024				2020	2022	
Year survey conducted (fieldwork)	2023				2019	2021/22	
Year of return	2018	2019	2020	2021-22	2018	2019	2020
HHs with at least 1 person with a skill	79%	76%	80%	79%	NA	71%	68%
18 to 35-year-olds employed	51%	47%	50%	29%	NA	42%	40%
Only depend on others' remittances/support	32%	30%	26%	47%	31%	22%	19%
Main impediments to restoring livelihood: lack of tools / means	76%	78%	60%	81%	73%	69%	68%
Received livelihood allowance	57%	67%	71%	44%	34%	54%	67%
Households having three meals a day	74%	77%	74%	63%	92%	96%	100%

The continuing economic crisis is the probable cause of the 2023 research revealing that many households were cutting down on one meal. While this concern is seen in each yearly batch of returnees, the impact seems to be greater among the 2021-22 returnees with just 63% of them saying that they had three meals a day.

Most households continued to have at least one person with a skill: mainly in farming and fishing for males and sewing for females. Nevertheless, as revealed in this 2023 five year survey, about 20% to 30% of the 2018 to 2020 returnees and as many as 47% of the 2021-22 returnees said that for their livelihood / income they only depended on the remittances / support from family or relatives, indicating limited employment / livelihood opportunities. The main impediments to restoring livelihoods were considered to be a shortage of tools or equipment.

Also as indicated in the 2023 five year survey, a lesser percentage of the 2021-22 returnees (44%) said that they received a livelihood allowance than the returnees from other batches, where about 60% or more said that they received the livelihood allowance.

7. Returnee sentiments on return and reintegration

Report reference	This UNHCR 5-year Tool Two report				Previous Tool Two reports		
Year of Tool Two report	2024				2020	2022	
Year survey conducted (fieldwork)	2023				2019	2021/22	
Year of return	2018	2019	2020	2021-22	2018	2019	2020
Satisfied with returning to Sri Lanka	86%	91%	91%	86%	90%	93%	87%
Not treated differently by local community	98%	96%	97%	98%	95%	99%	99%

The vast majority were satisfied with returning to Sri Lanka and the opinions have been similar across various waves of the Tool Two research. The community has continued to treat the returnees without discriminating or differentiating them from the others in their villages / areas.

8. Reintegration programmes of UNHCR / others

Report reference	This UNHCR 5-year Tool Two report				Previous Tool Two reports		
Year of Tool Two report	2024				2020	2022	
Year survey conducted (fieldwork)	2023				2019	2021/22	
Year of return	2018	2019	2020	2021-22	2018	2019	2020
Facilitated returnees	91%	91%	86%	99%	93%	93%	88%
Facilitated returnees who received NFI cash grant	99%	99%	93%	97%	98%	100%	92%
Facilitated returnees who recd. reintegration assistance other than from UNHCR	59%	54%	63%	3%	70%	58%	51%
Advising others to return to Sri Lanka	90%	91%	92%	70%	99%	100%	94%
Advising others to return through UNHCR	85%	90%	89%	63%	96%	100%	92%

Each year, about 90% had returned through UNHCR's facilitated returnee programme and almost all facilitated returnees came back to Sri Lanka by air. The rest were mainly spontaneous returnees who also returned by air.

When asked if they would recommend other refugees to return to Sri Lanka, about 90% of respondents in the 2023 five year survey said that they would do so due to being assured of a safe return as well as financial assistance. Among the 2021-22 returnees however, only 70% said that they would recommend others to return. The balance 30% would not recommend returning to Sri Lanka, with or without UNHCR assistance, due to the high cost of living, livelihood concerns or inadequate assistance.

The UNHCR NFI cash grant was almost universally received by each batch of the facilitated returnees. In addition to the UNHCR NFI cash grants, reintegration assistance was also received from others and / or from the government in the form of cash or material by about 60% of the facilitated returnees. However, excluding these UNHCR NFI cash grants, among the 2021-22 returnees only 3% said that they received reintegration assistance from other organisations / government.

9. COVID-19 pandemic assistance

Report reference	This UNHCR 5-year Tool Two report				Previous Tool Two reports		
Year of Tool Two report	2024				2020	2022	
Year survey conducted (fieldwork)	2023				2019	2021/22	
Year of return	2018	2019	2020	2021-22	2018	2019	2020
Received pandemic assistance	77%	72%	71%	28%	NA	NA	NA

Finally, about 70% of 2018 to 2020 returnees received pandemic assistance, mainly from the government, but among 2021-22 returnees, this percentage was only 28%. This could be attributed to the pandemic being at its tail end when these refugees returned to Sri Lanka in 2021-22.



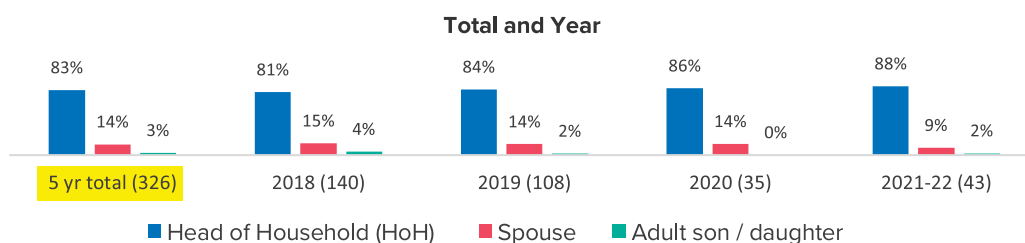
BASIC RESPONDENT INFORMATION

Intent of analysis: To illustrate the profiles of the households and surveyed respondents, which provides a context with which to read into the Tool Two survey results.

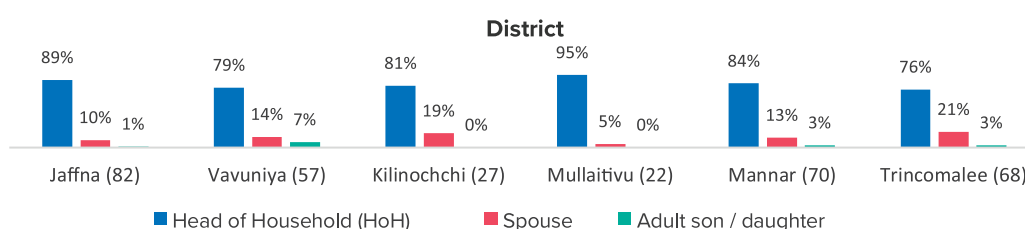
SAMPLE PROFILE

Overall, most respondents (83%) were the heads of household, followed by the spouse (Chart A1).

CHART A1:
Main survey respondent

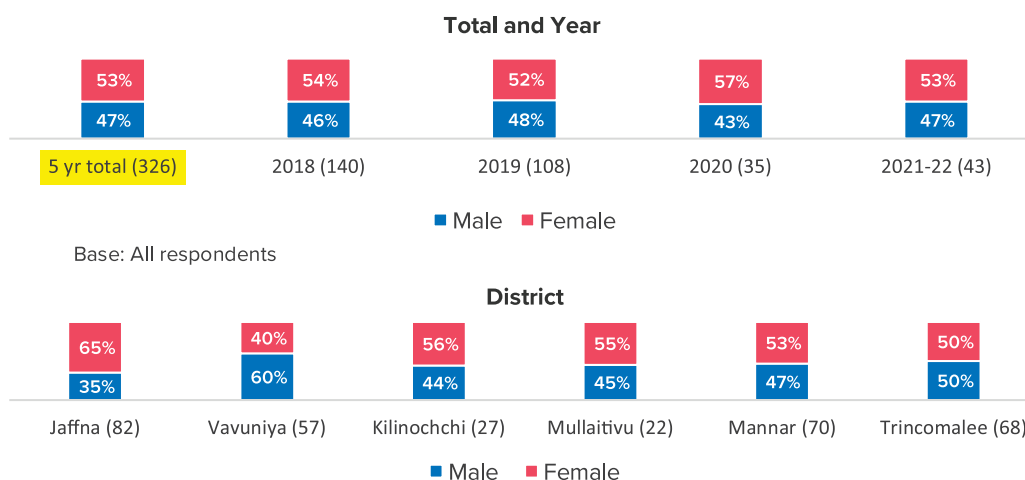


Base: All respondents



Overall, by year of return, and in most districts, slightly over half the respondents were females (Chart A2). In previous surveys among the 2018, 2019 and 2020 returnees too, the overall gender split of the respondents was equal.

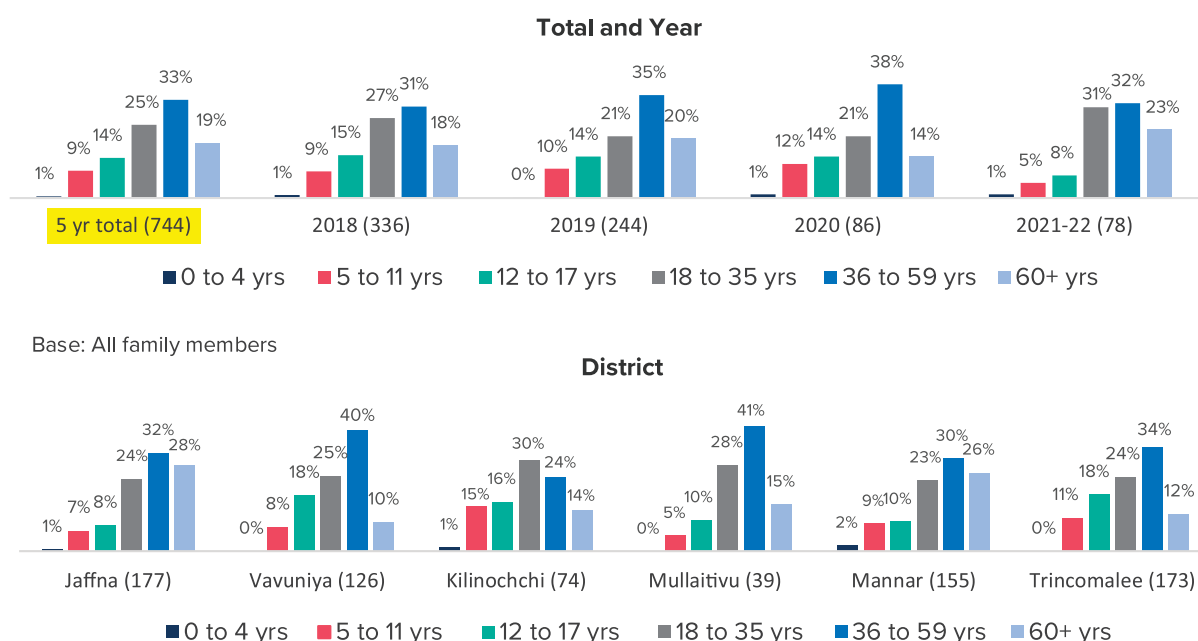
CHART A2:
Gender split of respondents



Taking all family members into account for each year of return (including the respondents), the following findings emerge from the five-year survey, as illustrated in the chart A3:

- In the overall five-year sample, the analysis of family members shows that:
 - The largest group were the older adults aged 36 to 59 (33%), followed by the younger adults 18 to 35 (25%)
 - Children of school going age from (5 to 17 years) constituted 23% of the family members
 - There were hardly any infants / preschoolers (0 to 4 years) in all the returnee groups
 - One fifth (19%) were aged 60 years or older
- The age profile of the 2021-22 returnees was somewhat different to the other batches:
 - The 2021-22 returnees had a lower percentage of children and teenagers (13% aged 5 to 17 years), compared to the returnees in other years (23% aged 5 to 17 in the total sample)
 - The 2021-22 returnees also had a higher percentage of young adults (aged 19 to 35) and older adults (aged 60+) than the other returnee batches
- More older family members were present in the Jaffna and Mannar districts:
 - The proportion of those aged 60 years or more was twice as high in the Jaffna and Mannar districts (28% and 26% respectively) compared to between 10% and 15% in the other districts

CHART A3:
Age of returnees among all family members (including respondent)



In terms of gender, the proportion of male and female returnees among all family members were more or less equal (Table A1), except in the Jaffna and Mannar districts where there were more female family members.

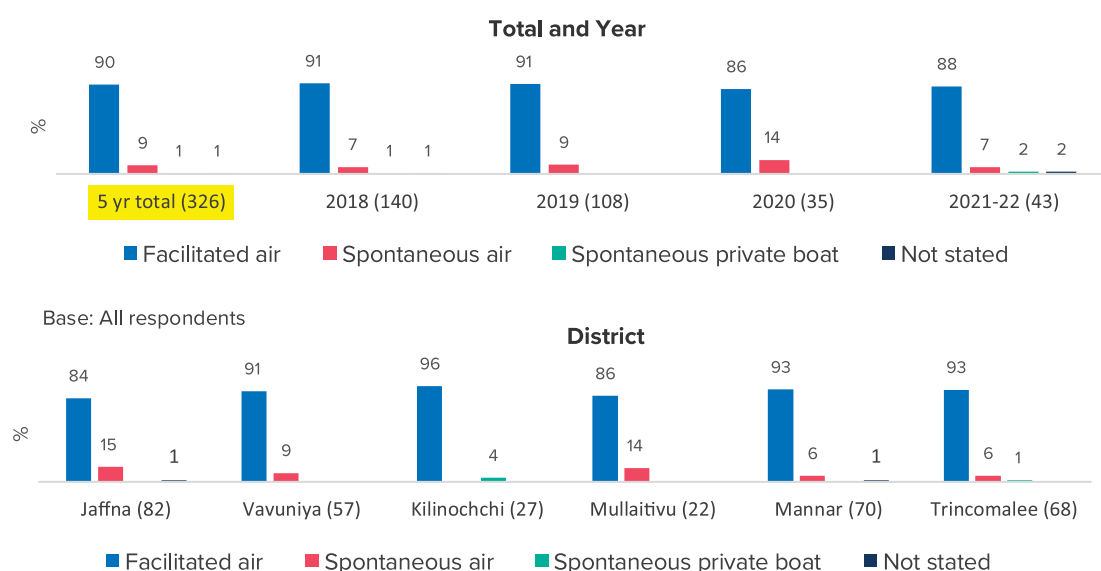
TABLE A1:
Gender split of all returnee family members

Total and Year					
Base: All family members	5 yr total (744)	2018 (336)	2019 (244)	2020 (86)	2021-22 (78)
Male family members	47%	47%	48%	47%	51%
Female family members	53%	53%	52%	53%	49%

District						
Base: All family members	Jaffna (177)	Vavuniya (126)	Kilinochchi (74)	Mullaitivu (39)	Mannar (155)	Trincomalee (173)
Male family members	44%	51%	49%	51%	45%	50%
Female family members	56%	49%	51%	49%	55%	50%

All the interviewed returnees had voluntarily repatriated from India. Across all the years of return and the districts, about 90% returned via UNHCR's facilitated voluntary repatriation programme by air and most of the others returned spontaneously also by air (Chart A4).

CHART A4:
Type of return to Sri Lanka



VULNERABILITY RISK

The total sample of 326 respondents represented 744 family members, thus resulting in an average household size of 2.3. Likewise, the average household sizes among the samples of 2018 to 2020 returnees varied from 2.3 to 2.5, but for the 2021-22 returnee sample it was just 1.8. These average household sizes were lower than the Sri Lankan national average of 3.8 (Table A2).

Further, the average number of working age adults (aged 18-59) in a typical returnee household (of between 1.1 and 1.4) has remained well below the Sri Lankan average of 2.2. In view of there being just about one adult (on average) in the returnee households, incapacity or demise of an adult is likely to have a significant impact on the welfare of the family.

TABLE A2:
Age profile in an average household: Sri Lanka vs Returnees

Total and Year						
Age	Sri Lanka national ave	5 yr total	2018	2019	2020	2021-22
0-4	0.3	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
5-17	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.2
18-59	2.2	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.1
60+	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4
Average HH size	3.8	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.5	1.8
No. of family members	21 m population	744	336	244	86	78
No. of respondents	5.4 m households	326	140	108	35	43

Over one in four households (29%) has at least one PWSN (Chart A5). Among the 2020 returnees almost half the households (46%) had at least one PWSN. District wise, the percentage of PWSNs was highest in Mannar (40%).

CHART A5:
Incidence of persons with specific needs (PWSNs) in household

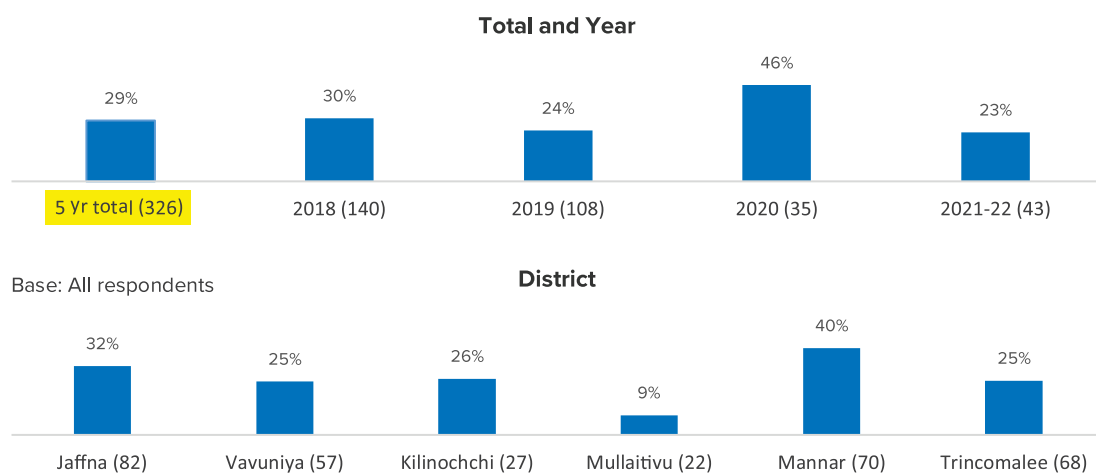


Table A3 shows that among all 744 family members, 14% (104 family members) were PWSNs. The PWSN percentage was particularly high among the 2020 returnees (20%) and among the returnees in the districts of Jaffna (18%) and Mannar (21%).

The incidence of family members who were PWSNs among the returnees in 2018 to 2020 (13%) and 2020 (20%) as determined in this 2023 five year survey was higher than the incidence determined in the survey conducted in 2021/22 survey among 2019 and 2020 returnees (11% in each year of return).

There was an average of one PWSN in each PWSN household. This average remained more or less the same by year of return and by district.

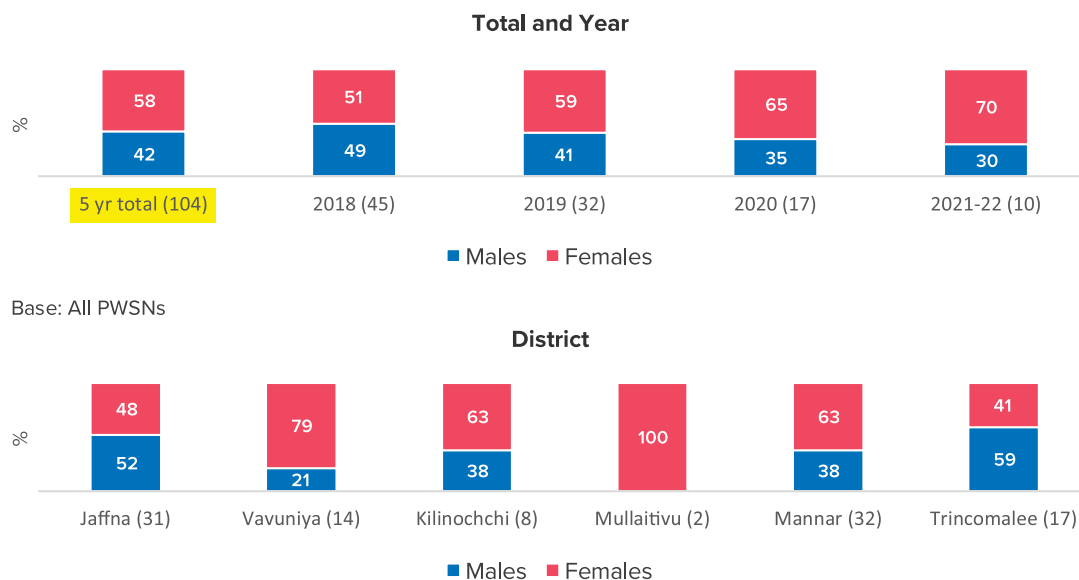
TABLE A3:
Incidence of persons with specific needs (PWSNs) in PWSN households

Total and Year					
By Total and Year	5 year total	2018	2019	2020	2021-22
No. of households	326	140	108	35	43
No. of family members	744	336	244	86	78
No. of households with PWSNs	94	42	26	16	10
No. of PWSN family members	104	45	32	17	10
% of all family members who are PWSNs	14%	13%	13%	20%	13%
Average no. of PWSNs in h'holds with PWSNs	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0

District						
By District	Jaffna	Vavuniya	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu	Mannar	Trincomalee
No. of households	82	57	27	22	70	68
No. of family members	177	126	74	39	155	173
No. of households with PWSNs	26	14	7	2	28	17
No. of PWSN family members	31	14	8	2	32	17
% of all family members who are PWSNs	18%	11%	11%	5%	21%	10%
Average no. of PWSNs in h'holds with PWSNs	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0

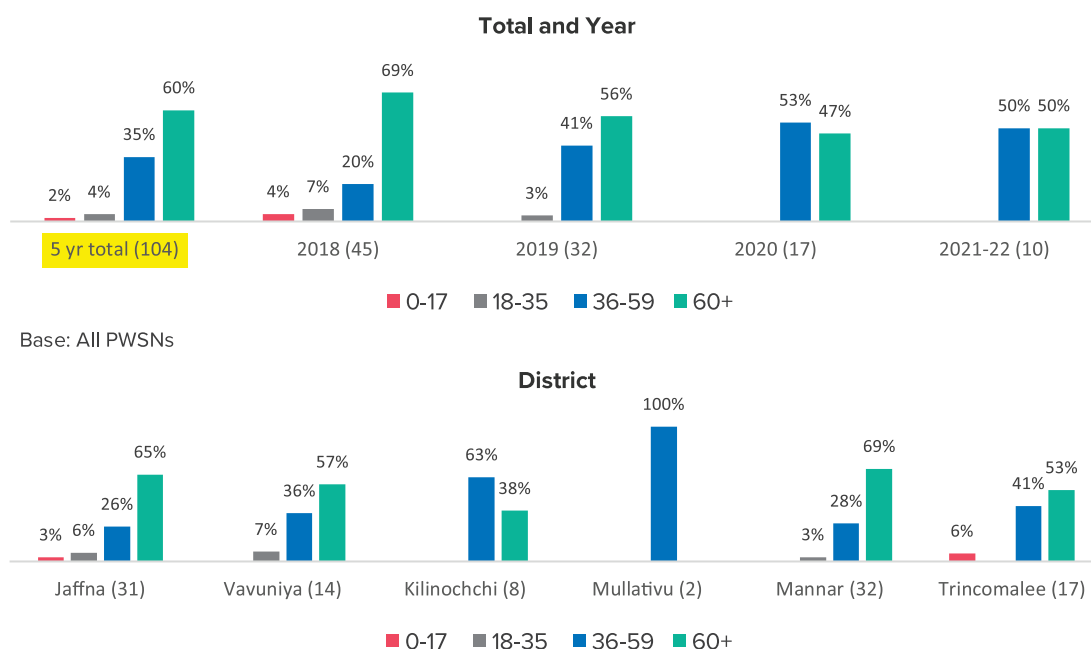
Overall, more PWSNs were females (58%) than males (42%) as shown in the chart A6. This was the pattern in all years of return and in all districts as well.

CHART A6:
Gender breakdown of persons with specific needs (PWSNs)



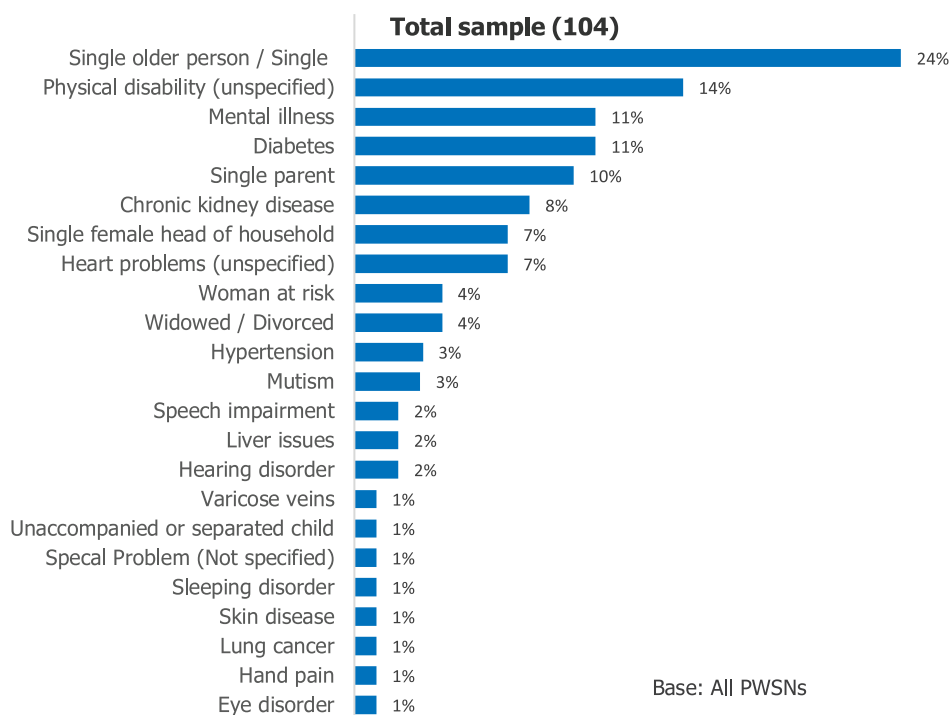
Age wise, the majority of PWSNs were aged 60 or above, and most of the rest were 36 to 59 years in age (Chart A7). This was also broadly the pattern in all years of return and in all districts.

CHART A7:
Age breakdown of persons with specific needs (PWSNs)



The most mentioned category of PWSNs was being single, mostly in relation to being an older person (Chart A8). This was mentioned by one in four respondents who have PWSNs in their household. Being a single parent was also mentioned by a tenth. Other widely mentioned PWSN categories were physical and mental disability and diabetes.

CHART A8:
Categorization of PWSNs



B

REGISTRATION AND OTHER VISITS BY AUTHORITIES

Intent of queries: To identify if the returnees were able to register as the residents in the areas of return, if they in fact do so, and to ascertain if the returnees are visited by the security forces or the police, for registration or any other purposes, and the frequency of such visits.

There are numerous and persistent anecdotes regarding the close surveillance of civilians in the North and East by security or intelligence personnel, including repeated visits to homes. This is one attempt to gather factual data on the existence and scope of any such activity.

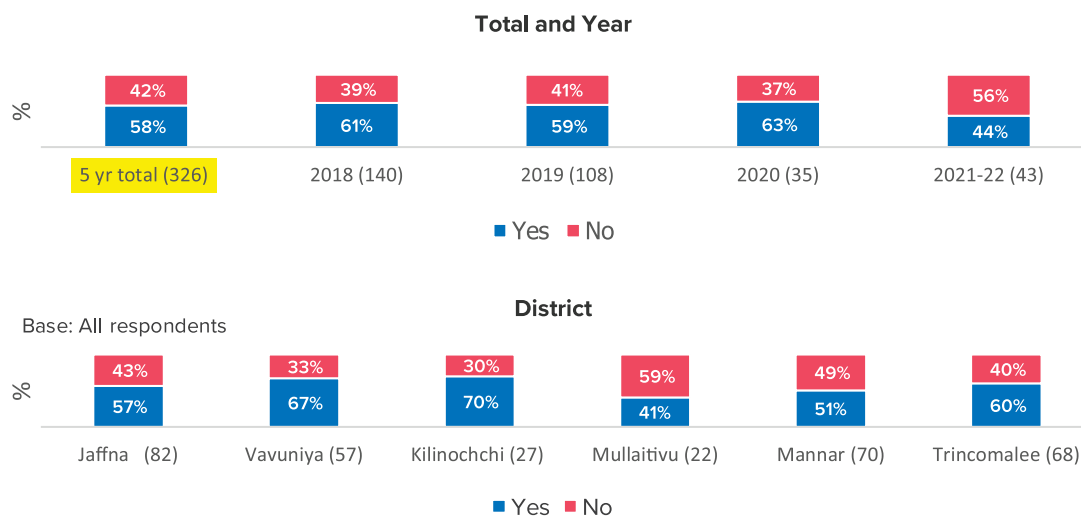
REGISTRATION FEEDBACK

All respondents continued to say that their houses / families were registered with the DS / GN.

A little over half of the total five-year sample (58%) said there were visits to register their family by people other than from the DS or GN offices (Chart B1). In Mullaitivu district only 41% said so.

CHART B1:

Extent of home visits to register family, other than by DS / GN authorities



95% mentioned the visits were from NGOs. Very few mentioned other authorities (Table B1).

TABLE B1:

If visited for registration purposes other than by DS / GN, by whom

Total and Year					
Base: Respondents who were visited by those other than from the DS or GN	5 yr total (190)	2018 (85)	2019 (64)	2020 (22)	2021-22 (19)
NGOs	95%	92%	97%	95%	100%
CID / TID	2%	1%	2%	0%	5%
Police	5%	7%	3%	5%	0%
Military	2%	2%	0%	5%	5%

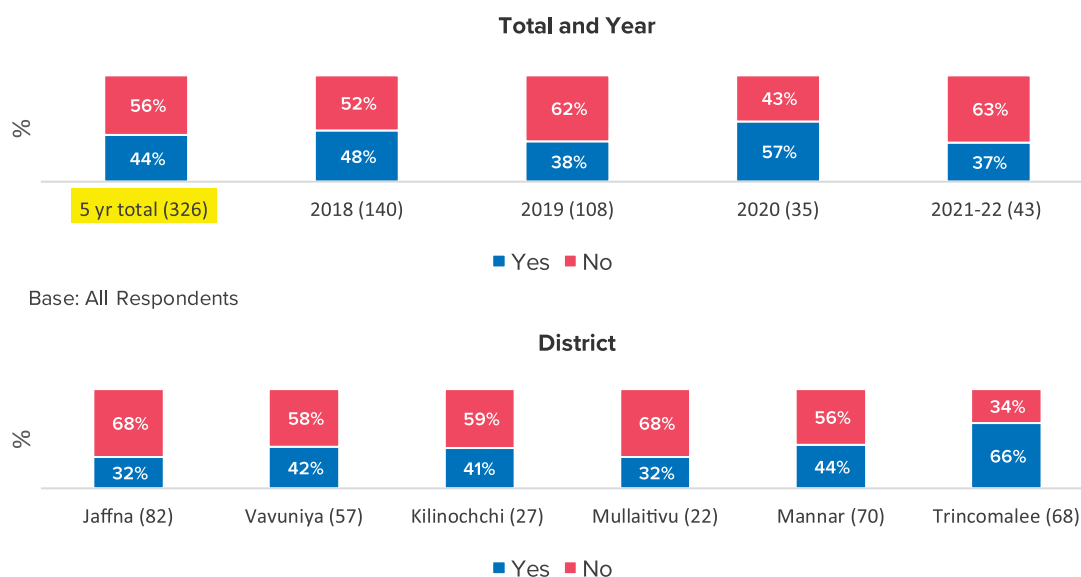
District						
Base: Respondents who were visited by those other than from the DS or GN	Jaffna (47)	Vavuniya (38)	Kilinochchi (19)	Mullaitivu (9)	Mannar (36)	Trincomalee (41)
NGOs	98%	97%	95%	67%	100%	90%
CID / TID	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	5%
Police	2%	8%	5%	11%	3%	5%
Military	0%	0%	0%	22%	0%	2%

OTHER VISITS

Overall, among the total sample, 44% said there were additional visits to their homes, other than for registration (Chart B2). This percentage was particularly high in the Trincomalee district (66%).

CHART B2:

Extent of visits to home for interviews other than for registration



In all years of return and districts about 90% mentioned that these visits were from NGOs (Table B2). Very few mentioned other persons or organizations, including the military and the police.

TABLE B2:
Who visited other than for registration

Total and Year					
Base: Respondents who were visited for purposes other than to register	5 yr total (144)	2018 (67)	2019 (41)	2020 (20)	2021-22 (16)
NGOs	95%	91%	100%	100%	94%
Military	3%	4%	-	-	6%
Government officer	2%	3%	-	-	6%
Police	1%	1%	-	5%	-
Other	1%	1%	-	-	-

District						
Base: Respondents who were visited for purposes other than to register	Jaffna (26)	Vavuniya (24)	Kilinochchi (11)	Mullaitivu (7)	Mannar (31)	Trincomalee (45)
NGOs	96%	100%	82%	100%	97%	93%
Military	-	-	-	-	6%	4%
Government officer	8%	-	-	-	-	2%
Police	-	-	9%	-	3%	-
Other	-	-	1%	-	-	-



CIVIL DOCUMENTATION

Intent of queries: To determine if the returnees have essential civil documentation (such as the birth certificates and the national identity cards) and to determine if there are any constraints to get them. The enumerators collected the data for each family member in the household, not merely for the respondent or the head of the household. For the birth certificates, the data also reflects Sri Lankan vs. non-Sri Lankan issued birth certificates. These queries also help determine the percentage of returnees without essential documents and who may be at risk of statelessness.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES (BCs)

Among all the family members, just 1% over the five year period did not have a BC (10 out of 744 family members), issued either in India or in Sri Lanka (Table C1).

As shown in table C1, only 1% of 2019 returnee family members and 0% of 2020 returnee family members did not have a BC when interviewed in 2023 (i.e., three to four years after returning to Sri Lanka). In the previous Tool Two survey conducted among 2019 and 2020 returnees in 2021/22 (i.e. in a year or two after returning to Sri Lanka), 3% and 5% of returnee family members respectively did not have a BC, indicating that within the last few years, almost all family members not previously having a BC have since received these documents.

6% (5 family members) among the 2021-22 returnees did not possess any BC. i.e., half the 10 family members without a BC were from the small number of 2021-22 returnees.

TABLE C1:
Incidence of individuals not having any Birth Certificate

Total and Year					
Base: All family members	5 yr total (744)	2018 (336)	2019 (244)	2020 (86)	2021-22 (78)
Having any BC	99%	99%	100%	100%	94%
Percentage not having any BC	1%	1%	1%	0%	6%
Number not having any BC	10	3	2	-	5

As shown in the table C2, among the 1% not having a BC (10 family members) almost all of them were born in Sri Lanka (9 out of 10 family members) and just one family member was born in India.

TABLE C2:
Country of birth of individuals not having any Birth Certificate

Total and Year					
Base: All family members	5 yr total (744)	2018 (336)	2019 (244)	2020 (86)	2021-22 (78)
Number born in Sri Lanka	9	3	2	-	4
Number born in India	1	-	-	-	1
Total	10	3	2	-	5

In the five-year total of 744 family members, 3% (20 family members) did not have a Sri Lankan BC i.e., the remaining 97% (724 family members) had a Sri Lankan BC (Table C3).

TABLE C3:
Incidence of individuals not having a Sri Lankan BC

Total and Year					
Base: All family members	5 yr total (744)	2018 (336)	2019 (244)	2020 (86)	2021-22 (78)
Yes, having SL BC	97%	98%	98%	98%	94%
Not having SL BC	3%	2%	2%	2%	6%
Number not having SL BC	20	8	5	2	5

12 of the 20 family members who did not have a Sri Lankan BC were born in Sri Lanka (Table C4).

TABLE C4:
Country of birth of those family members not having a Sri Lankan BC

Total and Year					
Base: All family members not having a SL BC	5 yr total (20)	2018 (8)	2019 (5)	2020 (2)	2021-22 (5)
Number not having SL BC	20	8	5	2	5
Number born in SL	12	5	2	1	4
Number born in India	8	3	3	1	1

8 out of the 20 family members not having a Sri Lankan BC were below 18 years, and two others had a Sri Lankan BC in the past but not now. When asked whether they had applied for a replacement Sri Lankan BC both respondents said that they had in fact done so but have not had a reply from the authorities.

NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS (NICs)

Overall, out of 744 family members, 570 were adults (18+). Among them, 5% did not possess a NIC, and most of this 5% never had a NIC (Table C5). The percentage of not having a NIC was particularly high among the 2021-22 returnees (12%).

In the previous 2021/22 survey conducted among 2020 returnees, the proportion of the adult family members without a NIC was 10%, which has now dropped to 6% in this 2023 five-year survey. Among the 2018 returnees, when surveyed in 2019, 11% did not have a NIC, which has now dropped to just 2% in this 2023 research.

TABLE C5:
Adult family members' NIC status

Total and Year					
Base: All adult (18+) family members	5 yr total (570)	2018 (255)	2019 (185)	2020 (63)	2021-22 (67)
(a) Adult family members (18+) having NIC	95%	98%	94%	94%	88%
(b) Adult family members (18+) not having NIC	5%	2%	6%	6%	12%
(c) Total of all adult family members (18+)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(b) Adult family members (18+) not having NIC	5%	2%	6%	6%	12%
(b1) Adult family members (18+) had NIC but not now	1%	0%	1%	5%	3%
(b2) Adult family members (18+) never had NIC	4%	2%	5%	2%	9%

District						
Base: All adult (18+) family members	Jaffna (149)	Vavuniya (93)	Kilinochchi (50)	Mullaitivu (33)	Mannar (123)	Trincomalee (122)
(a) Adult family members (18+) having NIC	97%	94%	98%	94%	94%	93%
(b) Adult family members (18+) not having NIC	3%	6%	2%	6%	6%	7%
(c) Total of all adult family members (18+)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(b) Adult family members (18+) not having NIC	3%	6%	2%	6%	6%	7%
(b1) Adult family members (18+) had NIC but not now	1%	2%	-	-	2%	2%
(b2) Adult family members (18+) never had NIC	3%	4%	2%	6%	3%	5%

The main reasons for not having a NIC were the non-possession of supporting documents and the delay in receiving the NIC after applying for (Table C6).

TABLE C6:
Reasons for not having a NIC

Total		
Base: Respondents with adult family members not having a NIC	Not having NIC now (8)	Never having NIC (21)
No. who said:		
Applied but not received it yet	5	4
Insufficient supporting documents	3	14
Don't know about the application process	-	1
Reason not mentioned	-	2

ABSENCE OF ESSENTIAL SRI LANKAN IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

Overall, in the five-year sample, 2% of the family members did not possess at least one identity document – BC, NIC or passport (Table C7). The incidence of not having any identity document was particularly high among the 2021-22 returnees (5%).

TABLE C7:

Incidence of individuals (including minors) not currently having at least one Sri Lankan registration/identity documents: BC, NIC, passport

Total and Year						
Base: All family members	5 yr total (744)	2018 (336)	2019 (244)	2020 (86)	2021-22 (78)	
Incidence of not having at least one identity document	2%	1%	1%	1%	5%	

District						
Base: All family members	Jaffna (177)	Vavuniya (126)	Kilinochchi (74)	Mullaitivu (39)	Mannar (155)	Trincomalee (173)
Incidence of not having at least one identity document	0%	2%	0%	0%	3%	3%

Among the 744 family members from the 326 households in the five-year sample, 29% (i.e., 217 family members) were born in India (Table C8). Many of them are now adults. The Indian born proportion remained around 30% in each year of return and in most districts (except Jaffna, where it was lower).

TABLE C8:

Incidence of family members being born in India

Total and Year						
Base: All family members	5 yr total (744)	2018 (336)	2019 (244)	2020 (86)	2021-22 (78)	
Percentage of family members born in India	29%	27%	32%	34%	26%	

District						
Base: All family members	Jaffna (177)	Vavuniya (126)	Kilinochchi (74)	Mullaitivu (39)	Mannar (155)	Trincomalee (173)
Percentage of family members born in India	23%	31%	34%	28%	28%	34%

The above mentioned 217 family members born in India were from 127 households. The respondents from 125 of these households (98%) said that the children's births were registered in India, almost all saying at a hospital (Table C9). A few registered the birth at the refugee camp or the birth registration department. In the 2022 survey among 2019 and 2020 returnees too, responses were similar.

TABLE C9:
Where children's births were registered in India

Total and Year						
Base: Respondents with children born in India	5 yr total (127)	2018 (53)	2019 (42)	2020 (17)	2021-22 (15)	
Hospital	92%	94%	93%	94%	80%	
Refugee camp	6%	6%	5%	6%	7%	
Birth registration dept.	1%	-	-	-	7%	
Birth not registered in India	2%	-	2%	-	7%	

District						
Base: Respondents with children born in India	Jaffna (25)	Vavuniya (24)	Kilinochchi (14)	Mullaitivu (8)	Mannar (22)	Trincomalee (34)
Hospital	92%	100%	100%	63%	82%	97%
Refugee camp	4%	-	-	25%	13%	3%
Birth registration dept.	-	-	-	13%	-	-
Birth not registered in India	4%	-	-	-	5%	-

All the respondents from the 125 households where the children's births were registered in India said that they currently had the registered documents with them. The respondents from the two households where births were not registered in India did not give a reason for not registering the births there.

Overall, as illustrated in the table C10, one in five respondents (21%) said that they have had problems in getting Sri Lankan citizenship for their children born in India. The percentage mentioning this concern was higher among the returnees in recent years, albeit with a smaller base.

In the survey among the 2019 and 2020 returnees conducted in 2021/22, responses were similar to those from this five year survey (17% and 24% respectively).

TABLE C10:
Whether there were problems in getting Sri Lankan citizenship for children who were born in India

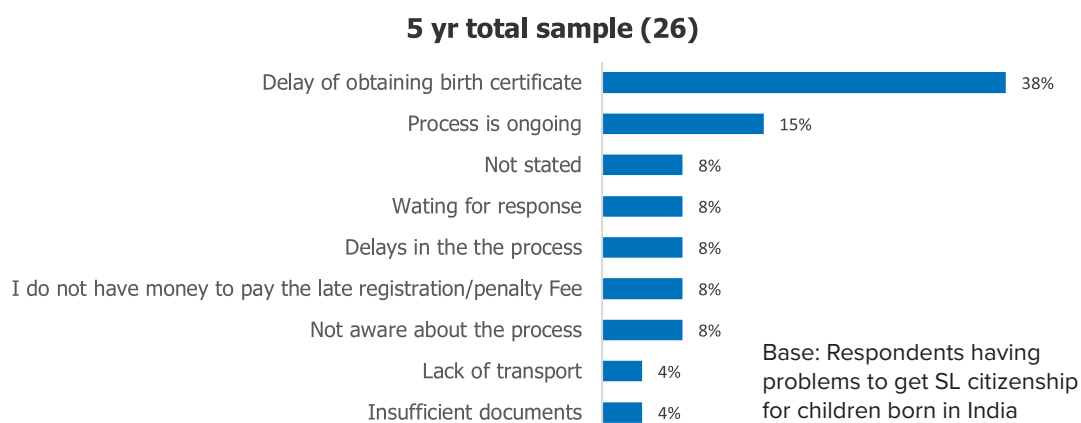
Total and Year						
Base: Respondents with children born in India	5 yr total (127)	2018 (53)	2019 (42)	2020 (17)	2021-22 (15)	
Children had problems in getting SL citizenship	21%	13%	21%	24%	40%	

District						
Base: Respondents with children born in India	Jaffna (25)	Vavuniya (24)	Kilinochchi (14)	Mullaitivu (8)	Mannar (22)	Trincomalee (34)
Children had problems in getting SL citizenship	28%	17%	7%	50%	14%	21%

Among the 21% of respondents whose children were born in India and where they had problems in getting Sri Lankan citizenship for the children (26 respondents in all), the main problems were the delays in the process, mainly the delays in obtaining the birth certificates (Chart C1).

CHART C1:

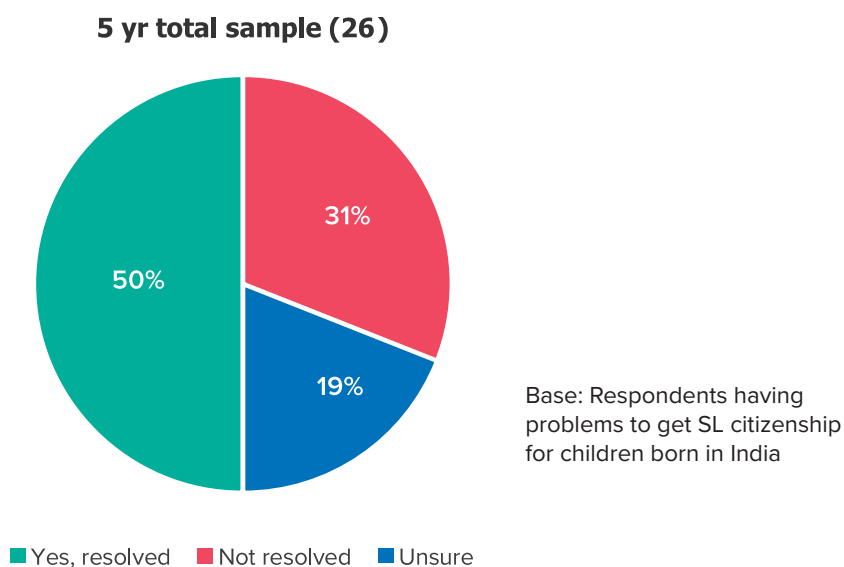
Main problems in getting Sri Lankan citizenship for children who were born in India



When asked if these problems have been resolved, half said 'Yes' (50%) but the rest replied in the negative (31%) or were unsure (19%).

CHART C2:

Main problems in getting Sri Lankan citizenship for children who were born in India



FAMILIES FROM PLANTATION AREAS (HILL COUNTRY)

Overall, 3% of the returnee families (11 respondents) were from the plantation areas / Hill Country. All of them had documents to prove their Sri Lankan nationality.

TABLE C11:

Extent to which families were from the plantation areas / Hill Country

Total and Year					
Base: All respondents	5 yr total (326)	2018 (140)	2019 (108)	2020 (35)	2021-22 (43)
Yes	3%	3%	5%	6%	-
No	97%	97%	95%	94%	100%

District						
Base: All respondents	Jaffna (82)	Vavuniya (57)	Kilinochchi (27)	Mullaitivu (22)	Mannar (70)	Trincomalee (68)
Yes	-	4%	7%	9%	3%	4%
No	100%	96%	93%	91%	97%	96%

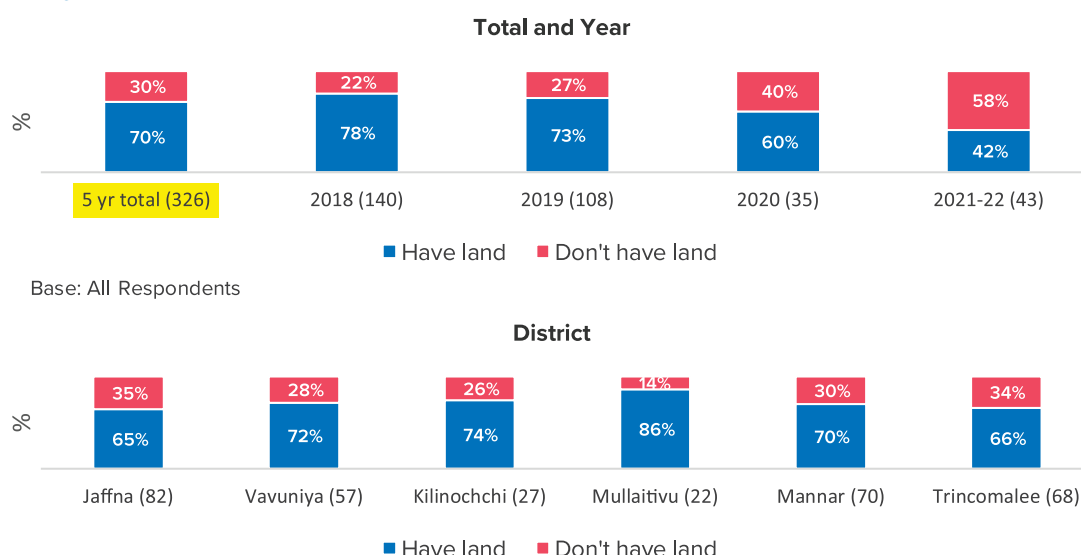
D LAND AND SHELTER

Intent of queries: To identify the shelter needs (repair or construction of a new shelter) of the refugee returnees, the extent of landlessness, the property document procurement and replacement needs, and what mechanisms are used or trusted by the returnees to resolve disputes.

LAND OWNERSHIP AND ACCESS TO LAND

Overall, 70% of the respondents in the five-year total sample said their household had land (Chart D1). However, among the 2020 and 2021-22 returnees, only 60% and 42% respectively said they have land. The percentage owning land was also less in the Jaffna (65%) and Trincomalee (66%) districts.

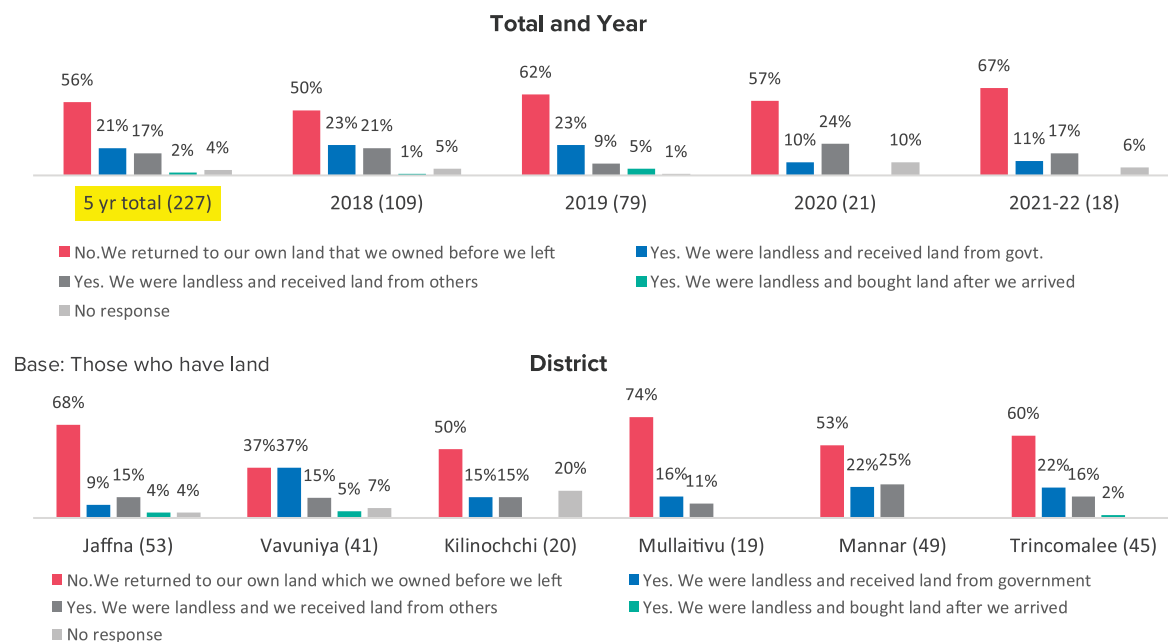
CHART D1:
How many households have land



In the 2021/22 survey among the 2019 and 2020 returnees, 73% and 63% respectively said they had land, similar to the 73% and 60% of these same returnee batches who said so in this 2023 survey. However, among the 2018 returnees, while 78% had land as mentioned in this survey, only 69% said they had land when interviewed in 2019. This indicates that over a period of five years, more of these returnees have been able to obtain land.

Among the returnees who had land, a little over half were not landless when they returned and went back to their own land (56%), and the others who were landless when they returned, said they got land from the government (21%) and others (17%) as shown below (Chart D2).

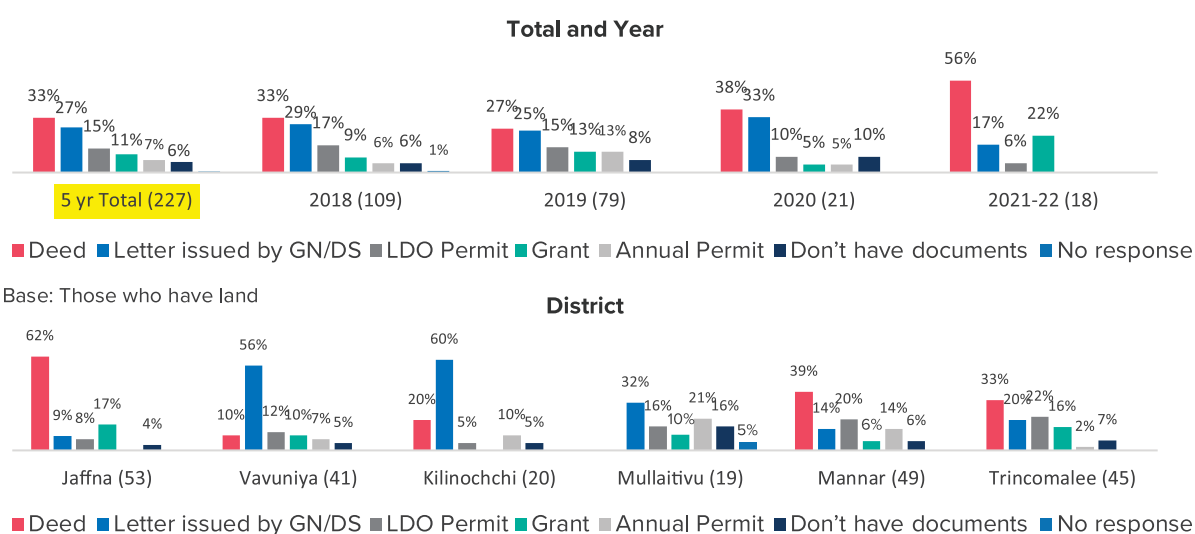
CHART D2:
Source of land ownership



Overall, many who had land (33%) had the title deeds to the land (Chart D3). The others had documents issued by the GN or DS (27%) and LDO permits (15%). 11% said that they had a land grant document. About a tenth did not have land ownership documents or did not respond.

However, when comparing the responses by district, it was only in the Jaffna district that many had a title deed to their land (62%), and in the other districts the proportion having this ownership document was substantially lower.

CHART D3:
Documents in possession regarding land owned



Among the few who did not have any documents to prove land ownership (a total of 14 respondents), six had applied for the ownership documents from the authorities and were awaiting a response, while the other eight respondents did not provide a reason for not having such documents.

All but five respondents who had land said that they had access to their land (98% overall).

- Among those who said they did not have access to their land, two respondents said that the land was in a high security zone (HSZ) or under military or police occupation, two others said there was another resident in their land with whom they were having a dispute, and the fifth respondent did not give a reason for being unable to access the land.

Almost all (99%) of those who had land said that they did not have any disputes regarding the land. The few respondents who were having disputes were seeking the help of the courts or were in discussions with the GN / DS officials.

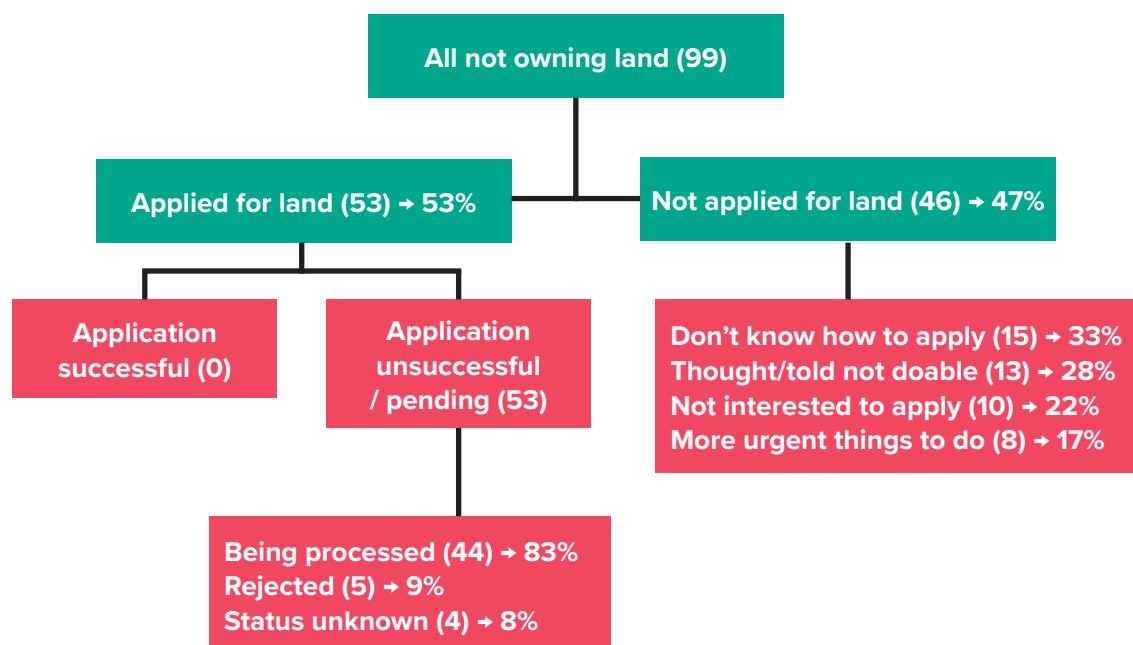
Of the 30% of respondents who did not have their own land and were asked whether they had applied for land from the authorities, only half (53%) said that they had applied for land while the remaining 47% said that they have not done so.

Almost all the 53% who had applied for land (98%) had applied to a GN, DS or Provincial Council official. One respondent each had applied to a representative of a politician and a religious leader.

As shown in the Chart D4 below, almost all the applicants for land (53) have **not yet been successful** in their application. The main reason was that the applications were being processed. The main reason for not applying for land was that the respondents did not know how to go about the application process.

In the previous 2022 survey too, about a third did not have their own land, and the reasons for not being successful in applications for land were similar.

CHART D4:
Status of non landowners' applications for land

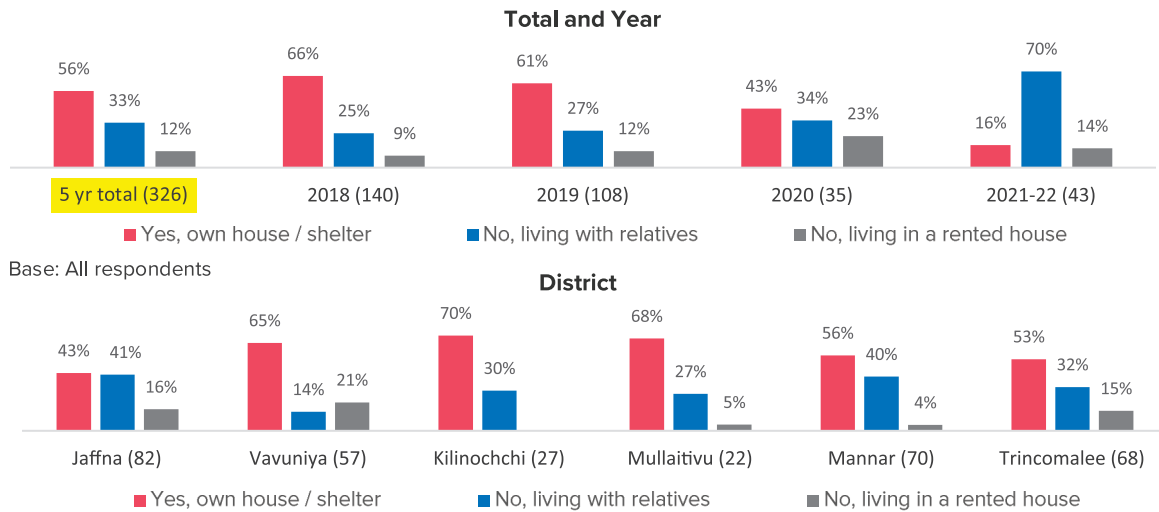


SHELTER / HOUSING

As shown in the chart D5, only a little over half (56%) said that they were residing in their own house or shelter and the rest were staying with relatives (33%) or in a rented house (12%). However, among the 2021-22 returnees and those in the Jaffna district, the proportions residing in their own house were distinctly lower. Among the 2021-22 returnees as many as 70% were staying with relatives.

Since the proportion owning their own land (70%) was higher than the proportion staying in their own home (56%, as shown in chart D1), several returnees were not residing in their own land.

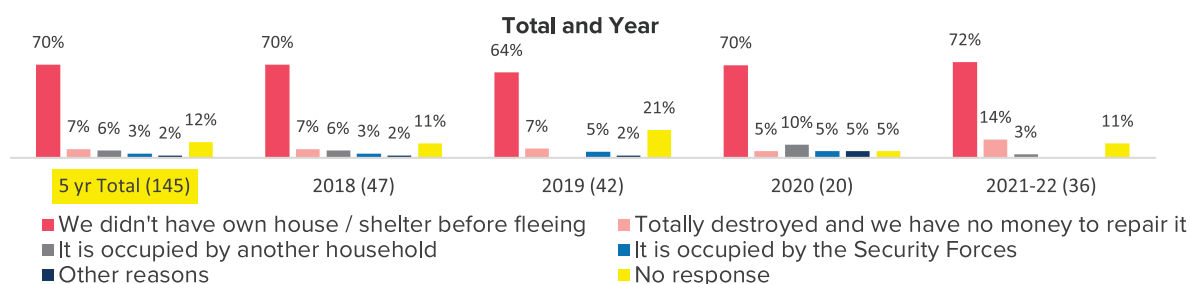
CHART D5:
Whether currently residing in own house or shelter



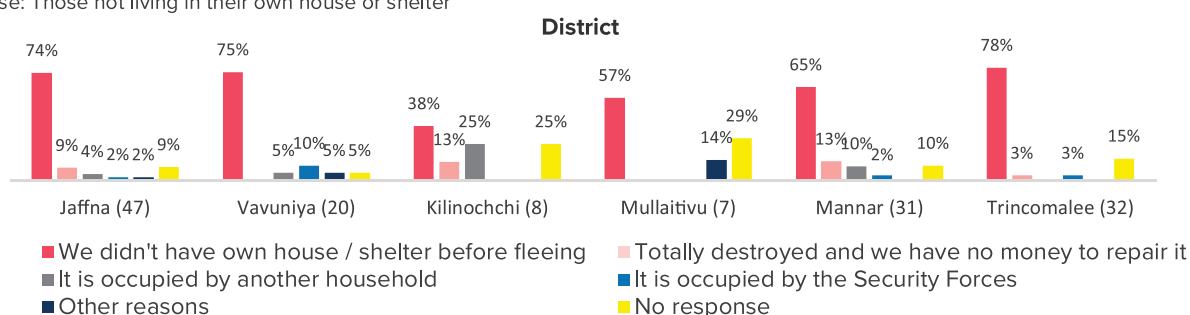
Among those not living in their own house / shelter, the main reason for not doing so (Chart D6), stated by about two thirds (70%), was that they did not have their own house / shelter before they fled. This proportion was somewhat similar to the findings from the survey conducted in 2021/22 among 2019 and 2020 refugees, wherein about two thirds of those who were not living in their own / house / shelter (72% and 69% of 2019 and 2020 returnees respectively) also said that they did not have their own house / shelter before they fled.

CHART D6:

Main reasons for not residing in own house or shelter



Base: Those not living in their own house or shelter

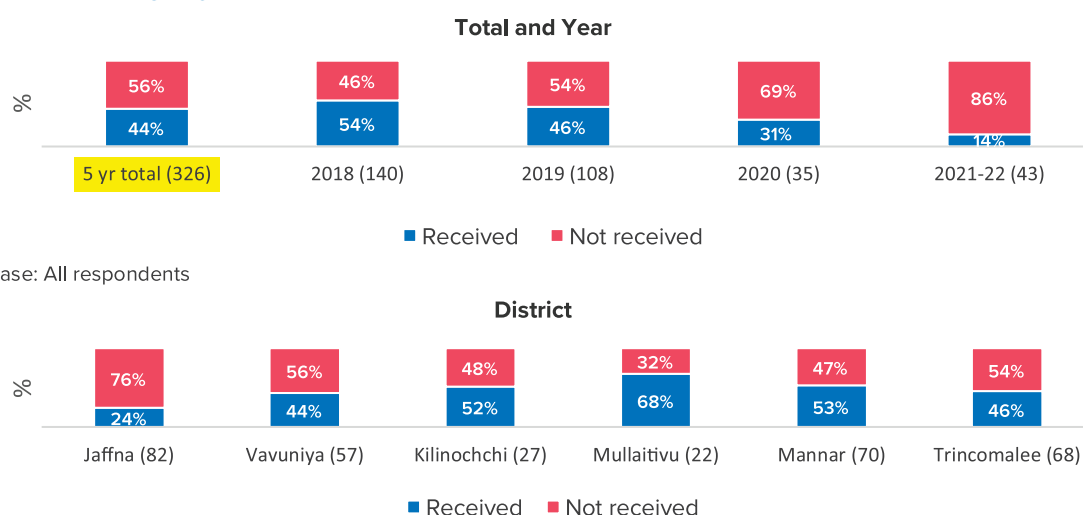


SHELTER ASSISTANCE

Overall, 44% of the returnee households in the last five years received shelter assistance (Chart D7). However, the percentage receiving shelter assistance was substantially less among the 2021-22 returnees (14%) and those in the Jaffna district (24%).

CHART D7:

Extent of receiving any shelter assistance



The DS office (70%) and OFERR (18%) were the main providers of shelter assistance (Table D1).

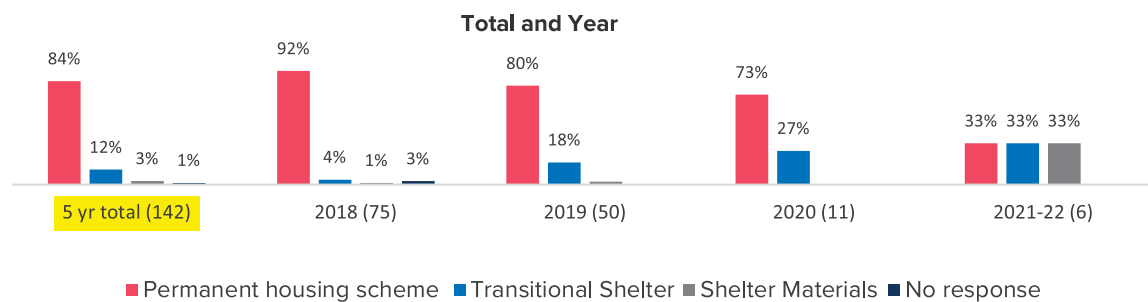
TABLE D1:
Who provided shelter assistance

Total and Year					
Base: Those who received shelter assistance	5 yr total (142)	2018 (75)	2019 (50)	2020 (11)	2021-22 (6)
Government	75%	85%	70%	55%	33%
DS office	70%	77%	68%	55%	33%
DS Office Indian housing scheme	2%	3%	2%	-	-
Rehabilitation Ministry	1%	1%	-	-	-
NHDA / Government housing	2%	4%	-	-	-
Local NGO	23%	13%	28%	45%	67%
OFERR / OFERR Ceylon	18%	9%	22%	36%	67%
ADRA	1%	-	-	9%	-
Valvodayam- Mannar	4%	3%	6%	-	-
Zee Tamil	1%	1%	-	-	-
Not stated	1%	1%	2%	-	-

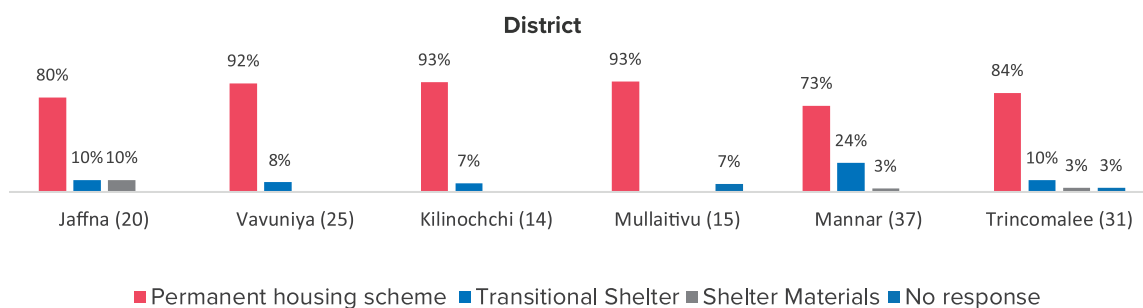
District						
Base: Those who received shelter assistance	Jaffna (20)	Vavuniya (25)	Kilinochchi (14)	Mullaitivu (15)	Mannar (37)	Trincomalee (31)
Government	75%	88%	71%	80%	59%	84%
DS office	60%	72%	71%	80%	59%	84%
DS Office Indian housing scheme	5%	8%	-	-	-	-
Rehabilitation Ministry	-	4%	-	-	-	-
NHDA / Government housing	10%	4%	-	-	-	-
Local NGO	25%	12%	29%	13%	38%	16%
OFERR / OFERR Ceylon	25%	8%	21%	13%	27%	13%
ADRA	-	4%	-	-	-	-
Valvodayam- Mannar	-	-	-	-	11%	3%
Zee Tamil	-	-	7%	-	-	-
Not stated	-	-	-	7%	3%	-

Among those who had received shelter assistance, the proportion receiving permanent housing has decreased annually, replaced by transitional shelters and shelter materials (Chart D8). Kindly note that due to the small bases for the 2020 and 2021-22 returnees (bases being 11 and 5 respectively) the responses for these two periods should be considered as indicative.

CHART D8:
Type of shelter assistance provided



Base: Those who received shelter assistance



E

SECURITY AND JUSTICE

Intent of queries: To identify the refugee returnees' personal perceptions of the post-return security and the military presence in the areas of return, to ascertain how the returnees reintegrate within their neighbourhoods and home communities, to identify the impact of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXOs) on the reintegration, and to know where the returnees go if they encounter security concerns.

Given the sensitivity of these questions, a mix of yes / no, multiple response and open questions were asked to promote accurate responses, but without prompting / leading an answer.

IMPACT OF LANDMINES

When asked how the presence of landmines in their area where they live impacted them, all the respondents said there were no landmines in their area.

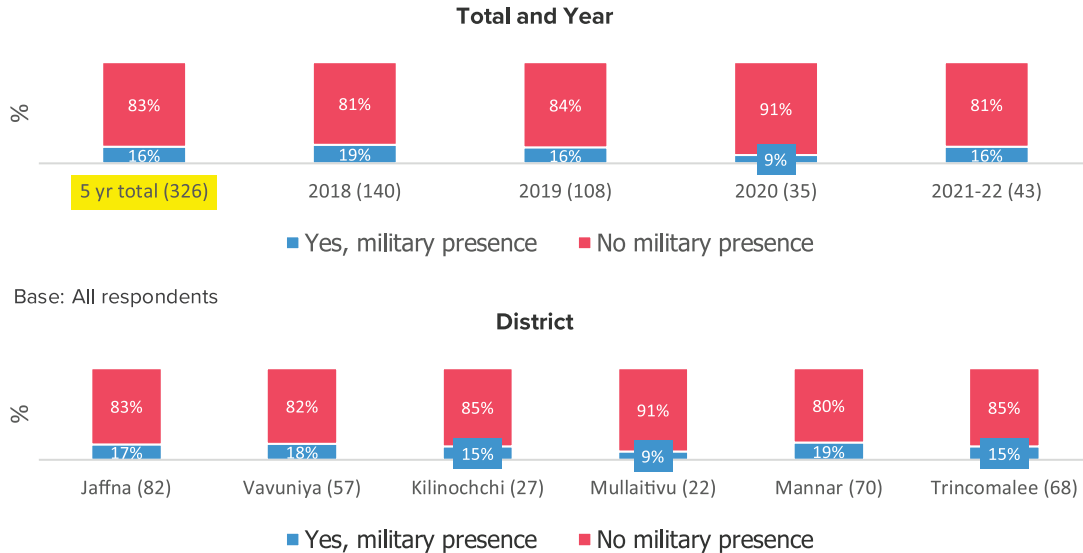
When asked if they had received Mine Risk Education (MRE) just eight respondents answered affirmatively, of whom four respondents said their children were given MRE at school.

- No landmines where they live: 100%
- Received MRE: 2% (8 respondents)
 - Children received MRE at school (4 respondents)
 - From GN / Community Liaison in the village (1 respondent)
 - From de-mining agencies/MRE activities by NGO visiting village (1 respondent)
 - Source of MRE not stated (2 respondents)

RELATIONS WITH THE MILITARY

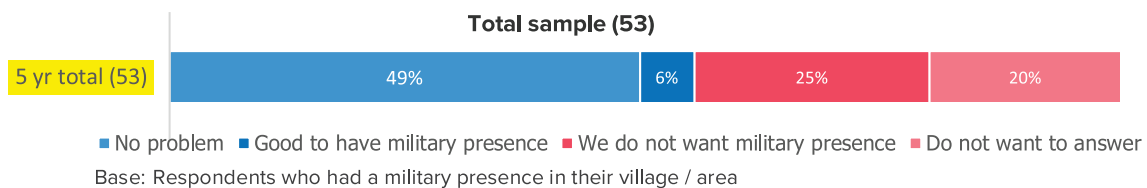
16% had a military presence in their village / area (Chart E1), more or less the same as the 17% and 13% of respondents saying 'yes' in the 2022 research among 2019 and 2020 returnees respectively.

CHART E1:
Whether there is military presence in the local area or nearby



Among the returnees who said that there was a military presence in their village / area, a quarter (25%) strongly asserted that they do not want a military presence in their area, while just 6% asserted that it was good to have a military presence (Chart E2). However, a further 20% did not respond / want to respond while 49% said that they have no problem with the military being present.

CHART E2:
Opinion about military presence in the village / local area



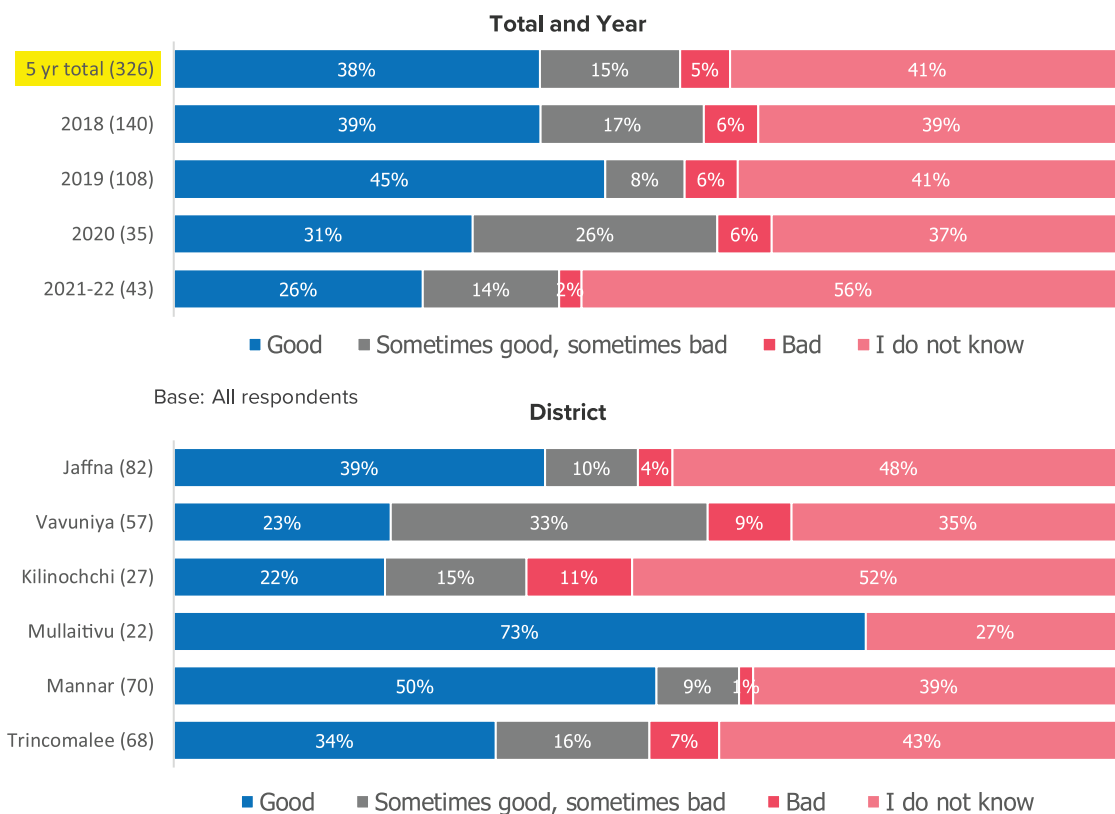
In the 2022 survey among 2019 and 2022 returnees, the number of responses were low: just 20 among 2019 and 12 among 2020 and thus the following findings from that survey should be looked at as indicative.

- As many as 45% of the 2019 returnees were against the military being present in the village / area and a further 15% did not or did not want to respond
- Among the 2020 returnees these percentages were 17% against the military presence and 25% did not or did not want to respond.

All the respondents were asked for their opinion about the relationship between the community and the military (Chart E3). In the five-year total sample, the opinion was divided with 38% saying it was good but with the rest (62%) not giving a positive response or not responding.

The percentage saying 'good' was lowest in the Vavuniya and Kilinochchi districts.

CHART E3:
Opinion on relationship between the military and the community

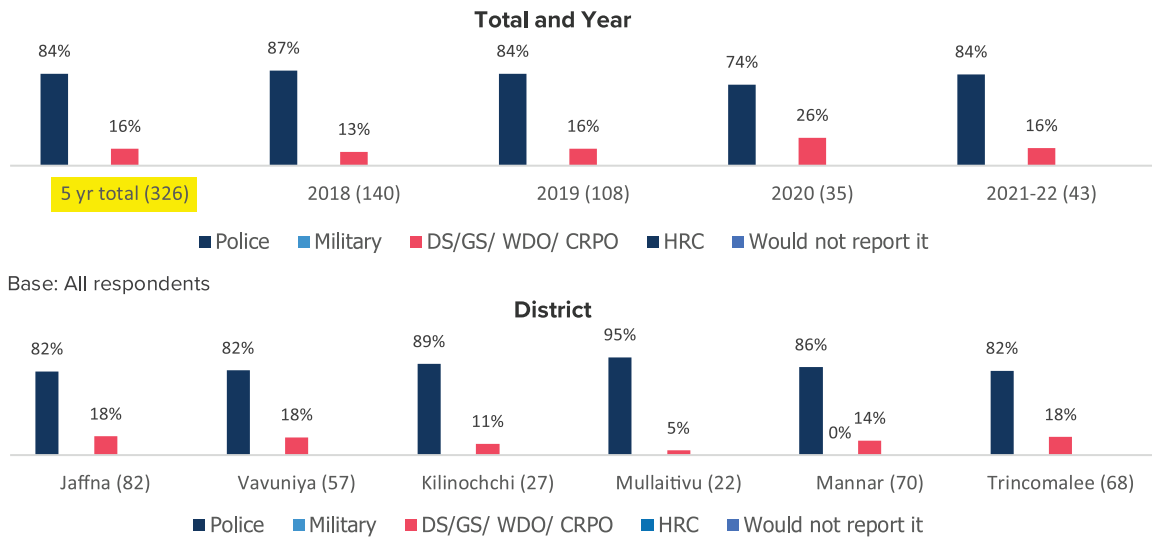


PHYSICAL SECURITY

When asked whether they would report a serious crime against their family and to whom would they report it, over 80% said that it would be reported to the police. The rest said institutions like the DS / GS / WDO or CRPO (Chart E4). No one said that they would not report such a crime.

CHART E4:

If a serious crime committed against own family, to whom would it be first reported

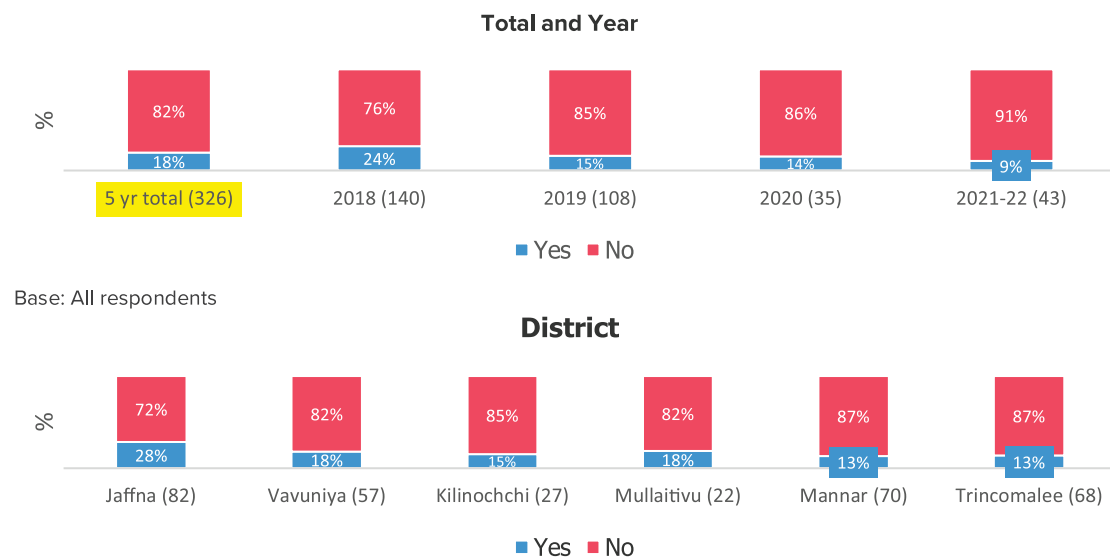


ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Overall, 18% had sought out the services of the police in the last one year (Chart E5). The proportions who said so were highest among the 2018 returnees (24%) and in the Jaffna district (28%).

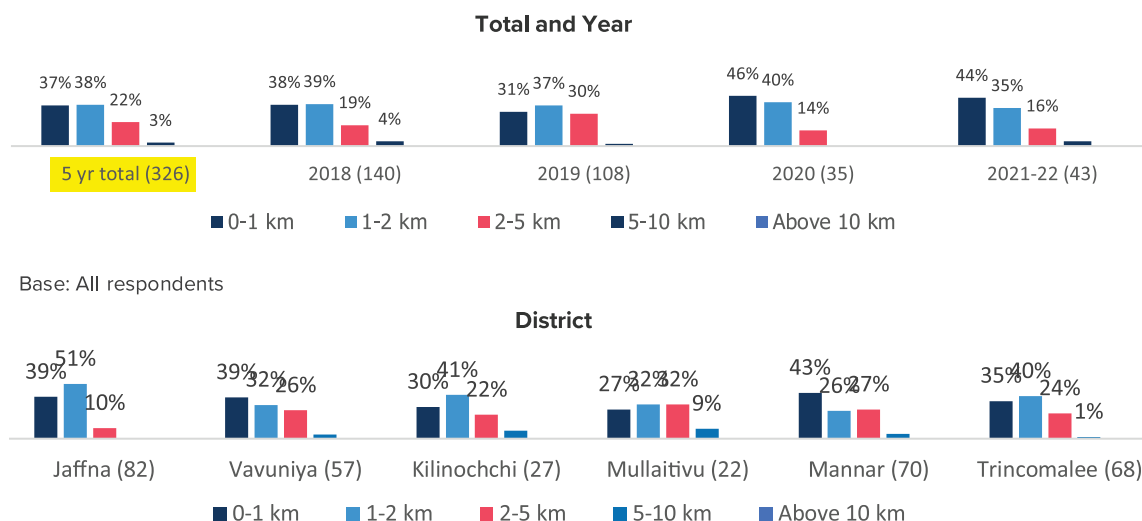
CHART E5:

Extent of seeking police services in the past one year



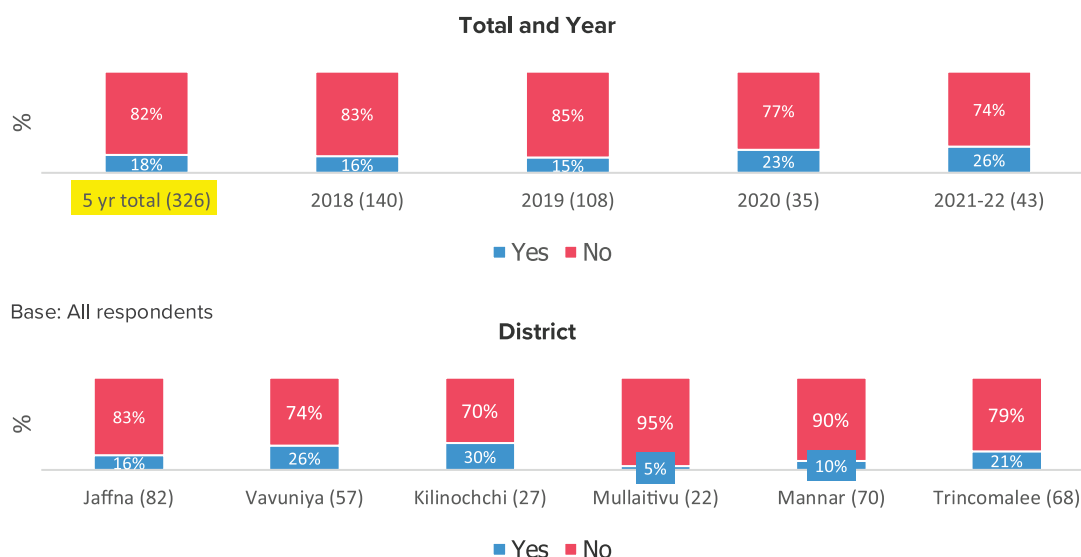
Overall, about three fourths of the households were located within two km from the nearest police station (Chart E6). Only 3% were more than 10 km away from a police station.

CHART E6:
Distance from the house to the nearest police station



All the respondents were asked if they have or would seek assistance from any court of law for any disputed matters. Overall, only 18% (58 respondents) said that they had or would do so (Chart E7).

CHART E7:
Was or would assistance be sought from the courts in case of disputes

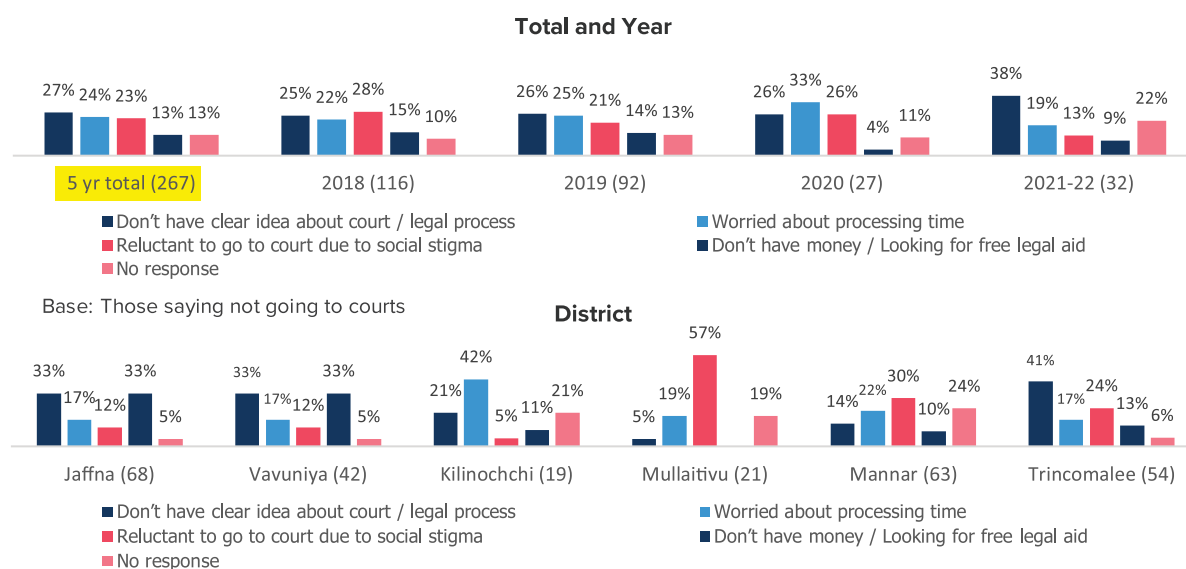


Those who sought or would seek assistance of the courts were asked to give examples of the types of disputes that made / would make them go to the courts. Eight respondents mentioned the following disputes that made them do so:

- Kidnapping of a child
- Civil / family case
- Conflicts with friends

As shown in chart E8 the main reasons for being reluctant to go to the courts were not having a clear idea of the legal process (27% overall), concern about the time taken (24%) and the social stigma (23%). In Mullaitivu and Mannar the highest mention was the social stigma (57% and 30% respectively).

CHART E8:
Reasons for not seeking assistance from the courts in case of disputes



PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS WITHOUT BEING DISCRIMINATED

In the five-year sample, as shown in the table E1, 72% of the adult family members were registered to vote, but this proportion varied markedly by the year of return. The percentage of adults registered to vote among the 2018 returnees was as high as 82% but among the more recent 2020 and 2021-22 returnees, the percentages registered to vote were very much lower (57% and just 33% respectively).

Among the 2019 and 2020 returnees, the percentages registered to vote in the previous research conducted in 2021/22 (70% and 60% respectively), were comparable to the responses in this 2023 survey (70% and 57% respectively).

However, among the 2018 returnees, while only 57% said that they were registered to vote in the survey conducted in 2019, in this follow up 2023 survey the voter registrations had increased to 82%. Voter registrations among the 2018 returnees have therefore increased considerably three to four years later.

In view of the lower voter registrations among the 2020 and 2021-22 returnees as mentioned above (57% and 33% respectively), it is probable that it may take about three to four years after returning to Sri Lanka for the voter registration percentages to increase substantially.

The percentage of females registered to vote was lower than of males among the 2019, 2020 and 2021-22 returnees. In Vavuniya district too, the registrations were markedly lower.

TABLE E1:
Percentage of adults registered to vote

Total and Year						
Base: All adults	5 yr total	2018	2019	2020	2021-22	
% of all adults registered to vote	72	82	77	57	33	
% of all adults not registered to vote	28	18	23	43	67	
Base: Total no. of all adults	570	255	185	63	67	
% of male adults registered to vote	74	80	84	63	35	
% of male adults not registered to vote	26	20	16	37	65	
Base: Total no. of male adults	267	117	86	30	34	
% of female adults registered to vote	71	84	72	52	30	
% of female adults not registered to vote	29	16	28	48	70	
Base: Total no. of female adults	303	138	99	33	33	

District						
Base: All adults	Jaffna	Vavuniya	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu	Mannar	Trincomalee
% of all adults registered to vote	80	59	70	82	67	76
% of all adults not registered to vote	20	41	30	18	33	24
Base: Total no. of all adults	149	93	50	33	123	122
% of male adults registered to vote	83	65	72	71	67	79
% of male adults not registered to vote	17	35	28	29	33	21
Base: Total no. of male adults	63	49	25	14	54	62
% of female adults registered to vote	78	52	68	89	67	73
% of female adults not registered to vote	22	48	32	11	33	27
Base: Total no. of female adults	86	44	25	19	69	60

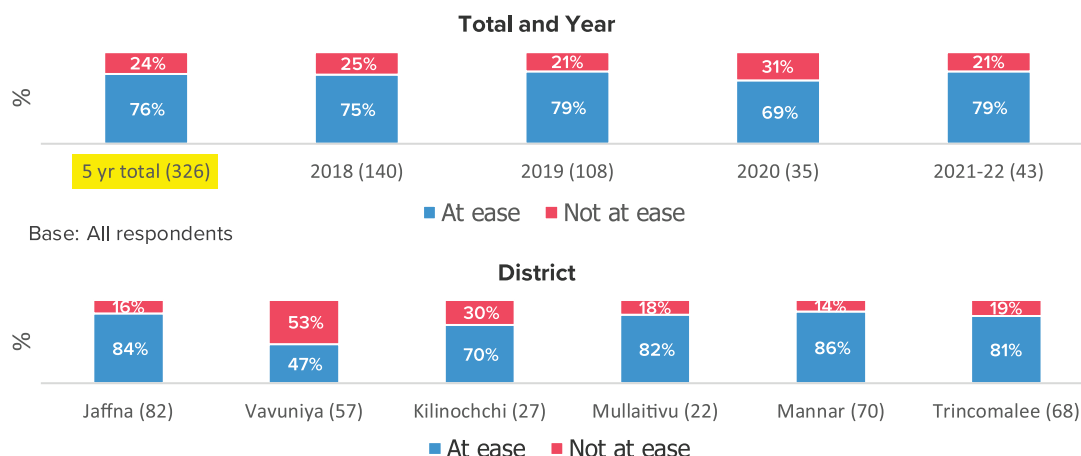
The main reason for not being registered was that the applications for registration were pending approval from the authorities (Table E2). This was the case in previous research as well.

TABLE E2:
Main reasons for adults not registering to vote

Total and Year					
Base: Respondents whose adult family members not registered to vote	5 yr total (101)	2018 (29)	2019 (26)	2020 (14)	2021-22 (32)
Applied but awaiting approval	75%	90%	77%	86%	56%
Not aware of the process of applying	9%	-	4%	-	25%
Application rejected	4%	-	8%	7%	3%
No documents / NIC	7%	6%	8%	0%	9%

Overall, 76% were at ease to discuss own political views in public, (chart E9), but this proportion was much lower in Vavuniya (47%).

CHART E9:
Opinion about discussing own political views in public



RESTRICTIONS IN MOVEMENT

The respondents were asked if their movement in and out of their village was restricted or registered by anyone. All respondents (100%) said that their movements were not restricted. Even in the previous research conducted in 2021/22 among the 2019 and 2020 returnees, almost all respondents (99%) said that no one restricted their movements.

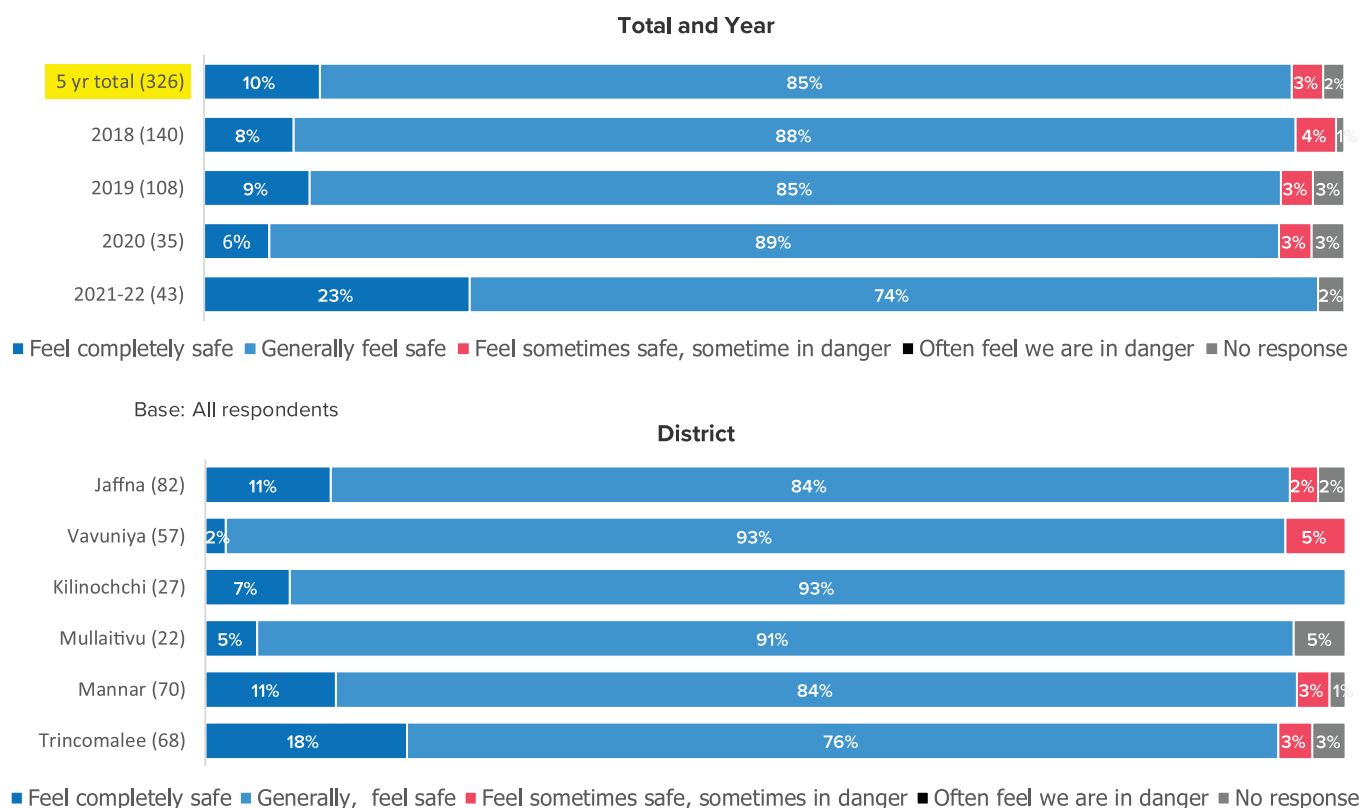
ISSUES AND PERCEPTIONS

All the respondents were asked whether after returning to Sri Lanka, if any member of their families faced any of these security concerns: killed, went missing / disappeared, harassed / repeatedly interrogated by the security forces or the police, arrested or sexually harassed or abused.

Almost all the respondents except one said that they did not experience any of these security concerns. However, one respondent in the Vavuniya district, who returned in 2019 said that their child went missing.

When asked to say how safe they felt where they live, almost all the respondents (95%) said that they feel completely or generally safe (Chart E10). In the survey conducted in 2021/2022 among 2019 and 2020 returnees too the responses were similar.

CHART E10:
Extent of feeling safe today



Those who felt they were sometimes safe and at other times in danger (Nine respondents) were asked why they said so. Most of them said the concern was due to crimes and violence.

- Crimes and Violence (5 respondents)
- Insecure due to presence of armed forces (1 respondent)
- Wild animals (1 respondent)

RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Only 2% of all the returnees (8 respondents) felt they were treated differently by the community on account of being refugee returnees. Most did not give a reason why they felt this way, but two respondents said people in the community try to avoid them. Even in the survey conducted in 2021/22 among 2019 and 2020 returnees, only 1% felt they were treated differently by the community.

In case of a civil (not criminal) dispute in a neighbourhood or community almost all (95%) said they would go to the GN or DS to resolve it. Just 1% said they would go to the police and 3% would try and resolve the dispute via a direct discussion with the other party. Even in the 2021/22 research among 2019 and 2020 returnees, responses were similar with 97% saying they would go to the GN or DS.

F

LIVELIHOODS

Intent of queries: To identify if the returnees are able to restart their livelihoods or establish new ones following their return, to gather the type of livelihood activities achieved or sought, and to ascertain any constraints to establishing livelihoods.

SKILLS, MAIN SOURCES OF INCOME AND SUPPORT, AND EXTENT OF RECEIVING LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE

The respondents were asked what specific (livelihood) skills they and their family members have. In the five-year total sample of 326 respondents, 78% (255 respondents) said that they or another family member had at least one specific skill (Table F1) and 22% (71 respondents) said that no one in their household (family) has any specific skills.

In these 255 households there were 303 family members who had at least one specific skill, at an average of 1.2 persons with skills in each such household. Additionally, there were almost twice as many males than females who had a specific livelihood skill.

The percentage of households with at least one family member having a skill and the male to female ratio of these family members did not vary substantially by year of return and by district.

In the survey conducted in 2021/22, 71% of the 2019 returnee households and 68% of the 2020 returnee households had at least one person with a skill: lower than the 76% and 80% of the households in this 2023 survey, suggesting that in the last few years some returnees have developed a vocational (livelihood) skill after returning to Sri Lanka.

TABLE F1:
Incidence of households with family members having livelihood skills

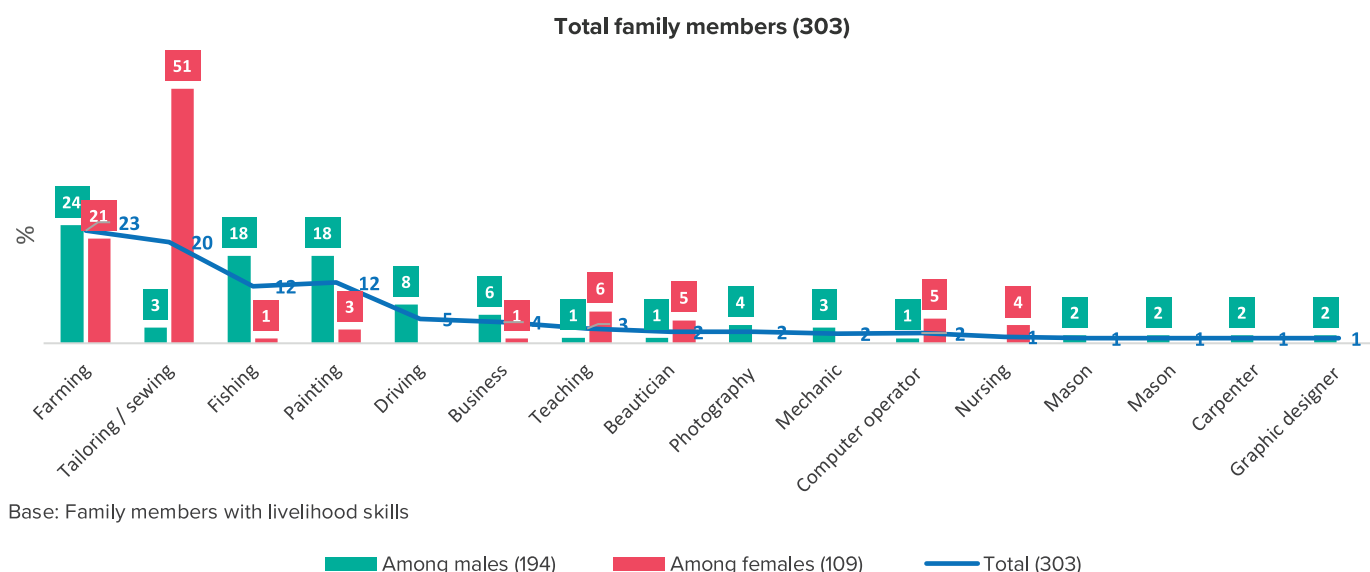
Total and Year					
Base: All households	5 yr total (326)	2018 (140)	2019 (108)	2020 (35)	2021-22 (43)
Households with at least one skill	78%	79%	76%	80%	79%
No. of family members with at least one skill in these households	303	130	98	34	41
Males	64%	65%	63%	65%	61%
Females	36%	35%	37%	35%	39%

District						
Base: All households	Jaffna (82)	Vavuniya (57)	Kilinochchi (27)	Mullaitivu (22)	Mannar (70)	Trincomalee (68)
Households with at least one skill	72%	89%	85%	86%	70%	79%
No. of family members with at least one skill in these households	74	55	28	20	58	68
Males	73%	68%	68%	45%	55%	74%
Females	27%	32%	32%	55%	45%	26%

As shown in the chart F1, the most mentioned skill among the five year total sample was farming (23%) and was the only widely stated livelihood skill mentioned by both males (24%) and females (21%). Other widely mentioned livelihood skills differed by males and females with males mentioning fishing (18%) and painting (18%), whereas half of the females (51%) mentioned sewing.

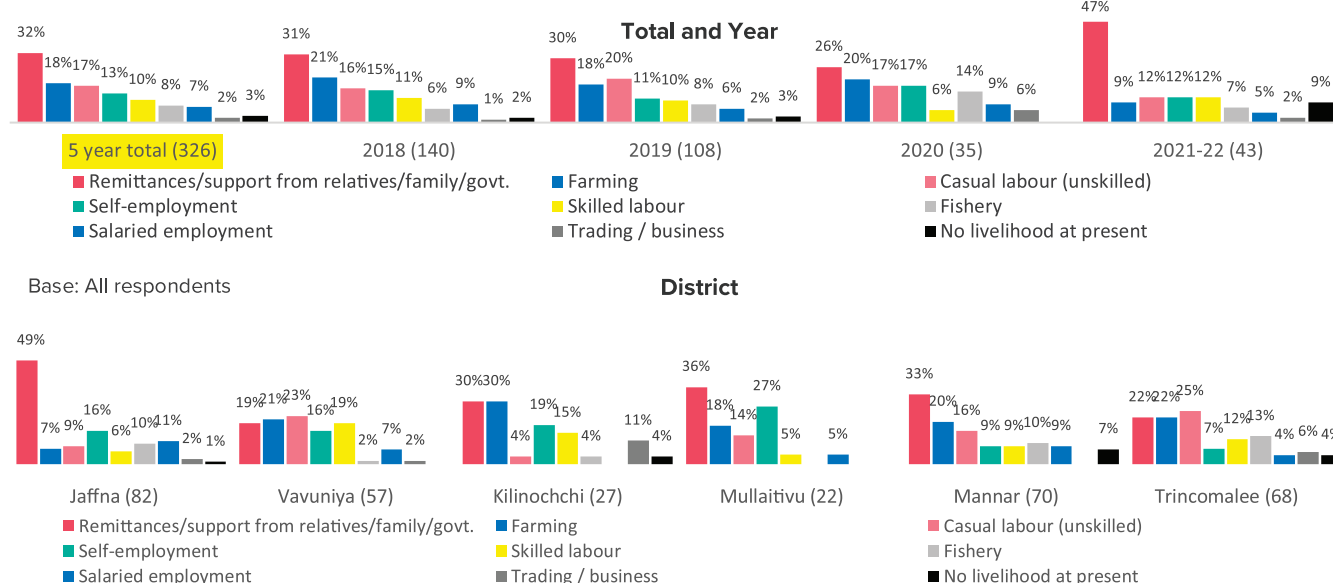
Other male family members' skills mentioned were driving (8%) business (6%) and photography (4%). For females, they were teaching (6%), beauty care (5%), computer operations (5%) and nursing (4%).

CHART F1:
Main livelihood skills among family members



Financial support from the relatives (local or overseas) or the government continued to be the most widely mentioned source of income (Chart F2) and was mentioned by 32% as their main source of income. The share of respondents getting government support (such as Samurdhi) was just 1% i.e., 31% depended on non-government sources of income (remittances / support from family / relatives).

CHART F2:
Main sources of income in household

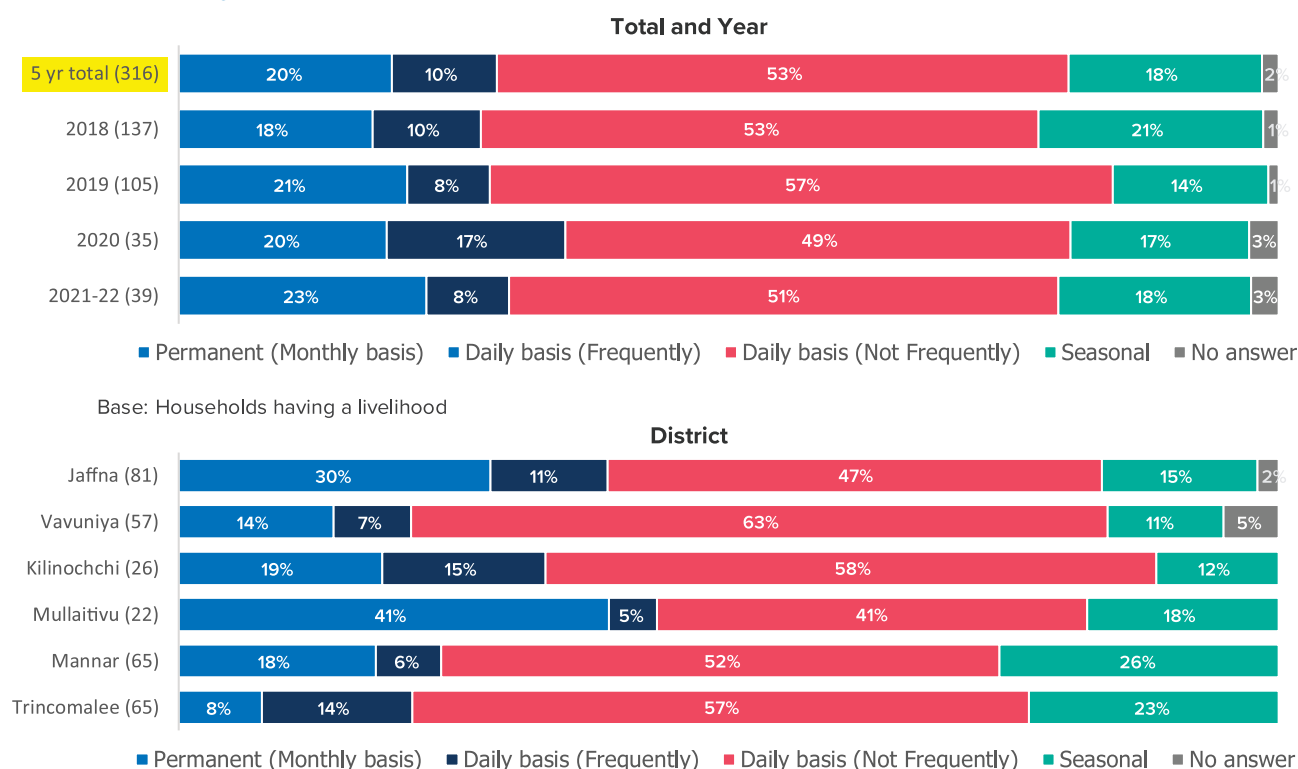


In the survey conducted in 2021/22 among 2019 and 2020 returnees, the percentages that mentioned they depended on support from relatives / family were 20% and 19% respectively, suggesting that after the economic crisis, the extent of such dependence has shot up.

In this 2023 survey, the percentage depending on remittances / support from the relatives and family was substantially higher among the 2021-22 returnees (47%) and those in the Jaffna district (49%).

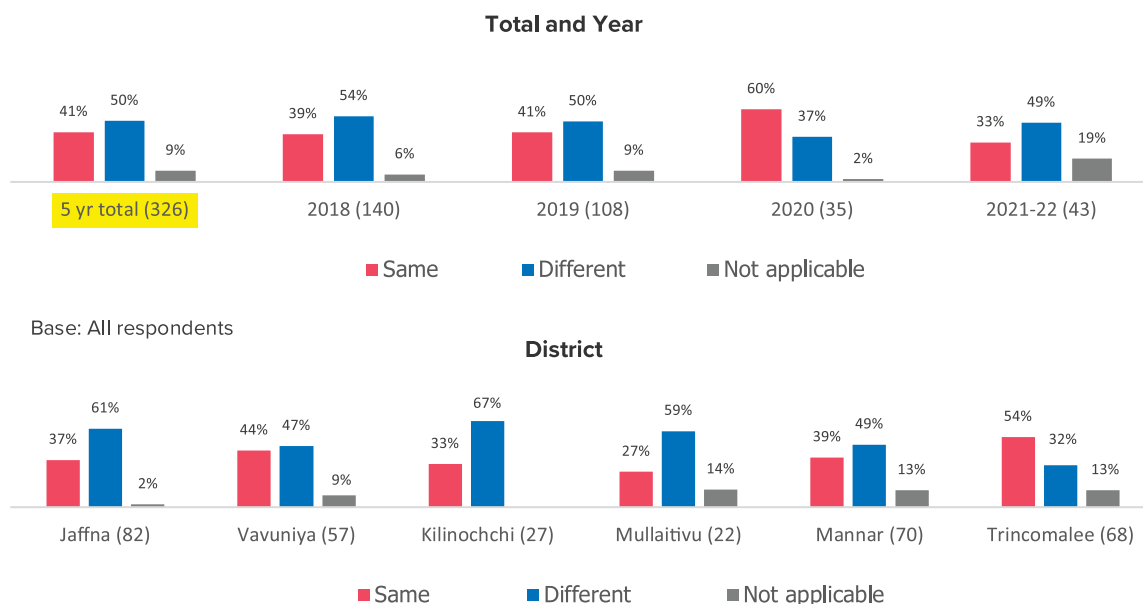
Those respondents whose family members had a livelihood (including those getting financial support from the family, relatives or the government, but excluding those who said they had no livelihood) were asked how consistently they get an income. Even among those having a livelihood, the certainty of a regular income was very low. In the five-year sample, most (53%) said that they are paid only on days where they have work and 18% said that their income was seasonal (Chart F3). This uncertainty of a regular livelihood was higher in the Vavuniya, Mannar and Trincomalee districts.

CHART F3:
Consistency of Livelihood / Source of income



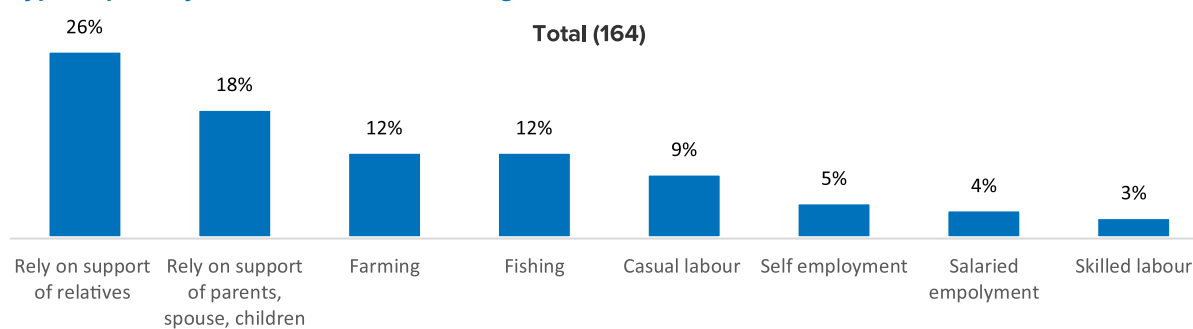
The chart F4 illustrates that about half the returnees (50%) were now having a different livelihood than earlier. In the Trincomalee district, only a third (32%) said that their livelihood was the same.

CHART F4:
Whether family's livelihood changed after returning to Sri Lanka



As shown in the chart F5 from among this 50% who said their livelihoods were different earlier, almost half were previously depending on financial assistance from relatives (28%) and support from the family members (18%).

CHART F5:
Type of primary livelihoods before leaving Sri Lanka



Base: Households whose livelihoods changed after returning to Sri Lanka

All the respondents were asked what their major impediments or problems (if any) were to restore livelihoods. As shown in the table F2, the main impediment mentioned by the most was the lack of tools / means to undertake the activity (material and financial). The response was similar to that obtained in the 2021/22 survey conducted among the 2019 and 2022 returnees.

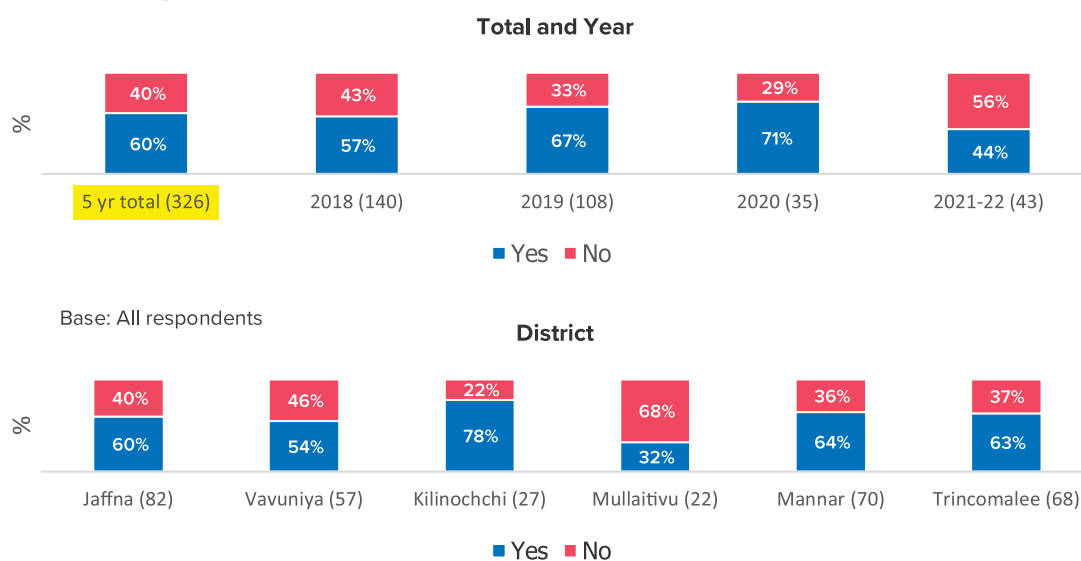
TABLE F2:
Top 3 impediments or problems to restoring livelihood

Total and Year						
Base: All respondents	5 yr total (326)	2018 (140)	2019 (108)	2020 (35)	2021-22 (43)	
Lack of tools / means to undertake activity (material and financial)	76%	76%	78%	60%	81%	
Impossible to find job here of any type	14%	11%	11%	29%	23%	
I have special needs. I cannot do any job	13%	11%	10%	17%	21%	

District						
Base: All respondents	Jaffna (82)	Vavuniya (57)	Kilinochchi (27)	Mullaitivu (22)	Mannar (70)	Trincomalee (68)
lack of tools / means to undertake activity (material and financial)	65%	81%	81%	86%	64%	91%
Impossible to find job here of any type	20%	11%	-	9%	19%	12%
I have special needs. I cannot do any job	23%	-	15%	5%	17%	-
No access / permit to fish	-	-	-	-	-	9%
No access to farming land	-	4%	11%	-	-	-

Among all the respondents 60% received the livelihood allowance (Chart F6). However, among the 2021-22 returnees and among those in the Mullaitivu district the incidence of receiving the livelihood allowance was much less (44% among the 2021-22 returnees and 36% in the Mullaitivu district).

CHART F6:
Extent of receiving livelihood assistance



Livelihood assistance was mainly provided by UN Agencies (stated by 43% among this total five year sample), INGOs (38%) and local NGOs (24%) as shown in the table F3 below. Only 7% mentioned the government.

Predominant mentions were UNHCR, OFFER and to a lesser extent, JSAC. In Mannar district, Valvodayam – Mannar (Local NGO) was the second most mentioned provider of livelihood assistance after UNHCR.

TABLE F3:
Who provided livelihood assistance

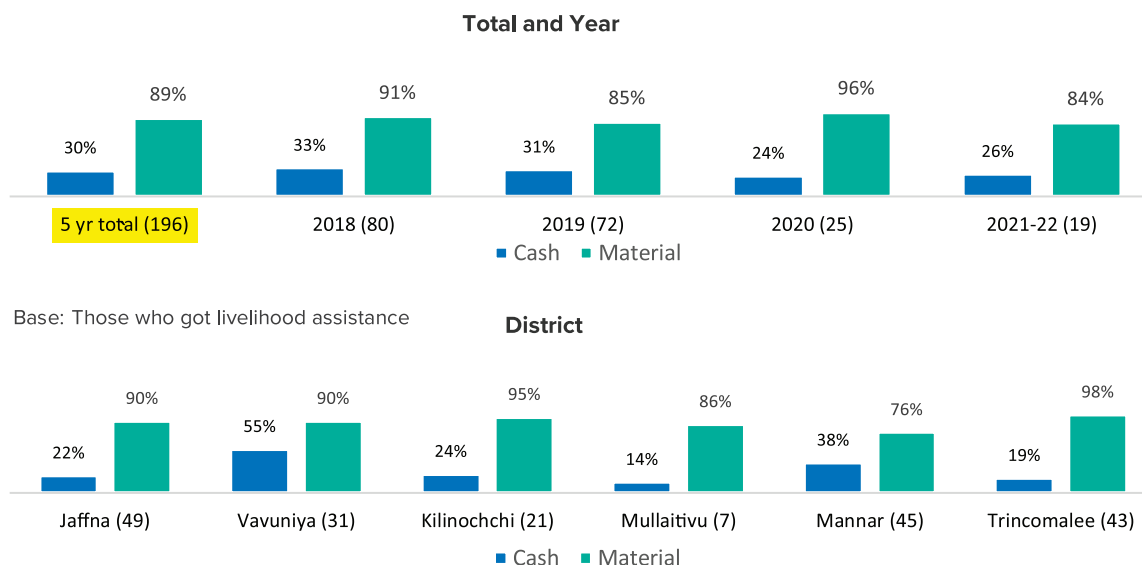
Total and Year					
Base: Those who received livelihood assistance	5 yr total (196)	2018 (80)	2019 (72)	2020 (25)	2021-22 (19)
Government	7%	4%	8%	12%	5%
DS Office	5%	3%	3%	12%	5%
Samurdhi	3%	1%	6%	-	-
Other govt. dept. (Thellippalai)	1%	-	-	4%	-
UN Agency	43%	39%	49%	32%	58%
UNHCR	39%	35%	42%	32%	58%
UNDP	2%	3%	3%	-	-
IOM	2%	1%	4%	-	-
INGOs	38%	44%	40%	40%	5%
OFFER / OFFER Ceylon	35%	39%	38%	36%	5%
ADRA	3%	5%	-	4%	-
ALTRA	1%	-	1%	-	-
ZOA	1%	-	1%	-	-
Local NGOs	24%	30%	15%	20%	42%
JSAC	12%	9%	7%	16%	37%
Valvodayam – Mannar	5%	10%	3%	-	-
Sarvodaya	1%	1%	-	-	-
Centre for Child Development	1%	1%	-	-	-
Others (Names not specified)	5%	9%	5%	4%	5%

	District					
Base: Those who received livelihood assistance	Jaffna (20)	Vavuniya (25)	Kilinochchi (14)	Mullaitivu (15)	Mannar (37)	Trincomalee (31)
Government	8%	3%	-	-	15%	2%
DS Office		3%	-	-	4%	2%
Samurdhi	-	-	-	-	11%	-
Other govt. dept. (Thellippalai)	2%	-	-	-	-	-
UN Agency	47%	39%	33%	71%	56%	30%
UNHCR	37%	39%	33%	57%	56%	26%
UNDP	2%	-	-	14%	-	5%
IOM	8%	-	-	-	-	-
INGOs	22%	52%	52%	43%	18%	58%
OFFER / OFFER Ceylon	22%	39%	48%	43%	16%	58%
ADRA	-	10%	5%	-	2%	-
ALTRA	-	3%	-	-	-	-
ZOA	-	-	-	-	2%	-
Local NGOs	29%	26%	24%	-	24%	23%
JSAC	22%	13%	19%	-	2%	7%
Valvodayam – Mannar	-	-	-	-	22%	2%
Sarvodaya	-	3%	-	-	-	-
Centre for Child Development	2%	-	-	-	-	-
Kaviya	-	-	-	-	-	2%
Others (Names not specified)	5%	10%	5%	-	-	-

Among those in this five-year total sample that received livelihood assistance, 30% received cash and 89% received material (Chart F7), and therefore 19% received both cash and material. No one mentioned that they received assistance in the form of services or training.

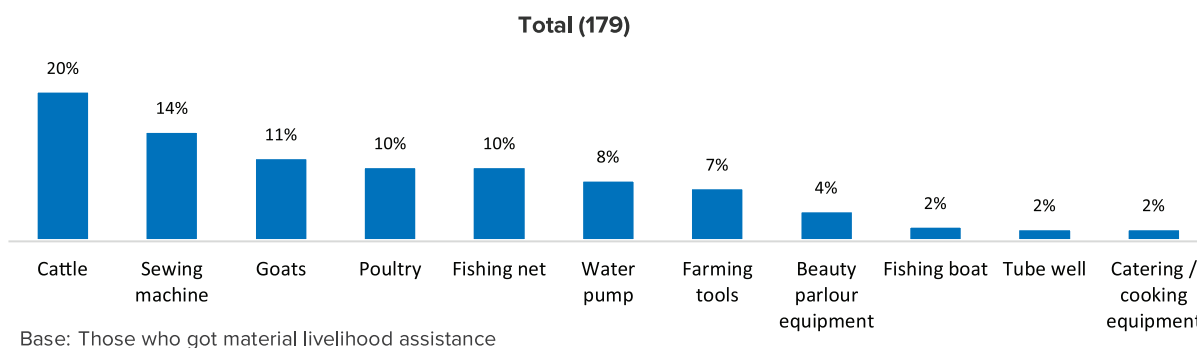
Among those who had received cash, the average (mean) amount received was LKR 82,000 (and the modal amount received was similar, LKR 80,000).

CHART F7:
Type of livelihood assistance received



A total of 179 respondents received materials. The chart F8 shows the material received by 2% or more of the recipients. The most mentioned were cattle, sewing machines, goats, poultry, and fishing nets.

CHART F8:
Type of livelihood assistance material received



In addition to the above, some items mentioned by one or two respondents included the following:

Boat engine	Bicycle repair tools	Cattle shelter	Carpentry tools
Laptop	Electrical wiring equipment	Masonry tools	Spotlight for photography

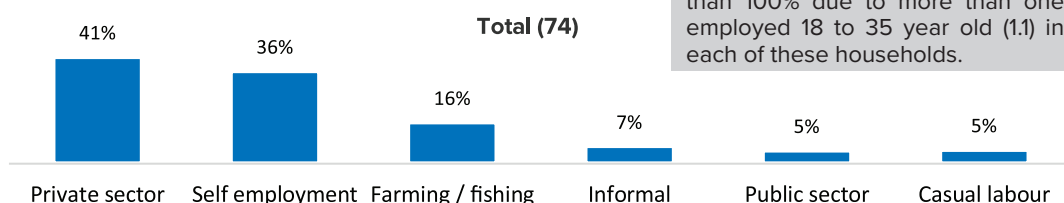
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT / UNEMPLOYMENT

Of the 326 households in the total five-year sample, 148 (45%) had family members aged 18 to 35, and of these 148 households, half (74) had at least one employed adult aged 18 to 35.

For these employed 18 to 35-year-olds, the primary employment areas were the private sector (41%) and self-employment (36%). Those in informal, casual work, and in the public sector were lower.

Among the 41% of 18 to 35 year olds employed in the private sector, about two thirds (60%) were in permanent private sector employment, and the rest were mostly in daily paid private sector jobs or in infrequent private sector jobs.

CHART F9:
Employment sectors of working 18 to 35 year olds



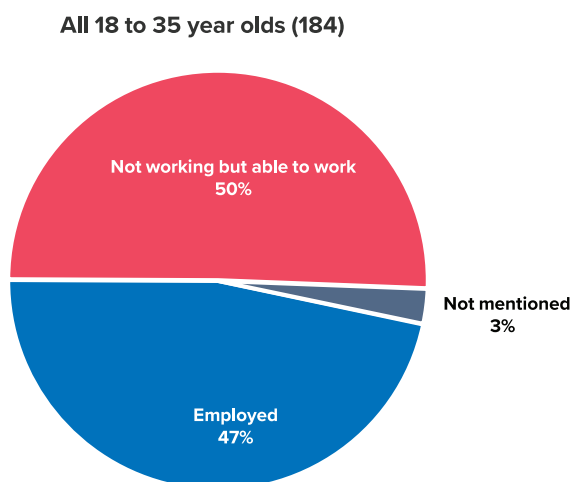
Percentages add up to more than 100% due to more than one employed 18 to 35 year old (1.1) in each of these households.

Base: Households with employed 18-35 year olds

There were 88 households which had at least one family member aged 18 to 35, able to work but without a livelihood. In these 88 households there were 93 family members aged 18 to 35, unemployed but able to work.

Due to some households having 18 to 35-year-olds who were both employed as well as unemployed and looking for work, the two sets of households outlined in the above sections are not exclusive. The chart F10 below, shows the employment status in terms of 18 to 35-year-olds rather than of in the households, which shows that about a half of all 18 to 35s were employed or not working.

CHART F10:
Employment status of all 18 to 35 year olds



Base: All family members aged 18 to 35

In terms of the demographics, three fourths of these unemployed 18 to 35-year-olds were female and half have had 12+ years of schooling, with Advanced Levels or higher qualifications (the charts F11, F12). In the survey conducted in 2021/22 among 2019 and 2020 returnees too, two thirds of these unemployed 18 to 35-year-olds were females.

CHART F11:
Gender and Age of family members aged 18-35 unemployed but willing to work

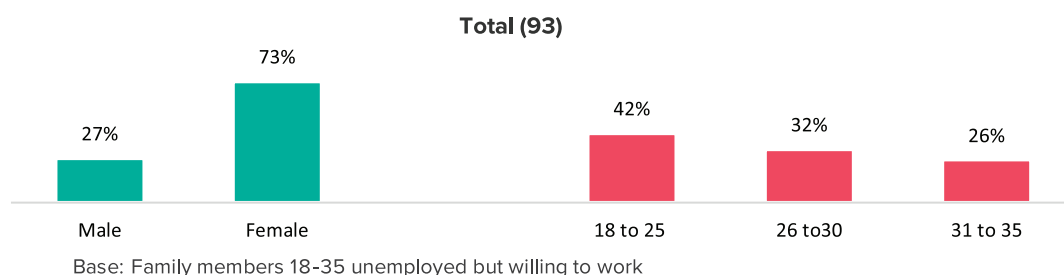
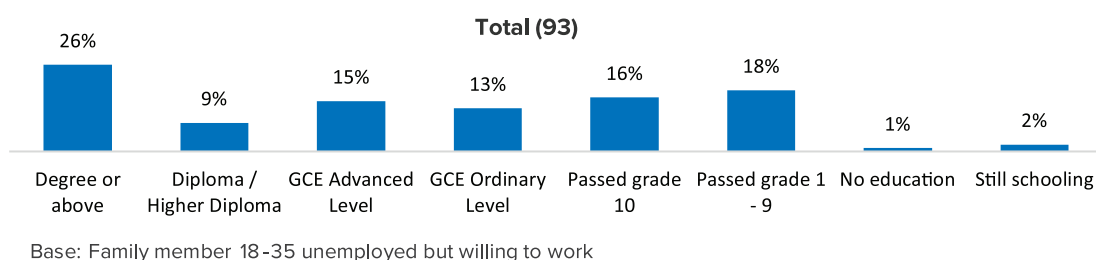


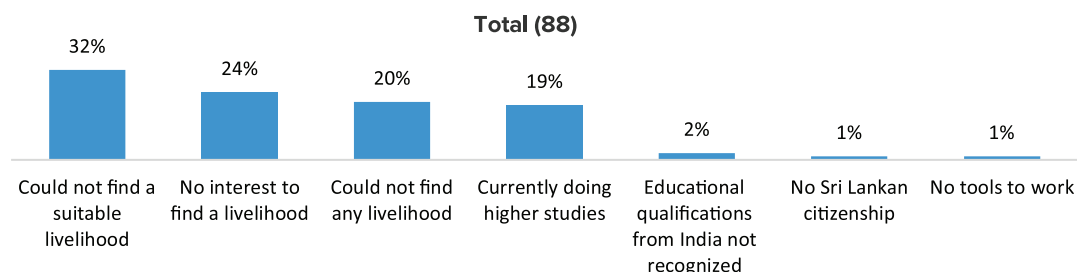
CHART F12:
Education level of family members aged 18-35 unemployed but willing to work



When asked why these 18 to 35-year-olds were unemployed, a quarter (24%) of the respondents said that they were not interested in looking for work, and 19% said that they were following higher studies.

Therefore, excluding the above reasons, the predominant explanations for the 18 to 35s not working were the inability to find a suitable livelihood/not being able to find any livelihood (Chart F13).

CHART F13:
Reasons for not being employed

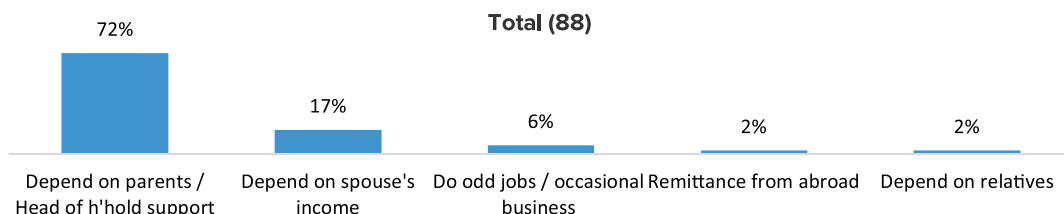


Base: Respondents with 18 -35-year-old unemployed family members who are willing to work

Almost all the respondents mentioned that the unemployed 18 to 35-year-olds depend on their (parents') or their spouses' incomes (Chart F14).

CHART F14:

How do these unemployed 18 to 35 year olds get an income without working



Base: Respondents with 18 -35-year-old unemployed family members who are willing to work

As shown in the table F4 the proportion of 18 to 35s who were not working but able to work was highest among the 2021-22 returnees (at 63% compared to the overall average of 51%).

TABLE F4:

Percentage of 18 to 35s not working but able to work

Total and Year					
Base: All 18 to 35 year olds	5 yr total (184)	2018 (91)	2019 (51)	2020 (18)	2021-22 (24)
% of 18 to 35s who were employed	47%	51%	47%	50%	29%
% of 18 to 35s who are not working but able to work	51%	47%	51%	50%	63%
% of 18 to 35s: other	3%	3%	2%	-	8%

District						
Base: All 18 to 35 year olds	Jaffna (42)	Vavuniya (31)	Kilinochchi (22)	Mullaitivu (11)	Mannar (36)	Trincomalee (42)
% of 18 to 35s who were employed	43%	39%	45%	45%	50%	55%
% of 18 to 35s who are not working but able to work	57%	58%	55%	45%	47%	40%
% of 18 to 35s: other	-	3%	-	9%	3%	5%



RETURNEE SENTIMENTS ON RETURN AND INTEGRATION

Intent of queries: To collect data regarding the overall satisfaction with the return and reintegration, including the intent to remain in the area of return or in Sri Lanka, and to assist in providing recommendations to other refugees, still in countries of asylum.

CONCERNS

The respondents were asked to state the three main current concerns of their family, if they have any. Among the total five-year sample, the main concerns were the following (Chart G1):

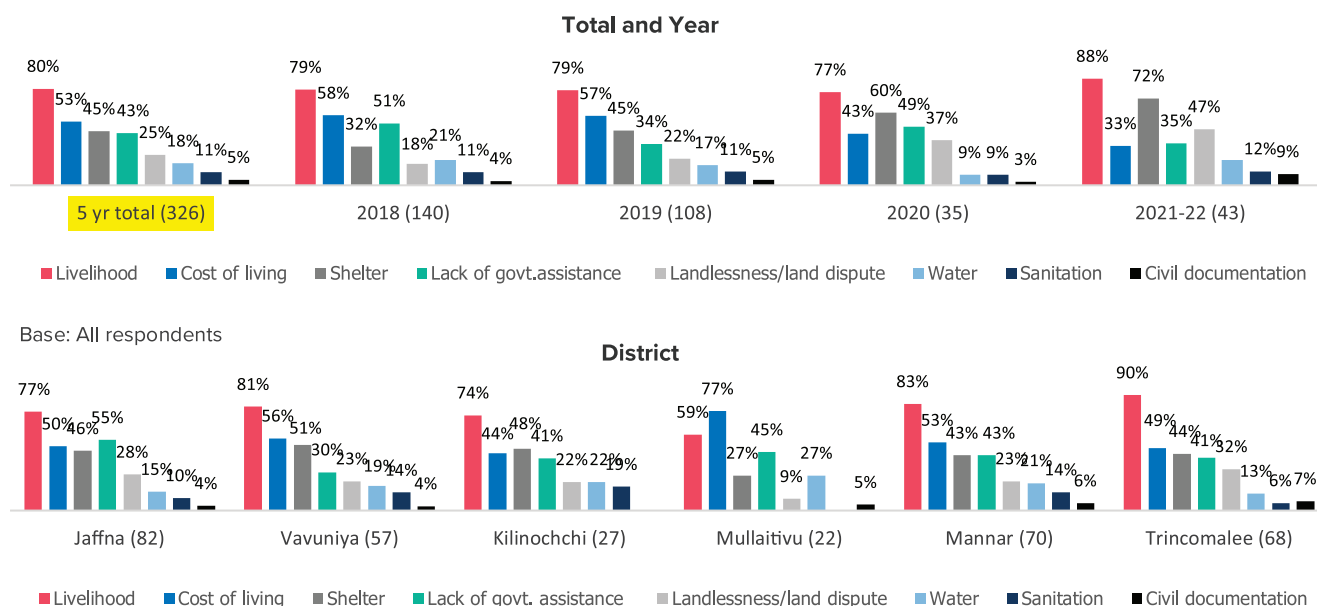
- Livelihood (80%)
- Cost of living (53%)
- Shelter (45%)
- Lack of assistance from the government (43%)

Among the 2020 and 2021-22 returnees the following concern was also stated by many:

- Landlessness / land dispute (stated by 37% and 47% respectively)

The above five concerns were similar to those mentioned in the survey conducted in 2021/22 among 2019 and 2020 returnees in a broadly similar order of magnitude.

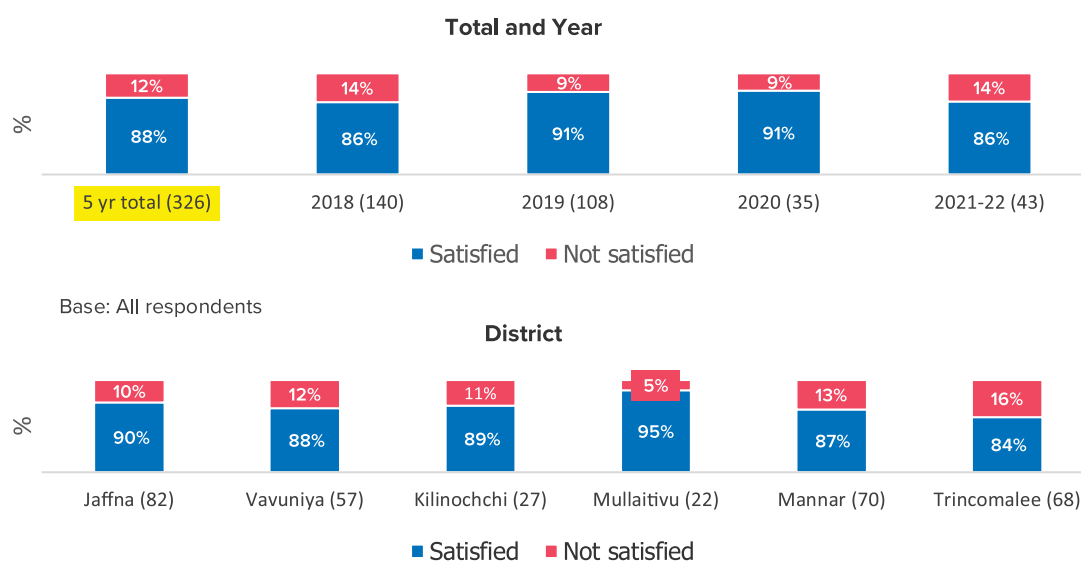
CHART G1:
Family's main current concerns



IF SATISFIED IN RETURNING TO SRI LANKA AND INTENTION TO SETTLE / STAY FOR GOOD

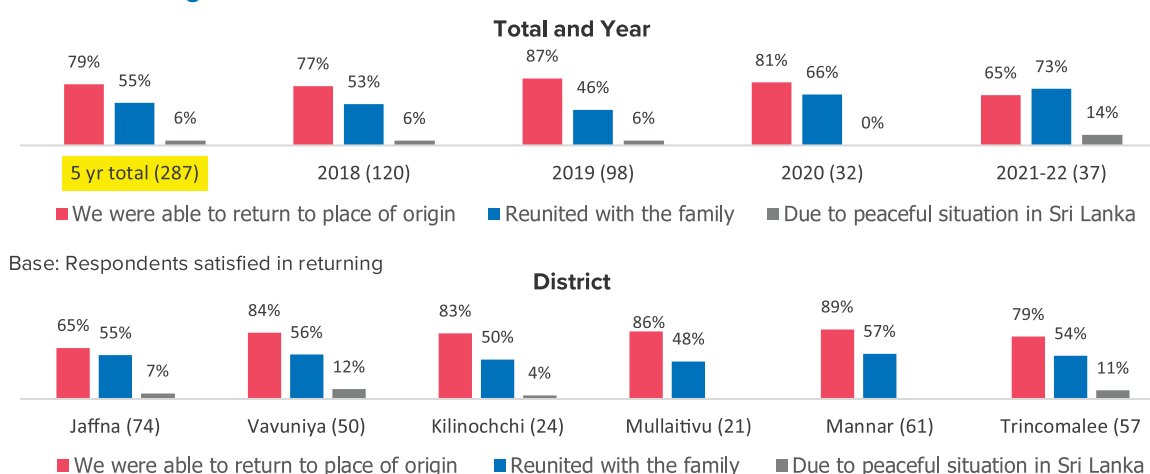
About 90% of the returnees over the last five years (88%) were satisfied with their decision to return to Sri Lanka (Chart G2). This percentage was similar to the level of satisfaction among the 2019 and 2020 returnees in the survey conducted in 2021/22, indicating that the opinions about returning have not shifted a few years after returning.

CHART G2:
Whether satisfied about the decision to return to Sri Lanka



Similar to the findings of the previous 2021/22 research among 2019 and 2020 returnees, the main reasons for being satisfied were returning to their country of birth and being reunited with the family (Chart G3).

CHART G3:
Reasons for being satisfied to return to Sri Lanka



Among the 12% of respondents who said they were not satisfied in returning to Sri Lanka (39 respondents), main reasons were the high cost of living and no livelihood opportunities (Table G1).

One respondent each mentioned that the authorities were not assisting them, their children were facing challenges in integrating and that there were no people to care for them.

TABLE G1:
Reasons for not being satisfied in returning to Sri Lanka

Base: Respondents not satisfied in returning to Sri Lanka	5 yr total (39)
Cost of living in Sri Lanka is high	82%
No livelihood opportunities	79%
Lack of assistance from authorities	41%
Children are facing challenges in social reintegration	3%
No one to care for us	3%
Delay in obtaining citizenship and NIC	3%

When all respondents were asked if their family intends staying in the village / area where they are currently at or whether they want to move, a substantial 94% said that they intend staying in the village / area (Table G2). No one said that their family definitely intended moving elsewhere.

TABLE G2:
Intention to remain in village or move on

Base: All respondents	5 yr total (326)
Stay for good in the current place	94%
Stay for a while and then assess the situation and make a final decision	6%
All family would move elsewhere	-

The 6% (19 respondents) who said that they would stay for a while and then assess the situation before deciding were asked why they may possibly consider moving. The responses were split between those who said there is no work / livelihood opportunities and those saying that they would be unable to get a land or house of their own (Table G3).

TABLE G3:
Reasons for possibly moving away

Base: Respondents saying they would assess the situation before deciding to move or not	5 yr total (19)
There's no work / livelihood opportunities	7 respondents
Unable to get a land or house of their own	6 respondents
No response	7 respondents

Most of these respondents said that if they were to move, they would go to another town or village in the North or East of Sri Lanka. Just one respondent said they may consider going back to India.

All the respondents were asked what information would be useful to know before returning to Sri Lanka. The information regarding how peaceful the country is and livelihood opportunities were mentioned by most (Table G4).

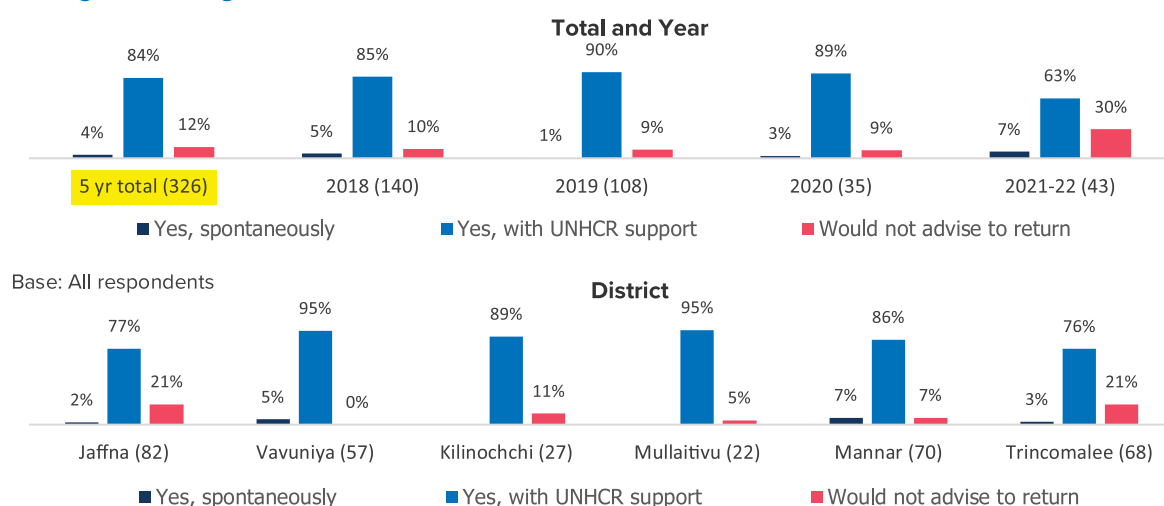
TABLE G4:
Information considered useful to know before returning to Sri Lanka

Base: All respondents	5 yr total (326)
Whether there is a peaceful situation in Sri Lanka	56%
What livelihood opportunities exist	18%
Information about government assistance	9%
Information about housing opportunities	6%
Reassurance that the country's situation was back to normal	6%
Information about land availability	4%
Information about UNHCR assistance	4%

Among the five-year total sample, the vast majority (84%) would advise other refugees to return to Sri Lanka, with UNHCR support, and a further 4% said that they would advise them to return spontaneously (Chart G4). However, as much as 12% said that they would not advise refugees to return to Sri Lanka. Among the 2021-22 returnees as many as 30% would not advise returning to Sri Lanka.

In the survey conducted in 2021/22 among 2019 and 2020 returnees, 0% of 2019 returnees and just 1% of 2020 returnees said they would not advise returning to Sri Lanka, considerably less than the above mentioned percentage of 12% (among the total five year sample) who responded negatively in this survey.

CHART G4:
Advising other refugees to return to Sri Lanka



The main reasons stated for advising to return with UNHCR assistance were to return safely and to receive financial assistance (Table G5).

Reasons for being unlikely to recommend returning were mainly the high cost of living and no / limited livelihood opportunities.

TABLE G5:
Main reasons for each type of potential advice

Reasons for recommending to return with UNHCR support (Base: 274)	5 yr sample
To return safely	96%
To receive financial assistance	96%
Able to bring more goods (baggage)	5%
Reasons for recommending to return spontaneously (Base: 12)	5 yr sample
No reasons provided	-
Reasons for not recommending to return (Base: 40)	5 yr sample
Cost of living in Sri Lanka is high	100%
No livelihood opportunities	95%
Lack of assistance	73%
We do not have / not received land or house	25%



REINTEGRATION PROGRAMMES: UNHCR AND OTHERS

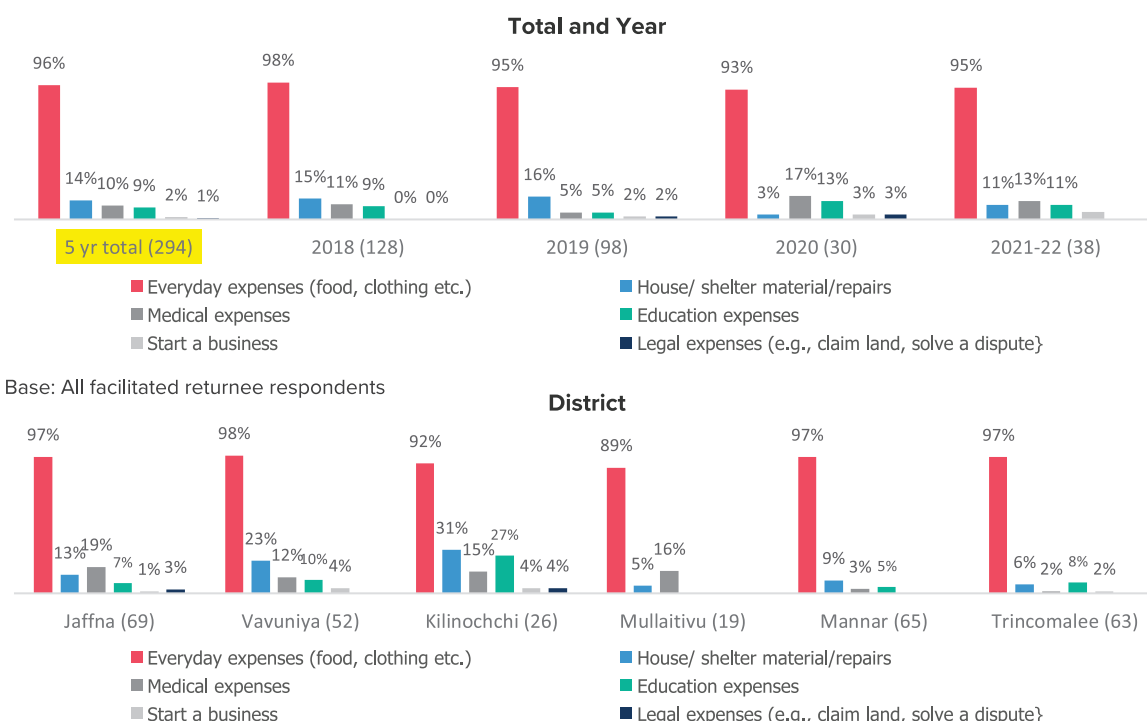
Intent of queries: To identify how the returnees used financial and material assistance, to gather information about the returnees preferred other items or programme alternatives, and to verify that intended beneficiaries received programme entitlements. This theme of queries is useful to UNHCR (and others) for programme design and monitoring purposes, in addition to the underlying value in protection monitoring.

Note: Data regarding UNHCR assistance was collected and relevant only to those who returned with UNHCR facilitation.¹

UNHCR ASSISTANCE AMONG FACILITATED RETURNEE HOUSEHOLDS

Nearly all the facilitated returnees (96%) used the reintegration grant for everyday expenses, (Chart H1) and a much smaller proportion used it for house / shelter repairs (14%), medical expenses (10%) and education expenses (9%). These responses were similar to those mentioned by the 2019 and 2020 facilitated returnees in the previous 2021/22 survey.

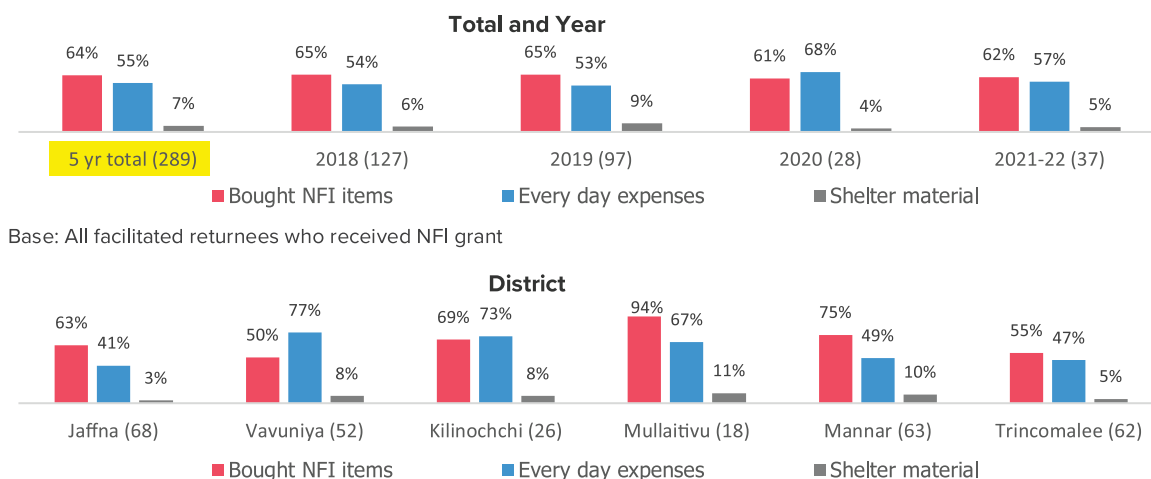
CHART H1:
How facilitated returnee households used the UN reintegration grant



¹ As mentioned in section A, 90% of the returnees over the five-year period were facilitated returnees.

Almost all the facilitated returnee households (98%) received the NFI (Non Food Item) grant from UNHCR. They mostly used this cash grant for purchasing NFIs and for daily expenses (Chart H2).

CHART H2:
How the NFI cash grant was used

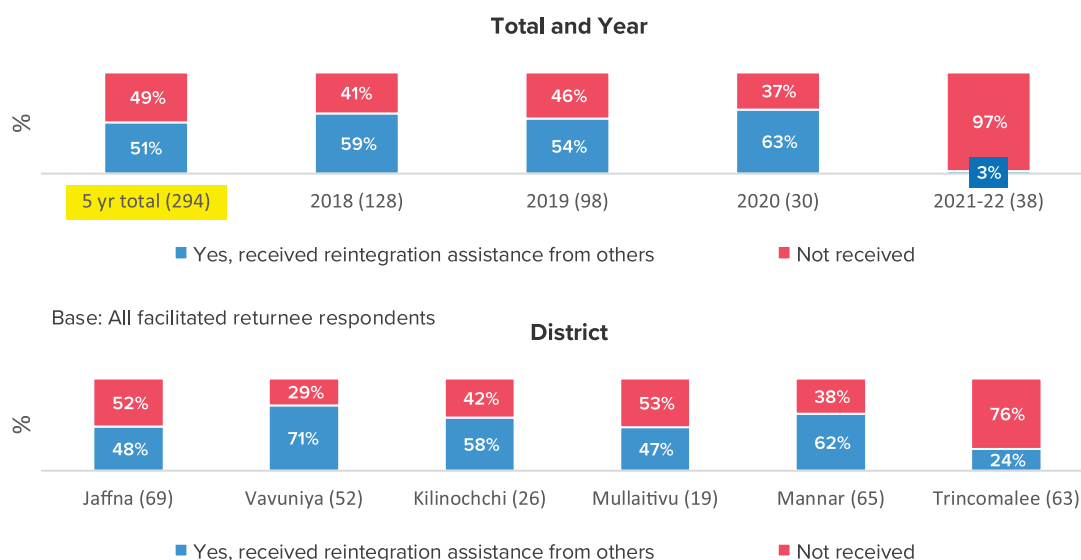


Only one percent of the NFI cash grant recipients (three respondents) said that they faced obstacles in receiving this grant. The main obstacle mentioned by these few respondents were getting the grant on time and identification issues.

When the respondents were asked if they received reintegration assistance from organizations or entities other than UNHCR, about half in the total five-year sample (51%) said that they did (Chart H3). This was similar to the proportions saying they received such assistance in the 2021/22 survey conducted among 2019 and 2020 returnees.

However, almost all the households among the 2021-22 returnees (97%) surveyed in 2023, said that they did not receive such assistance. In the Trincomalee district too, the vast majority did not receive such assistance (76%).

CHART H3:
Extent of receiving reintegration assistance other than from UNHCR

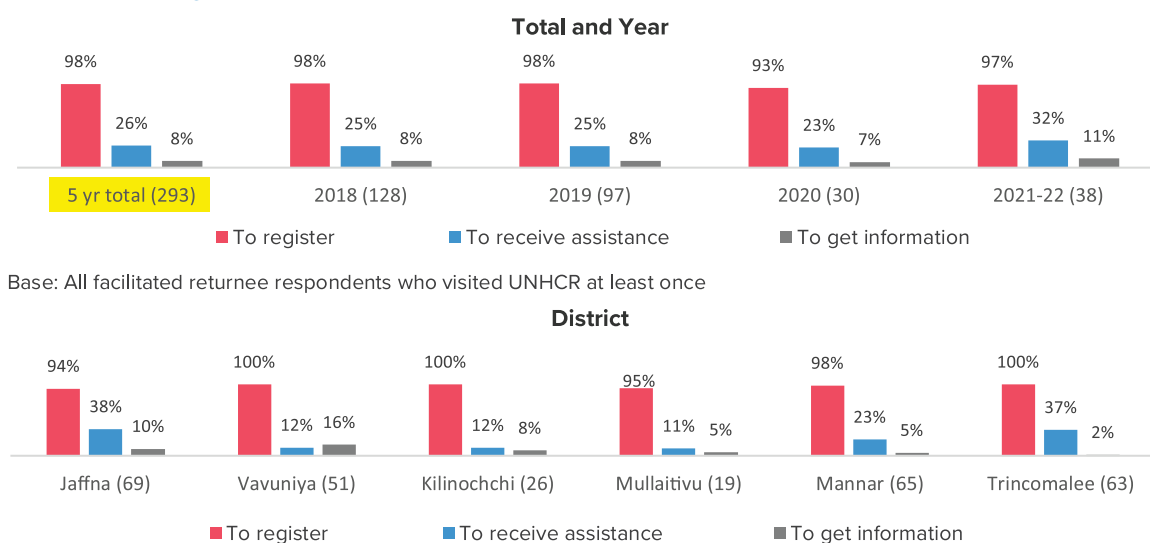


Almost all those who received reintegration assistance other than from UNHCR said this assistance was received from the government i.e., the DS office (97%).

Nearly all (97%) said that they received this assistance in the form of cash while 3% said that they received material (to support herding of cattle and to be used in fishing). The amount of cash received per household ranged from LKR 30,000 to 37,000 and the average received was LKR 33,000.

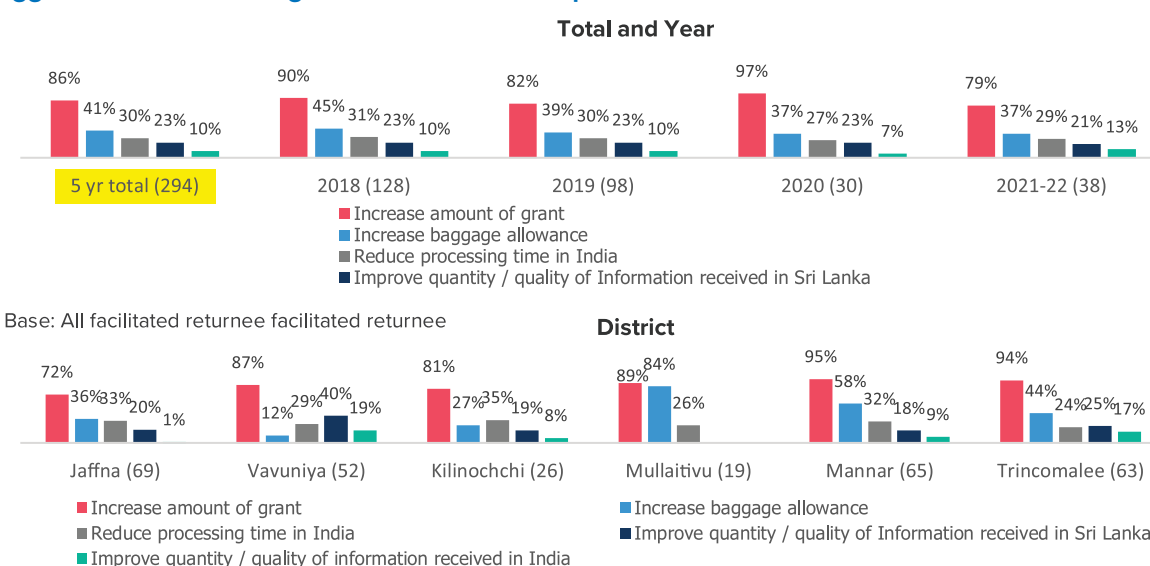
All the facilitated returnees had approached UNHCR staff at least once. 84% visited once and 15% twice. The number of visits did not vary much by the year of return or by the district. As shown on chart H4 below, almost all the respondents (98%) had visited the UNHCR office to register, about a quarter (26%) visited to receive assistance, and a tenth (8%) visited to obtain information.

CHART H4:
Purpose of visiting UNHCR office



When asked what would be the main thing UNHCR can do to improve its assistance, most (86%) suggested that the grant amount should be increased, followed by 41% saying the baggage allowance should be increased, and 30% saying the processing time in India should be reduced (Chart H5).

CHART H5:
Suggestions re. main things UNHCR can do to improve its assistance

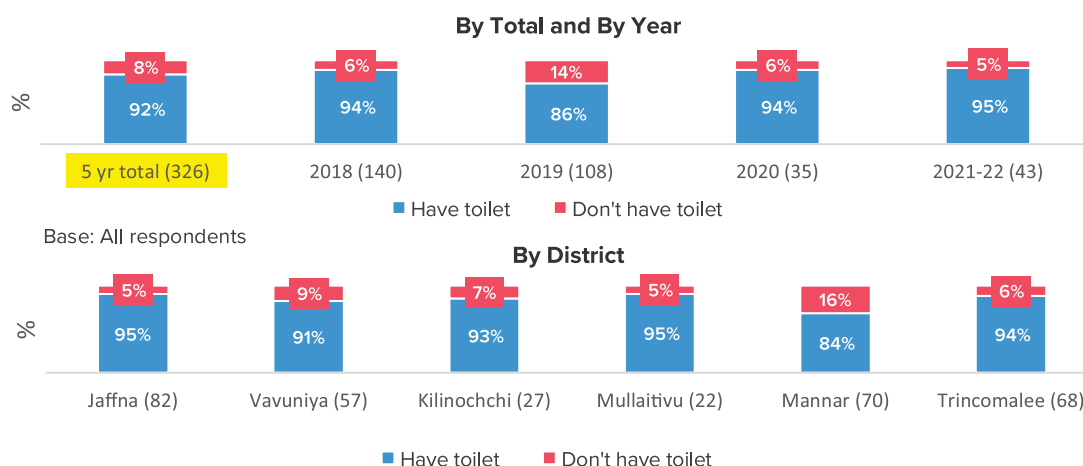


SANITATION AND WATER

When asked whether they have a toilet in the place where they currently live, 92% of the total five year sample said that they do (Chart H6). Among the 2019 returnees and those residing in the Mannar district, the percentage saying they have their own toilet was lower (86% and 84% respectively).

In the survey conducted in 2021/22 survey among 2019 and 2020 returnees too, the proportion having an own toilet was lowest among the 2019 returnees (88%).

CHART H6:
Whether household has a toilet

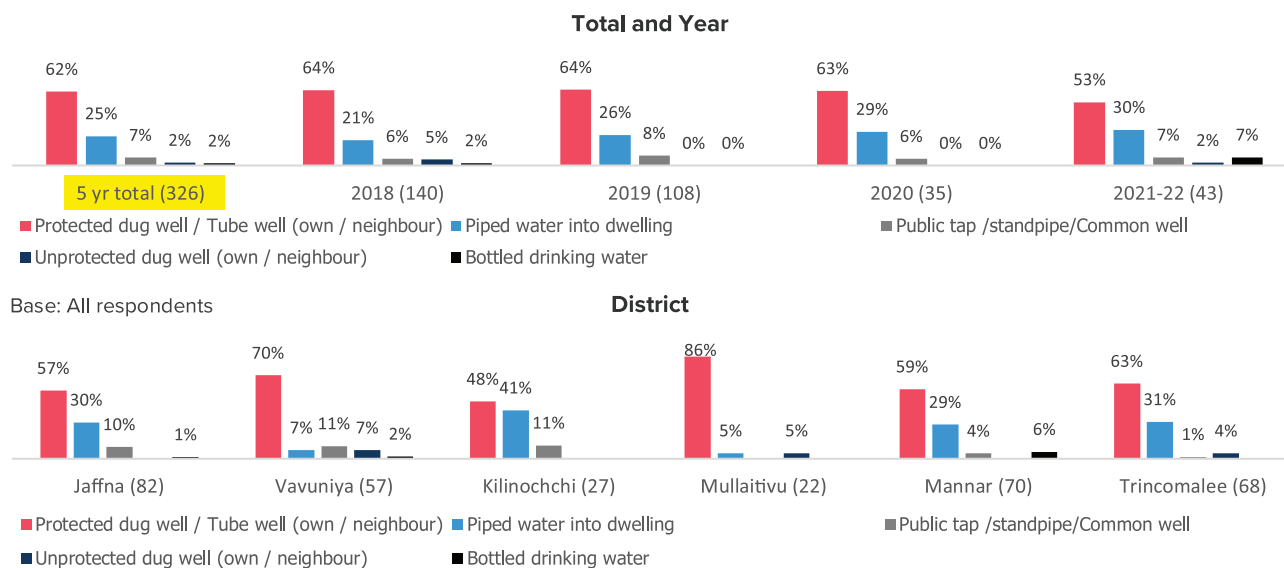


Almost all (98%) of those having a toilet in their compound said that they had a permanent toilet. Among the few respondents who said that they do not have toilet (27 respondents in all), 16 respondents (59%) said that they use their neighbour's toilet while the balance 11 respondents (41%) said that their family went to the bush / open ground.

Of the 16 families who shared the neighbour's toilet, six respondents said that one to five people shared this toilet, while among the remaining ten families, 6 to 10 people did so.

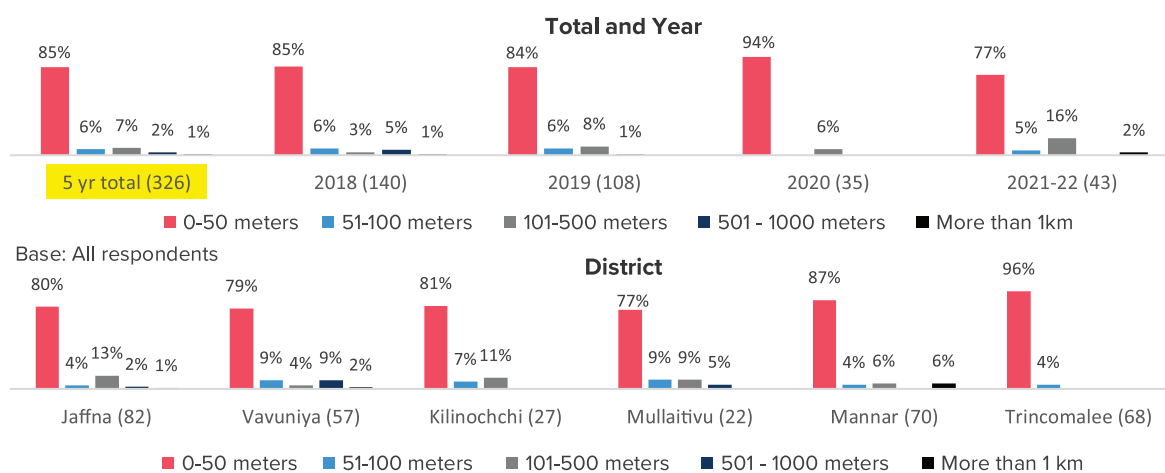
As indicated in the chart H7, in the overall five year sample, two thirds of households (62%) consumed drinking water from a protected dug well or tube well, another quarter (25%) consumed drinking water piped into their dwelling, and 7% consumed drinking water from a public tap / standpipe / common well. Just 2% of the households consumed water from an unprotected source.

CHART H7:
Main source of drinking-water for household



85% of the total number of households had access to drinking water within a 50 metre distance from their home and 98% within 500 metres (Chart H8).

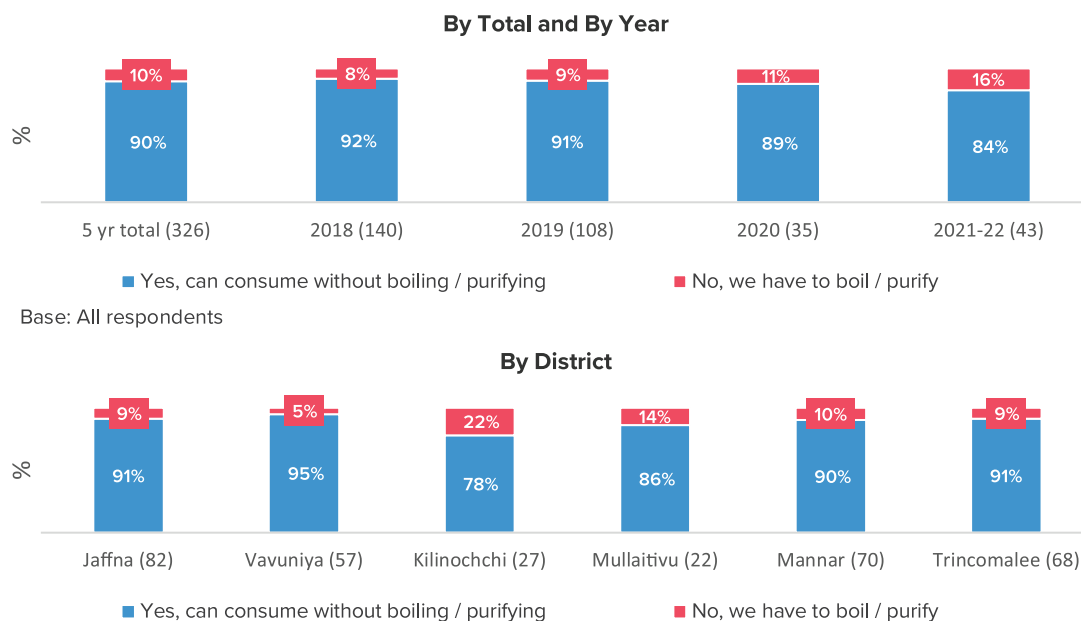
CHART H8:
Distance travelled to obtain drinking water



Over 90% of all the respondents said the water could be drunk without boiling / purifying. In Kilinochchi however, the percentage saying so was lower (78%).

CHART H9:

Whether drinking water can be consumed without boiling / purifying

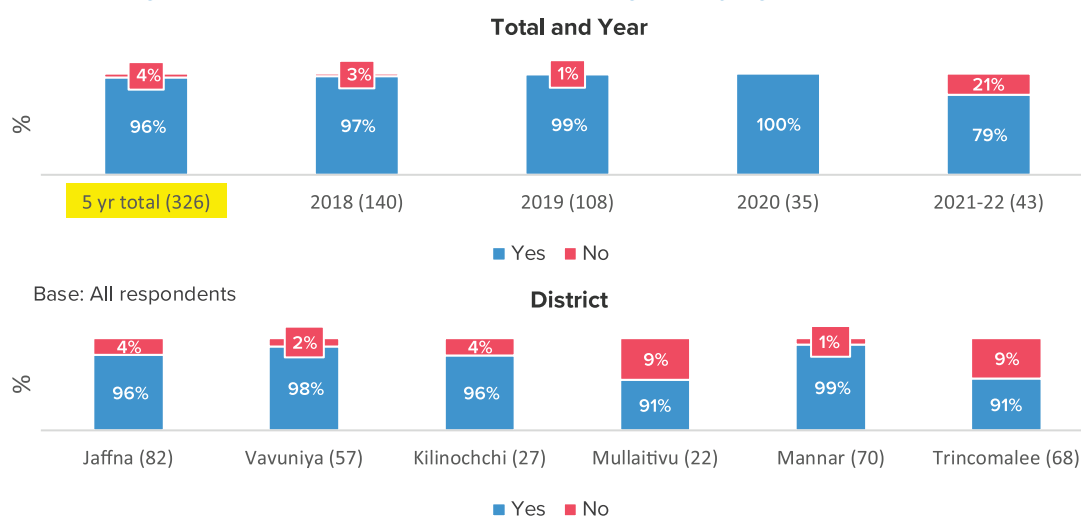


HEALTH SCREENING OR TESTING

All the respondents were asked whether they and their families were subjected to health screening or testing on their return to Sri Lanka in view of being a refugee returnee. Overall, across the five-year total sample, as many as 96% said that they were (Chart H10). Among the 2021-22 returnees however, the percentage saying they were tested / screened was lower, at 79%.

CHART H10:

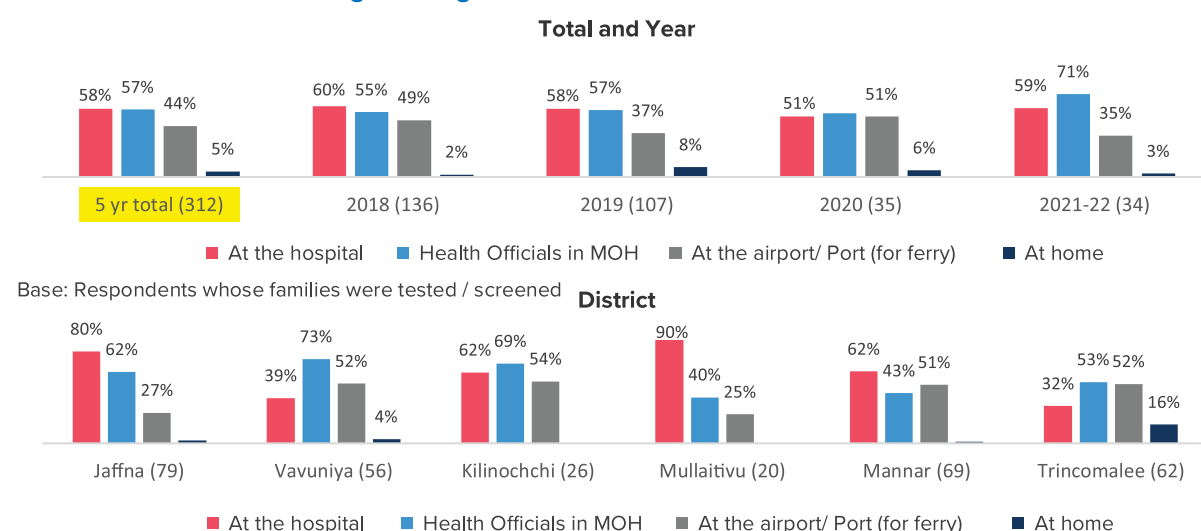
Whether drinking water can be consumed without boiling / purifying



The screening / testing was done at multiple centres, viz., the hospital, the airport and by health officials (MOH department) with a few tested at home (Chart H11).

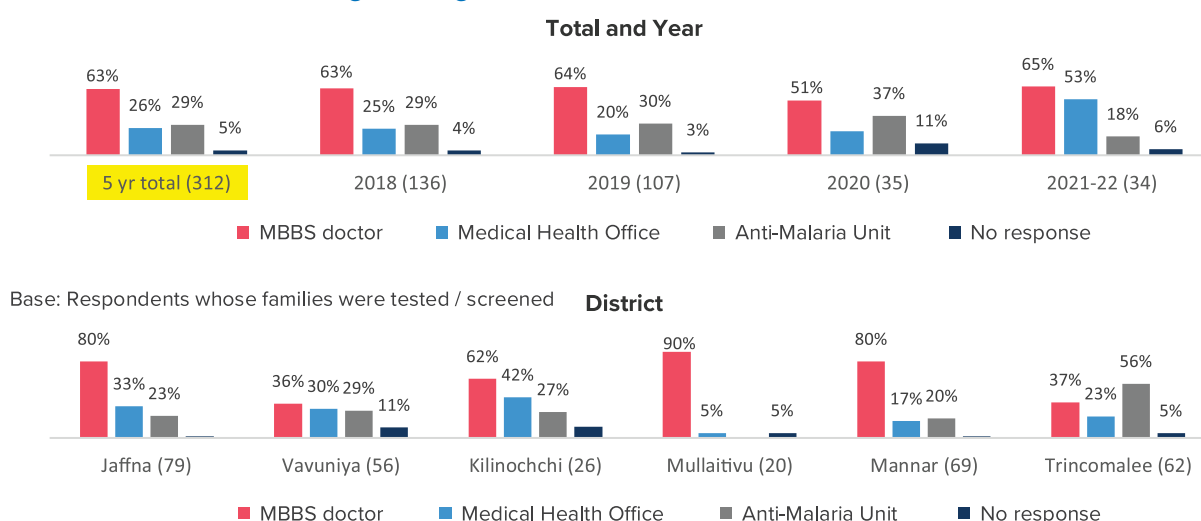
Since the number of centres mentioned exceeds 100%, it is likely that all family members were not tested at the same location and in some instances different family members were tested at different locations, and / or some family members were tested at more than one location.

CHART H11:
Place where health screening / testing was done



The screening / testing was mostly undertaken by an MBBS qualified doctor, and to a lesser extent by the medical health office and the anti-malaria unit (Chart H12). In the Trincomalee district, the anti-malaria unit was mentioned by the most.

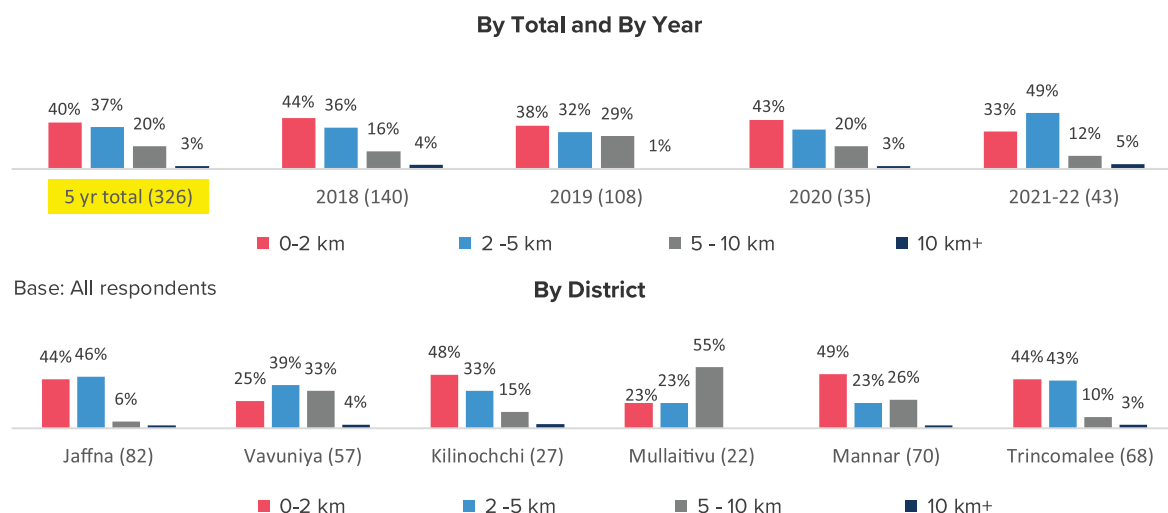
CHART H12:
Who did the health screening / testing



Only 3% of all the returnees in the five-year sample had to travel more than 10 km to get to the nearest hospital, clinic, or dispensary, and 20% had to travel 5 to 10 km (Chart H13). In the Mullaitivu district however, half the respondents (55%) had to travel 5 to 10 km to the closest hospital, clinic, or surgery.

CHART H13:

Distance to the closest hospital, clinic, or dispensary



EDUCATION

Respondents were asked how many of their children, who should be in school in grades 11 or below, were currently not attending school. Among the total sample of households from all five years of return, only three children were not attending school. The reasons mentioned were that the school had refused admission to the children and that the child did not like to go to school.

All respondents were asked about the education level of the whole family. Since 58 of the 326 respondents (18%) did not respond (Table H1) the analysis shown in the chart H14 is based on responses of the balance 268 respondents (82%), in whose homes there were 561 family members.

TABLE H1:

Response to question on education levels of family members

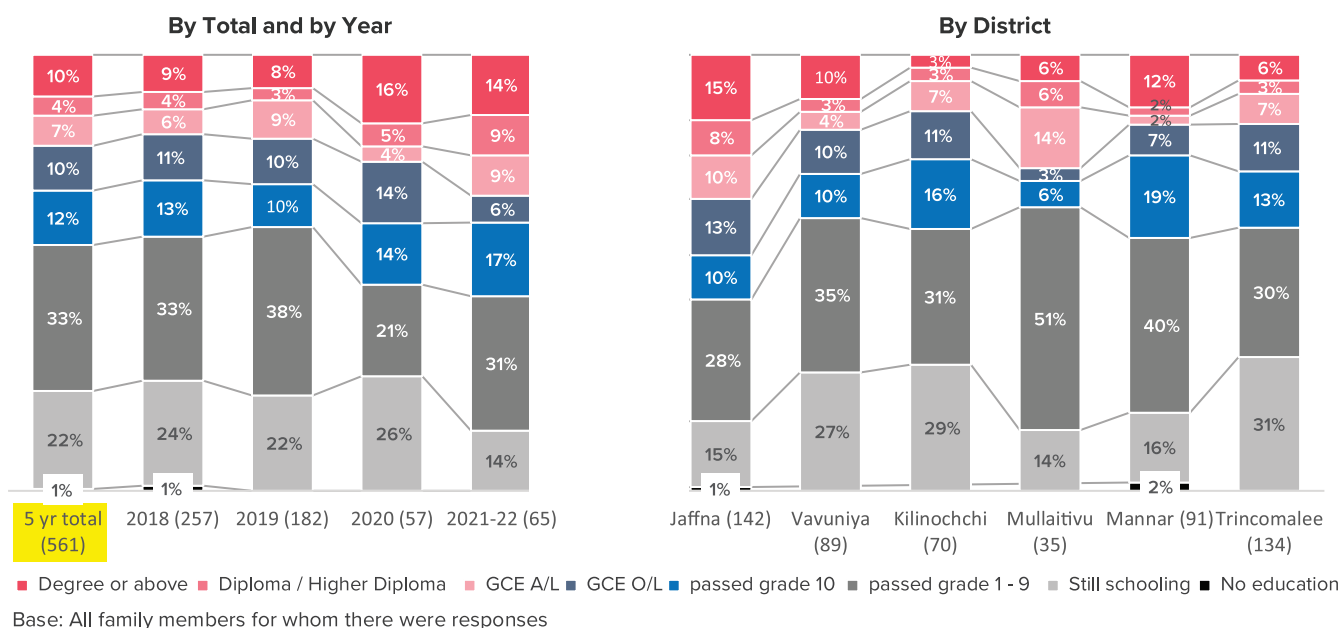
Total and Year						
Base: All respondents	5 yr total (326)	2018 (140)	2019 (108)	2020 (35)	2021-22 (43)	
Responded	82%	81%	80%	89%	86%	
No response	18%	19%	20%	11%	14%	

District						
Base: All respondents	Jaffna (82)	Vavuniya (57)	Kilinochchi (27)	Mullaitivu (22)	Mannar (70)	Trincomalee (68)
Responded	90%	81%	100%	95%	66%	79%
No response	10%	19%	0%	5%	34%	21%

The chart H14 shows that overall, 21% had completed 13 years of school (Advanced Levels, degree or diploma or equivalent Indian exams), 22% had completed 10 years of school (passed grade 10 or Ordinary Levels or equivalent Indian exams) and a third (33%) had some schooling (grades 1 to 9). A quarter (22%) were still schooling.

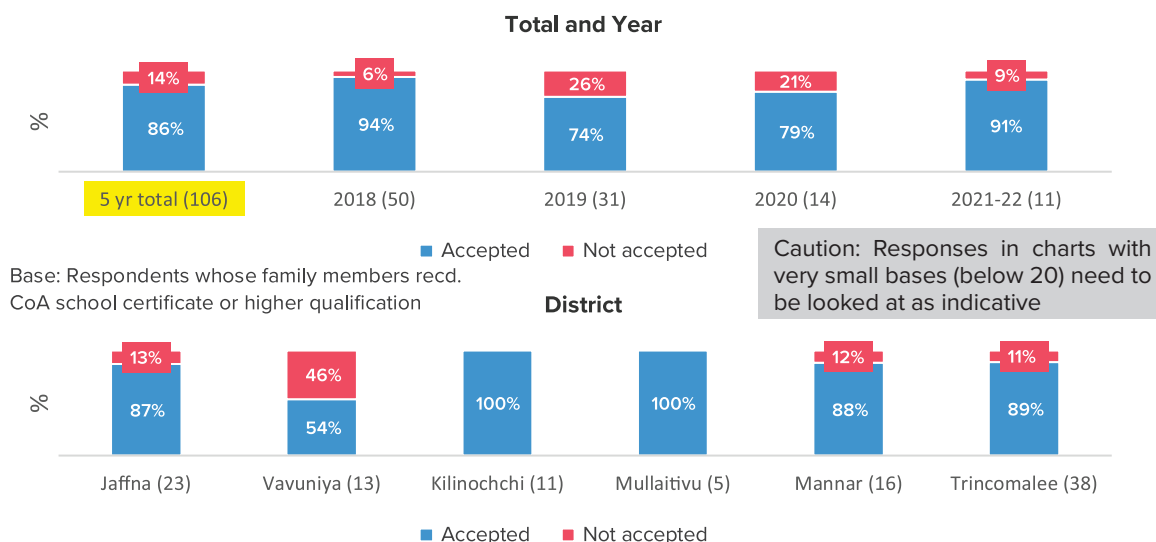
The proportions who had completed 13 years of schooling were highest among the 2020 and 2021-22 returnees and those in the Jaffna district.

CHART H14:
Education level of family members



106 out of the 326 respondents (33%) had family members who finished schooling (up to a certificate level) and / or higher education in India, the country of asylum. Among these households 86% said the relevant school or higher education certificates / records were accepted by the Sri Lankan education authorities (Chart H15) i.e., 14% did not apply for / or get approval for the recognition of these records.

CHART H15:
Whether all relevant school / diploma / university certificates / records from country of asylum accepted by SL education authorities

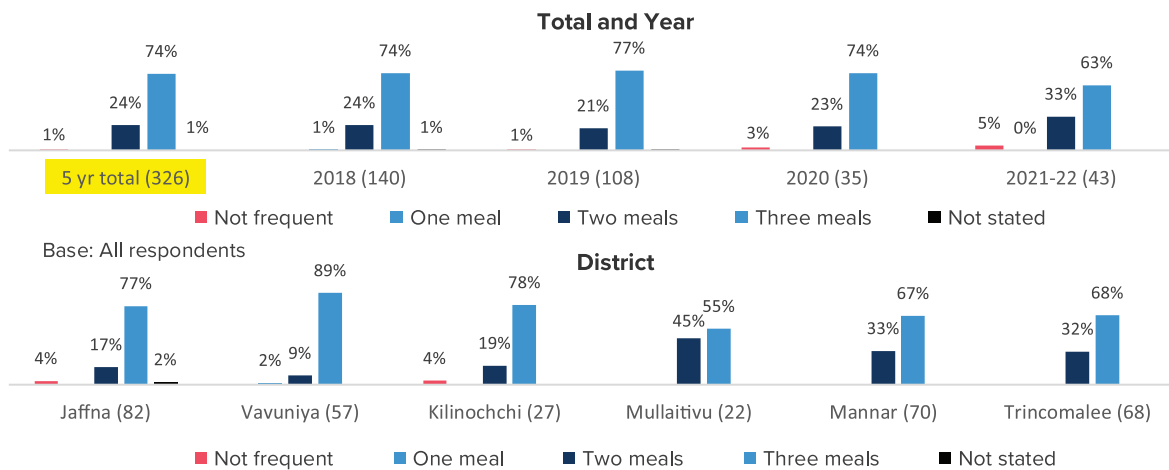


FOOD SECURITY

Among the total five-year sample as many as a quarter of households (24%) had just two meals a day (Chart H16) in the last one week. In the Mullaitivu, Mannar and Trincomalee districts as many as a third or more (45%, 33% and 32% respectively) had only two meals a day.

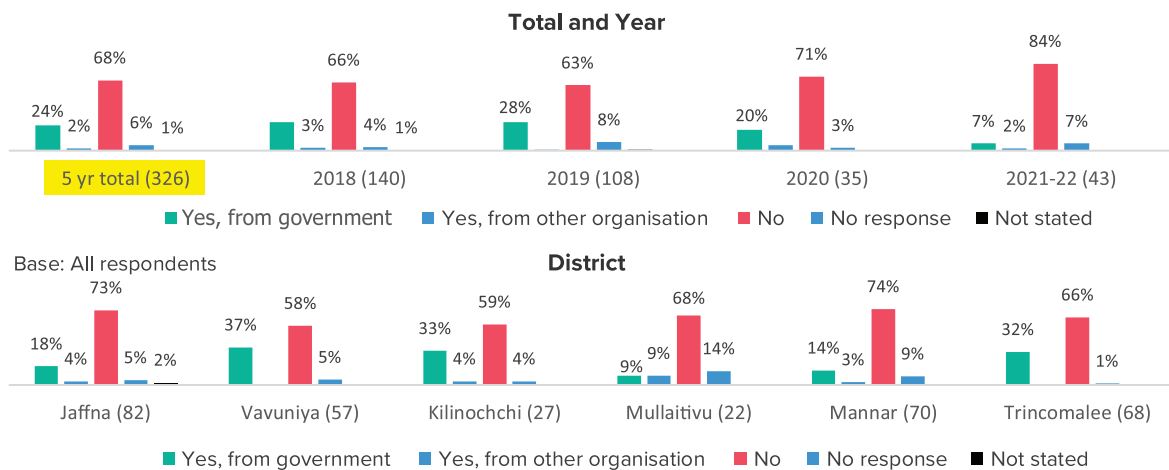
In the survey conducted in 2021/22 among 2019 and 2020 returnees, almost all had three meals a day (96% and 100% among 2019 and 2020 returnees respectively).

CHART H16:
Number of meals per day in last one week



When asked if they received any food rations or allowances on arrival from the government or any other sources, overall, two thirds (68%) said that they did not receive this (Chart H17). Among the 2021-22 returnees as many as 84% responded in the negative.

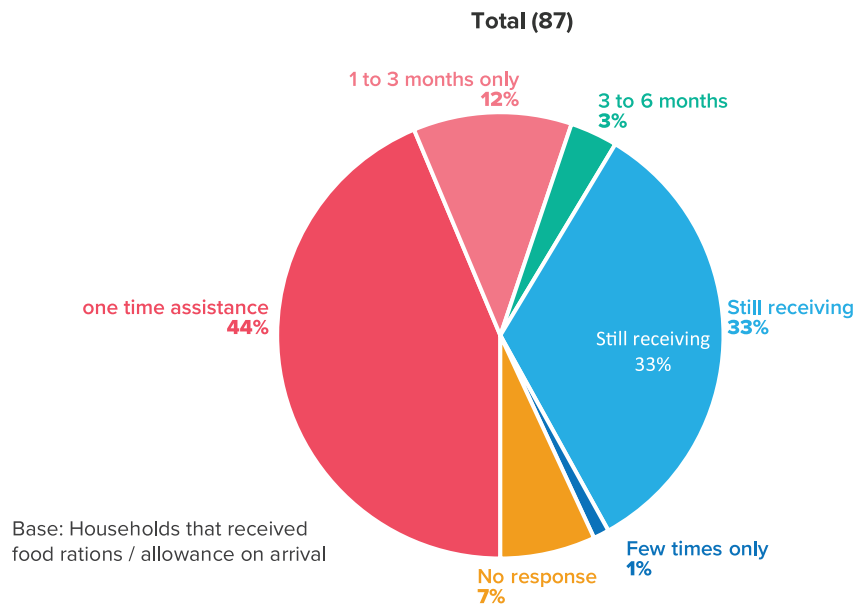
CHART H17:
Whether received food rations / allowance on arrival and from whom



While 44% received one time assistance in receiving food rations / allowances, 33% said that they continue to receive these food rations / allowances (Chart H18).

CHART H18:

Period for which food rations / allowances were received





COVID-19 IMPACT

Intent of queries: To determine the impact of COVID-19 in terms of incidence of vaccination, rate of infection, attitudes towards those infected with COVID-19, types of assistance received and from whom.

VACCINATION

As many as 98% of the respondents in the five-year total sample said that they and all their adult family members had received COVID-19 vaccines. This ranged from 95% in the Mullaitivu district to 100% in the Vavuniya, Mannar and Trincomalee districts.

In the remaining 2% of the households (five households), some adult family members were not vaccinated against COVID-19, and there were no households where the COVID-19 vaccination was not administered at all to adults. In the 2022 survey among the 2019 and 2020 returnees the incidence of the COVID-19 vaccinations being given were 93% and 94% respectively.

A total of six adults from the above mentioned five households were not vaccinated against COVID-19. The reasons mentioned were due to medical conditions (three households) and that they did not want to be vaccinated (two households).

INCIDENCE OF BEING INFECTED WITH COVID-19 AND WHETHER TREATED

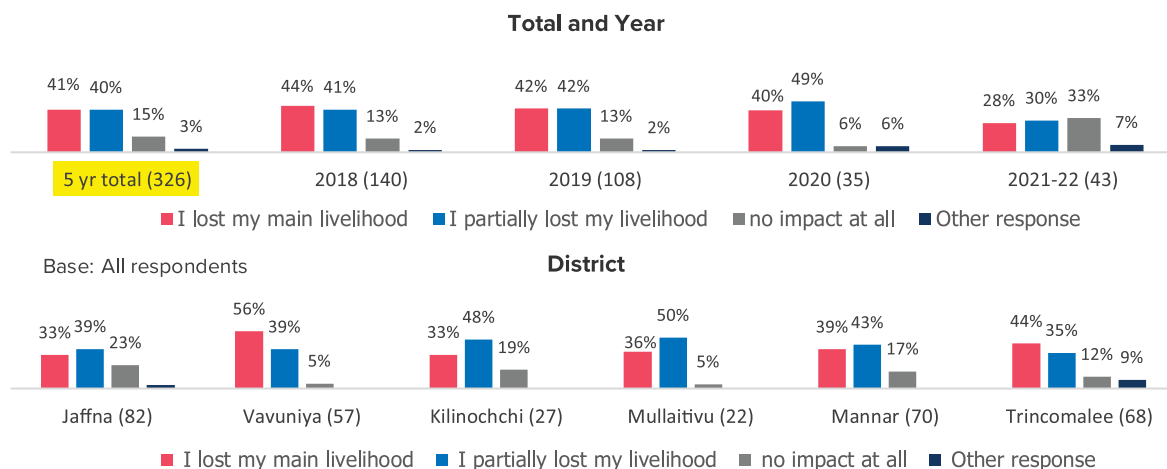
In 5% of the households in the total five-year sample (17 households) at least one family member was infected with COVID-19. The total number of family members thus infected was 20, of whom one succumbed to the infection. The respondents said that all infected persons received treatment.

IMPACT ON INFECTED HOUSEHOLDS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON LIVELIHOODS

In 12 out of the 17 households where family member(s) got COVID-19, the respondents said that they received hostile reactions from the community following the infections. One respondent did not comment, and four respondents said that there was no hostile reaction from the community.

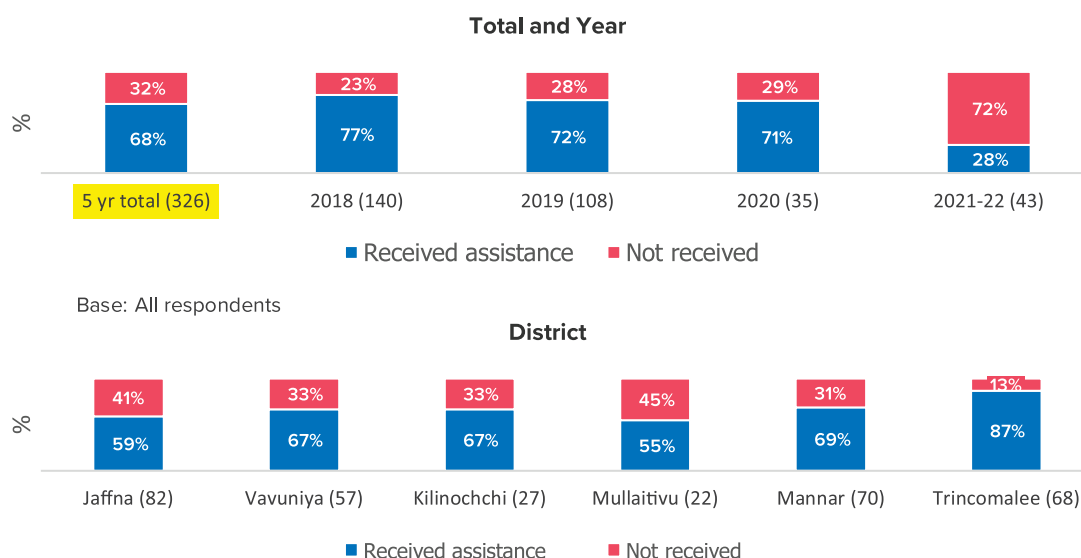
Among all the households, the impact of the pandemic on livelihoods was high with over 80% of all the respondents saying they either completely or partially lost their main livelihood (Chart I1).

CHART I1:
Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods



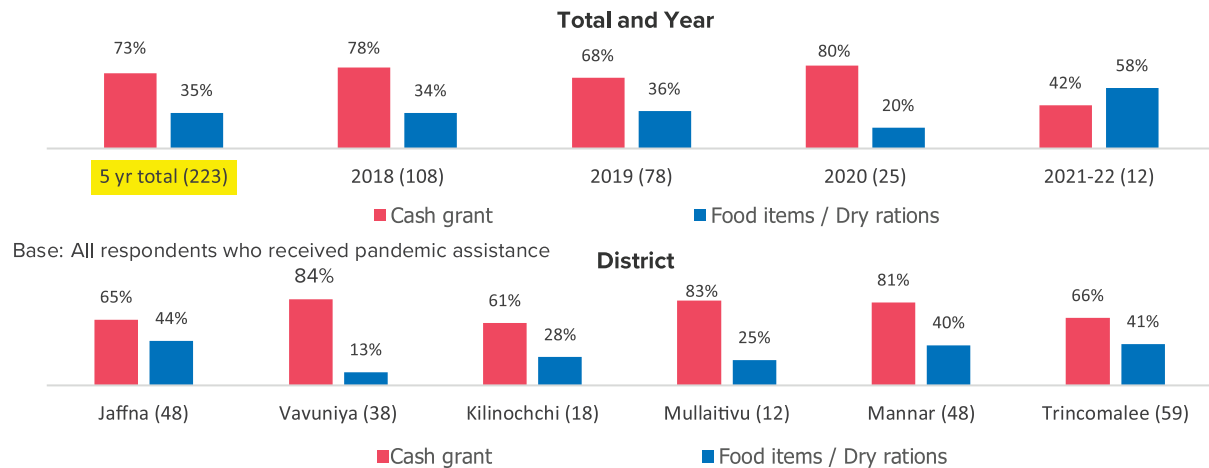
Overall, about a third (32%) did not receive any assistance related to COVID-19 (Chart I2). However, this number has been impacted by the high 72% mention by the 2021-22 returnees of not receiving COVID-19 assistance, who would have returned towards the tail end of the pandemic or after it was over.

CHART I2:
Extent of receiving any assistance related to COVID-19



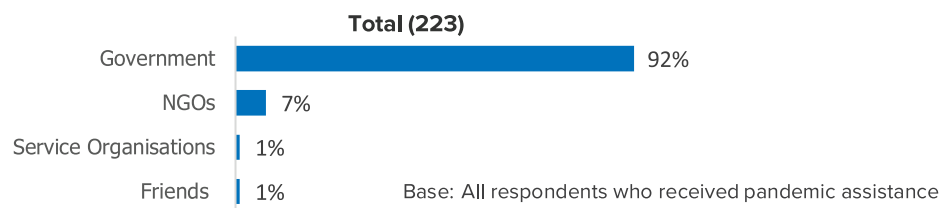
Of those who received pandemic assistance the vast majority received cash and some received food items / dry rations (Chart I3).

CHART I3:
Types of COVID-19 pandemic assistance received



As shown below in the chart I4, over 90% mentioned that the pandemic aid was provided by the government (including 2% who mentioned Samurdhi). Of the 7% mentioning NGOs, approximately half specifically mentioned OFERR.

CHART I4:
Providers of pandemic assistance





ECONOMIC CRISIS IMPACT AND CLOSING REMARKS

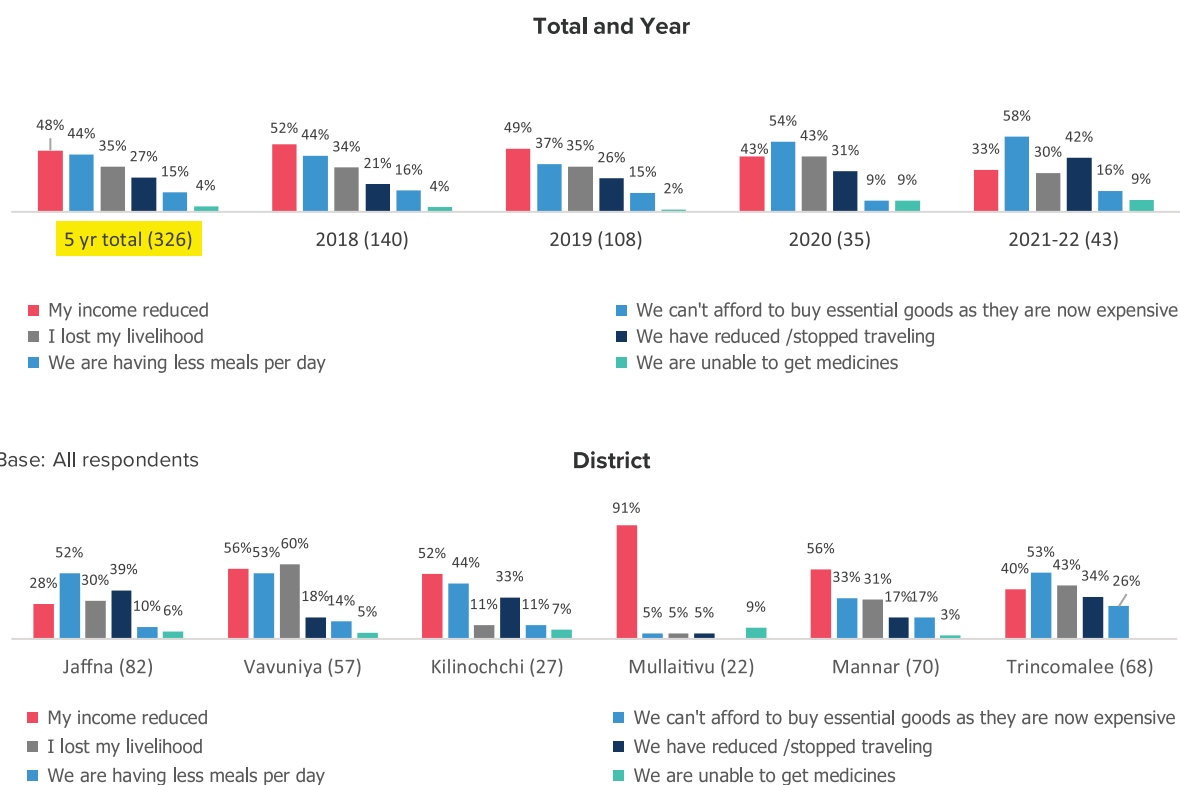
Intent of queries: To determine the impact of the 2022 economic crisis in Sri Lanka where the country experienced substantial currency devaluation, curtailment of imports and substantial increases in lending interest rates from the banks and other financial lending entities. These questions sought to gauge the impact of this crisis on the respondents' lives.

IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

Overall, in the five-year total sample about half (48%) experienced a reduction in their incomes as a result of the economic crisis, 44% said that goods were unaffordable, while 35% said that they lost their livelihood / jobs. 15% said that they were eating less meals per day (Chart J1).

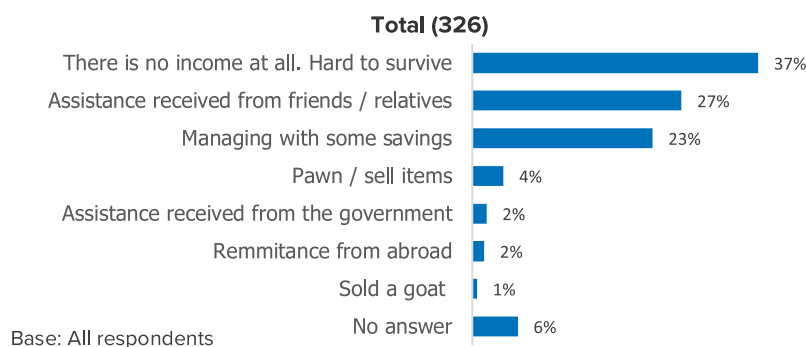
The percentage who lost their livelihood / jobs was as high as 60% in the Vavuniya district.

CHART J1:
Impact of the economic crisis



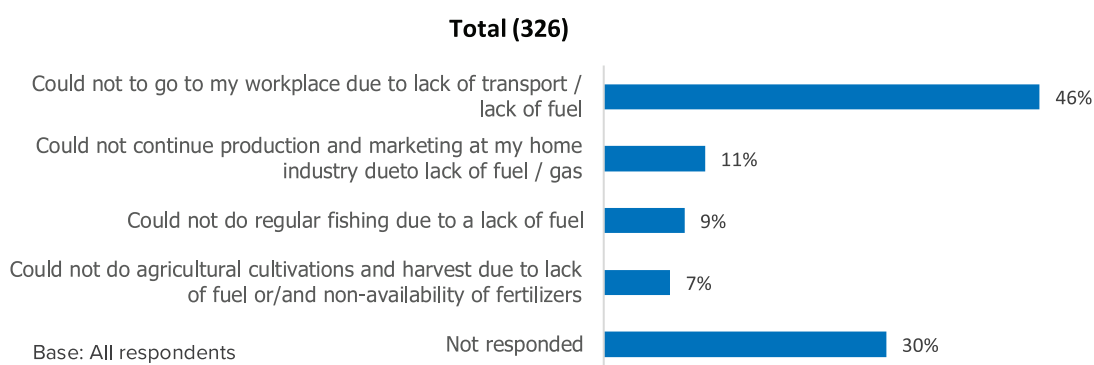
All the respondents were asked how they manage their lives now and their income sources if their livelihood was lost. The main mentions (as shown in the chart J2) were that assistance was obtained from friends / relatives (27%) and they were managing by drawing on their savings (23%). Only 2% said assistance was received from the government.

CHART J2:
Managing lives with less or no income / no livelihood



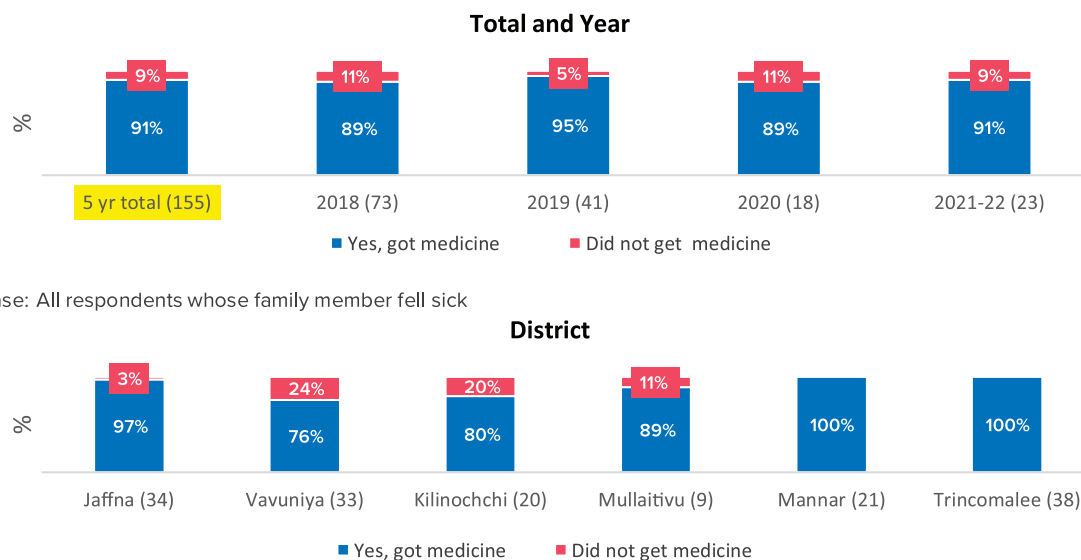
The respondents were asked to mention their impediments if their livelihoods were impacted. As shown in the chart J3, the lack of fuel and livelihood travel and transport issues were widely mentioned.

CHART J3:
Impediments if livelihoods were impacted



48% said that they or their family members have fallen sick during the current economic crisis. Among them, 91% said that they received medicines when they were sick (Chart J4).

CHART J4:
Extent of receiving medicines when sick



Among the 9% (14 respondents out of 155) who did not receive medication for themselves / family members, the main reasons for not receiving medication were as follows:

- Unable to go to a hospital / doctor due to fuel shortages (3 respondents)
- Did not go to doctor as we had no money (2 respondents)
- No medicine available at hospital (2 respondents)
- No medicine available elsewhere (3 respondents)

All the respondents were asked if they expect to return to India (due to the economic crisis). Only 4% said that they expect that they would do so.

RESPONDENTS' CLOSING REMARKS

Finally, all the 326 respondents were asked if they had any other comments which they wished to share about their daily lives.

The main responses were as follows:

- Cost of living is high (24%)
- Currently facing an economic crisis (23%)
- There is no support from the government (24%)
- Expecting housing assistance soon (8%)
- Do not receive Samurdhi assistance (4%)
- Very happy to have returned to Sri Lanka (4%)
- Suffering due to lack of livelihood (4%)

A few spontaneously appreciated the work done by UNHCR

- Thank you to UNHCR for their help (3%)

APPENDIX

TABLE 1:
Sample sizes and universe contribution by year of return and district

Year of return and district	Planned sample	Down %	Achieved sample	Down %	Universe	Down %
2018						
Jaffna	40	22	32	23	129	22
Vavuniya	39	21	26	19	124	21
Kilinochchi	17	9	12	9	50	9
Mullaitivu	11	6	8	6	29	5
Mannar	40	22	31	22	132	23
Trincomalee	38	21	31	22	120	21
Total	185	100	140	100	584	100
Sampling fraction	32%		24%			
2019						
Jaffna	29	21	21	19	119	27
Vavuniya	24	18	19	18	72	17
Kilinochchi	10	7	7	6	30	7
Mullaitivu	13	9	13	12	30	7
Mannar	32	23	22	20	97	22
Trincomalee	29	21	26	24	86	20
Total	137	100	108	100	434	100
Sampling fraction	32%		25%			
2020						
Jaffna	14	32	12	34	44	35
Vavuniya	9	20	6	17	26	21
Kilinochchi	4	9	4	11	12	10
Mullaitivu	1	2	0	0	6	5
Mannar	10	23	7	20	21	17
Trincomalee	6	14	6	17	16	13
Total	44	100	35	100	125	100
Sampling fraction	35%		28%			
2021						
Jaffna	9	64	7	64	16	40
Vavuniya	1	7	1	9	7	18
Kilinochchi	0	0	0	0	2	5
Mullaitivu	0	0	0	0	3	8
Mannar	2	14	2	18	6	15
Trincomalee	2	14	1	9	6	15
Total	14	100	11	100	40	100
Sampling fraction	35%		28%			

Year of return and district	Planned sample	Down %	Achieved sample	Down %	Universe	Down %
2022						
Jaffna	11	33	10	31	32	32
Vavuniya	5	15	5	16	13	13
Kilinochchi	4	12	4	13	8	8
Mullaitivu	1	3	1	3	9	9
Mannar	8	24	8	25	18	18
Trincomalee	4	12	4	13	19	19
Total	33	100	32	100	99	100
Sampling fraction	33%		32%			
All 5 years: 2018-22						
Jaffna	103	25	82	25	340	27
Vavuniya	78	19	57	17	242	19
Kilinochchi	35	8	27	8	102	8
Mullaitivu	26	6	22	7	77	6
Mannar	92	22	70	21	274	21
Trincomalee	79	19	68	21	247	19
Total	413	100	326	100	1,282	100
Sampling fraction	32%		25%			

TABLE 2:

District wise sample details by year of return and by the numbers of households, individuals in the households, and the average household size

Year of return and district	Total sample size sought (No. of HHs)	Located and interviewed			HHs unavailable for interview
		No. of HHs	No. of individuals	Average household size	
2018					
Jaffna	40	32	70		8
Vavuniya	39	26	60		13
Kilinochchi	17	12	30		5
Mullaitivu	11	8	14		3
Mannar	40	31	68		9
Trincomalee	38	31	93		7
Total	185	140	336	2.4	45
2019					
Jaffna	29	21	45		8
Vavuniya	24	19	44		5
Kilinochchi	10	7	22		3
Mullaitivu	13	13	23		0
Mannar	32	22	50		10

Year of return and district	Total sample size sought (No. of HHs)	Located and interviewed			HHs unavailable for interview
		No. of HHs	No. of individuals	Average household size	
Trincomalee	29	26	60		3
Total	137	108	244	2.3	29
2020					
Jaffna	14	12	27		2
Vavuniya	9	6	15		3
Kilinochchi	4	4	13		0
Mullaitivu	1	0	0		1
Mannar	10	7	16		3
Trincomalee	6	6	15		0
Total	44	35	86	2.5	9
2021-22					
Jaffna	20	17	35		3
Vavuniya	6	6	7		0
Kilinochchi	4	4	9		0
Mullaitivu	1	1	2		0
Mannar	10	10	20		0
Trincomalee	6	5	5		1
Total	47	43	78	1.8	4
5 years 2018-22					
Jaffna	103	82	177		21
Vavuniya	78	57	126		21
Kilinochchi	35	27	74		8
Mullaitivu	26	22	39		4
Mannar	92	70	155		22
Trincomalee	79	68	173		11
Total	413	326	744	2.3	87