

INDIA

May 2024

Operational Context

India continues to be a generous host to refugees and asylum-seekers from across the region and beyond. UNHCR works in close coordination with the Government of India, NITI Aayog and other UN agencies in fulfilling its mandate of ensuring access to protection, solutions, and humanitarian assistance to persons forced to flee.

Civil society organizations, working in partnership with UNHCR, are at the forefront of the refugee response ensuring that assistance reaches the most vulnerable within the overall objective of “leaving no one behind”. Partnership agreements are in place with eight national NGOs.

To ensure that refugees are included in the UN's work on Sustainable Development Goals, UNHCR maintains close engagement with the UN Country Teams in India and the Maldives. In 2024, resilience building, and self-reliance remain top priorities in furthering UNHCR's efforts to support refugees and asylum seekers.



46,782 refugees and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR India



106 individuals departed to Canada, Australia and USA through complementary pathways programmes



68 individuals placed for work in the hospitality, retail, and wellness sectors

365 individuals received RSD decisions



31 individuals voluntarily repatriated



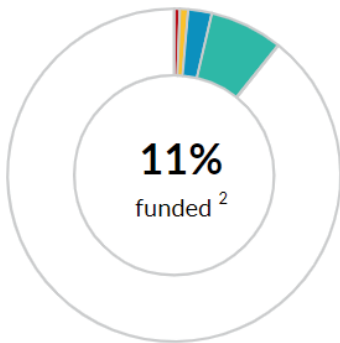
181 individuals resettled to Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, and Sweden

2,431 students attended accelerated learning programmes

FUNDING AS OF 31 MAY 2024

USD 21.7 million

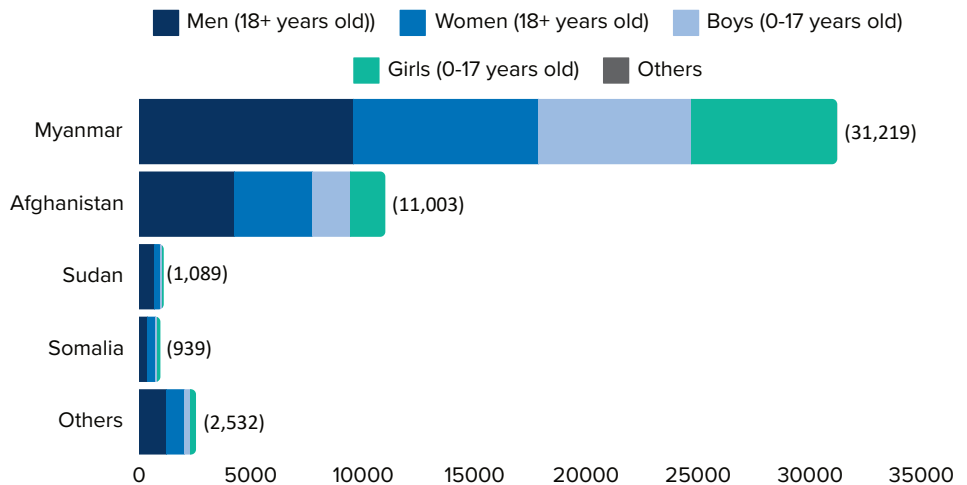
Requested for India in 2024



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

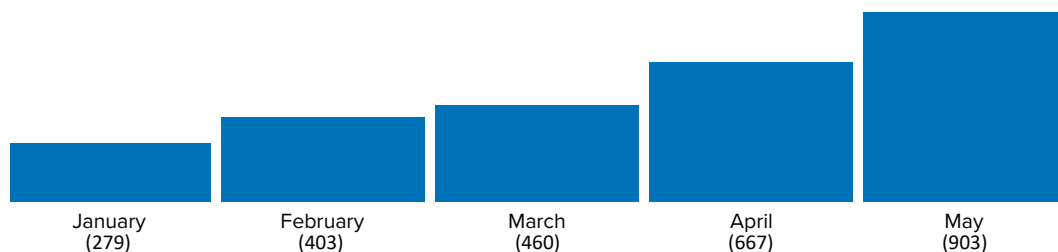
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS AS OF 31 MAY 2024






Country/Territory of Origin



NEW ASYLUM SEEKER REGISTRATIONS

Month



Sector	Response	Location
 Registration and RSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 903 individuals registered with UNHCR. • 365 individuals received RSD decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New and continuous registrations conducted in New Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Pune, Bangalore, and Chennai.
 Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,431 students attended accelerated learning programmes such as bridge and tuition classes conducted by UNHCR's partners. • 250 children at risk received psycho-social counselling support. • 1241 girls and boys reached out through recreational sessions on various themes as part of a strategy to encourage holistic development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerated learning programmes conducted in Jammu, Aligarh, Mewat, Dera Bassi, UP, Delhi and Hyderabad. • Recreational sessions organized in Delhi, Telangana, Bangalore, UP, Mewat, Jammu and Derabassi.
 Livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 68 refugees and asylum-seekers placed in informal jobs in the retail, wellness and hospitality sectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals placed in jobs in Delhi and Mewat.
 Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 837 refugees and asylum seekers benefitted from 35 Health Awareness Campaigns. • 367 refugees provided with referral services and access to government health facilities. • 1,037 participants reached through 40 sensitization sessions on gender-based violence and 86 provided with psycho-social counselling support. • 796 refugee and asylum seeker women and adolescent girls supported with menstrual hygiene kits and dignity kits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Awareness Campaigns conducted in Jammu, Aligarh, Mewat, Dera Bassi, Delhi and Hyderabad. • Gender-based violence sensitization sessions conducted in Delhi, Jammu, UP, Jaipur, Hyderabad and Mewat. • Menstrual hygiene and dignity kits distributed in Delhi, Jaipur, Mewat, UP and Derabassi.
 Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 106 individuals departed on complementary pathways. • 181 individuals departed by way of resettlement to third countries. • 31 individuals returned home through voluntary repatriation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure through resettlement and complementary pathways programmes to Canada, Australia, Sweden, United Kingdom and the USA. • Voluntary repatriation to Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

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

‘Leave No One Behind’, the UNHCR India way



“Imagine leaving everything you know, your home, your family, and escaping to a new country,” 21-year-old Maya told Shombi Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator in India, as he interacted with young refugees and asylum-seekers during a tour of the UNHCR registration facility in New Delhi.

“We are grateful to the Indian Government for letting us come here,” said Maya, as she presented a short overview of the challenges faced by young refugees and asylum-seekers. Using a PowerPoint presentation, the young refugees listed their concerns – ranging from the trauma of having fled unsafe situations in their home country and social exclusion to the anxieties of navigating daily life and cultural differences in the host country as a refugee.

The young people gathered also highlighted challenges faced by refugees with disabilities. 381 persons with disabilities are supported by UNHCR India through access to healthcare, cash based assistance, and psycho-social counselling. Access to government issued documents and affordability of medical aid remain as challenges.

Thanking the asylum-seekers for being forthcoming about their struggles, dreams and hopes, Mr. Sharp vowed to amplify their voices and concerns. “Young people cannot have a full voice unless refugee voices are included. Unlocking the creative and economic potential of young refugees creates prosperity and development for all, especially host communities,” he said.

***Names changed to protect identities**

UNHCR INDIA WORKS ON THE PROTECTION OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

- **The Government of India and relevant public institutions**
- **United Nations (UN):** UNHCR is a member of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and contributes to the India-United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) for 2023-2027.
- **Formal partnership agreements with 8 national NGOs:** ActionAid (AA), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Bosco Organization for Social Concern and Operation (BOSCO), Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), Development and Justice Initiative (DAJI), Gandhi National Memorial Society (GNMS), Modern Architects for Rural India (MARI), and Socio-Legal Information Centre (SLIC).



SUPPORTING THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN INDIA

UNHCR is grateful for contributions by:



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