Profile
at a glance

India
Delhi

2013

"The exercise helped us t
we only knew vaguely ab
us to clearly identify whe
done; where we should f

Ravi Hemadri, Head of Development and Justice Initiative (DAJI), Delhi

to clarify some things
bout before... it helped
ere work needs to be
focus our energies"

India is host to refugees from all its neighbouring countries, and in New Delhi, UNHCR assists over 24,000 urban refugees and asylum-seekers originating from Myanmar and non-neighbouring countries such as Afghanistan and Somalia.

In 2013 the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) and the Feinstein International Center (Tufts University) worked to support UNHCR and the Development and Justice Initiative (DAJI) to conduct a profiling exercise of Afghan, Somali and Myanmarese refugee households along with their Indian neighbours. The profiling was designed to supplement UNHCR's existing knowledge with new information that will contribute to more effective programming and advocacy, in particular UNHCR's work on promoting self-reliance.

The exercise took a comparative analysis approach, looking at a number of factors including livelihoods, education and physical security.

What methods were used?

To help design and improve targeted programming and advocacy, the profiling exercise aimed to analyse multiple aspects of refugees' living situation. The survey also included Indian nationals, with the objective of drawing comparisons between the experiences of different refugee groups and those of Indians living in the same neighbourhoods.

To achieve these aims, the study used mixed research methods, including household surveys conducted in 14 areas, focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews. Data collection and analysis were conducted by DAJI, JIPS and the Feinstein Centre of Tufts University.

Afghan, Myanmarese and Somali enumerator teams helped to revise and translate the survey questionnaire and were trained in the use of mobile data collection. The draft report was shared with the refugee communities and with UNHCR and other NGOs in Delhi for further analysis and validation.

1,063 households interviewed

4 Afghan FGDs (male/female, adult/youth)

4 Myanmarese FGDs (male/female, adult/youth)

4 Somali FGDs (male/female, adult/youth)

Map: Distribution of interviewed households in Delhi districts

NORTH
DELHI

WEST
DELHI

NEW
DELHI

EAST
DELHI

SOUTH
DELHI

High concentration areas were selected for data collection

"The profiling process gave a chance to build relationships between different refugee communities"

Ipshita Sengupta, profiling focal point, UNHCR Delhi

What was the impact?

■ The study served to enhance the research capacity of refugee groups by training their members in methodology, tool development and data gathering. The exercise also enabled refugee groups who had not mixed with one another to work together, learn from each others' experiences, and build inter-community understanding.

■ The report provided data that compared the experiences of three refugee communities in matters such as school dropout rates, housing conditions and access to services. This information will inform program development by identifying areas of vulnerability which can help decide how and where to allocate program resources. The report allowed UNHCR to include the findings when planning for 2014.

■ The profiling information supports advocacy for refugees by humanitarian and development actors in Delhi, which can be used as an entry point to engage with policy makers on selected problems facing refugee communities.

■ The study demonstrated the problems faced by refugees without valid visas, which negatively affects their ability to find decent employment. The report will be shared with Indian members of parliament next year in order to contribute to the debate over whether to issue long-term visas to refugees.

What were the findings?

The profiling exercise showed that each refugee community faced different challenges in terms of access to employment, housing and finances as well as in relation to physical safety. Refugees from Myanmar and Somalia faced the most discrimination and harassment, affecting their access to the job market and their housing security and education situation. Afghans experienced less discrimination from the local community, however they lacked the intra-community support enjoyed by the other two groups.

Figure 1: Proportion of employed income earners with negative experiences
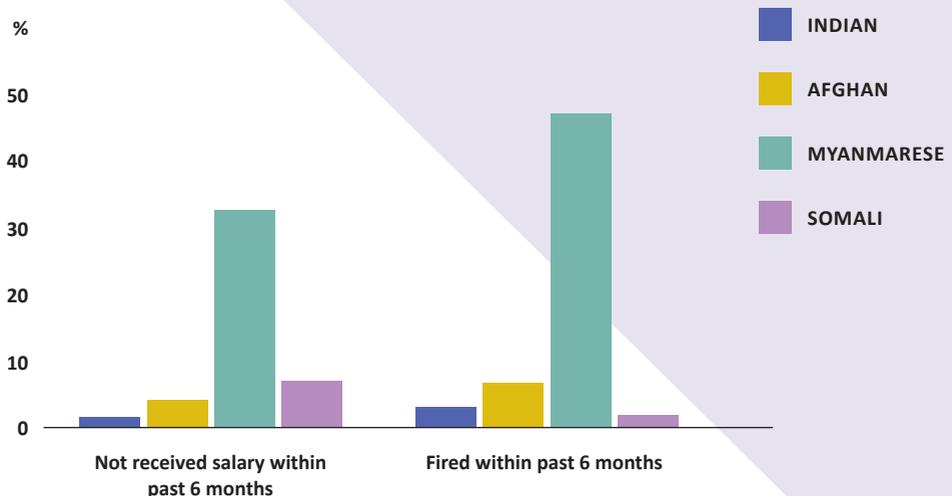
Employment and financial security

Both Myanmarese and Somali respondents reported discrimination and concerns over safety in the labour market. Myanmarese refugees experienced unstable working conditions and a limited number of occupations in which they could work (figure 1). However, 54% of Myanmarese household heads were in paid employment, compared to only 14% of Somalis.

A third of Afghan household heads reported unemployment, and many reported they lacked work visas, and that their skills were not recognized. Those who did work, enjoyed better working conditions and access to the labour market than other groups. 40% of Afghans were self-employed, compared to just 7% of the Myanmarese.

Inability to speak Hindi among the Somali (39%) and Myanmarese (55%) populations presented a problem in finding high skilled and better paid jobs, as well as engaging with local authorities.

Housing security

All three refugee groups reported housing insecurity as a result of restricted access to accommodation, discrimination by landlords, and the threat of eviction. 80% of Myanmarese households and 62% of Somali households had experienced evictions.

People lived in cramped housing: of the Myanmarese households, 90% lived in one room, as did 81% of Somalis. Afghans enjoyed better housing, with half occupying two rooms, compared to a third of the Indians surveyed (figure 2).

90% of Myanmarese and 81% of Som tended to live in

**Figure 2: Distribution of households according to number of rooms occupied**
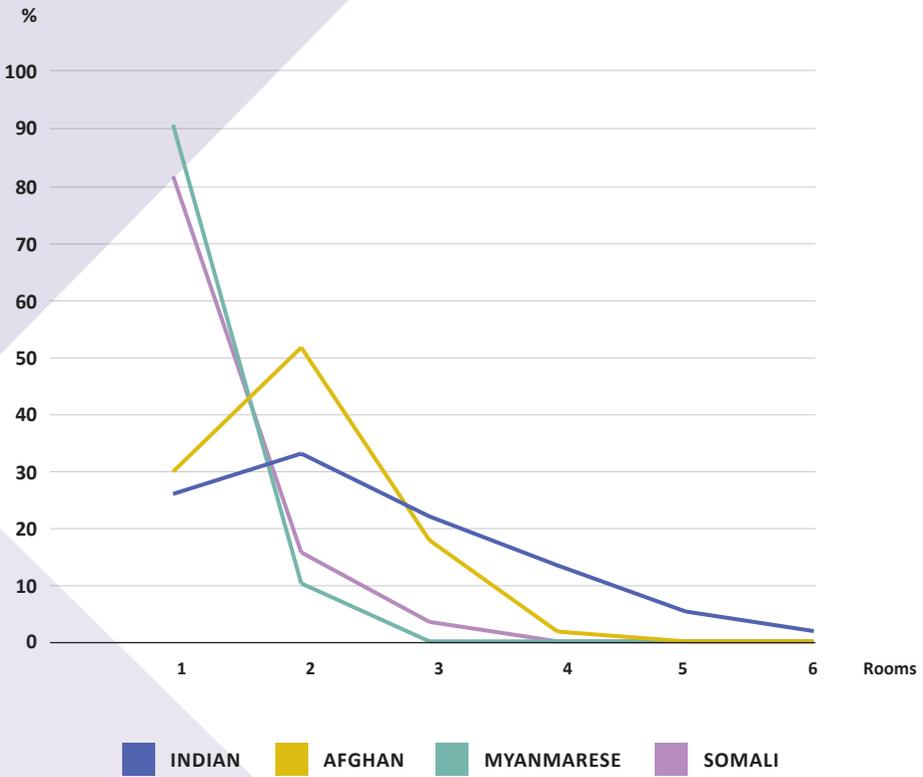
Physical safety and discrimination

Refugees from Myanmar and Somalia reported high levels of discrimination and harassment in their local areas, at work and at school, and by local authorities. Less than 1% of Indians reported having experienced theft, robbery or physical assault in the past year, compared to 80% of Myanmarese and 37% of Somalis. Most (92%) of the Myanmarese and 76% of Somalis thought their neighbourhood was unsafe, compared to 6% of Indians and 17% of Afghans (figure 3).

Both Myanmarese and Somalis reported strong intra-community support networks. Afghans appeared to lack the same level of community support, but on the other hand reported lower levels of discrimination.

Figure 3: Proportion of households finding their neighbourhood unsafe
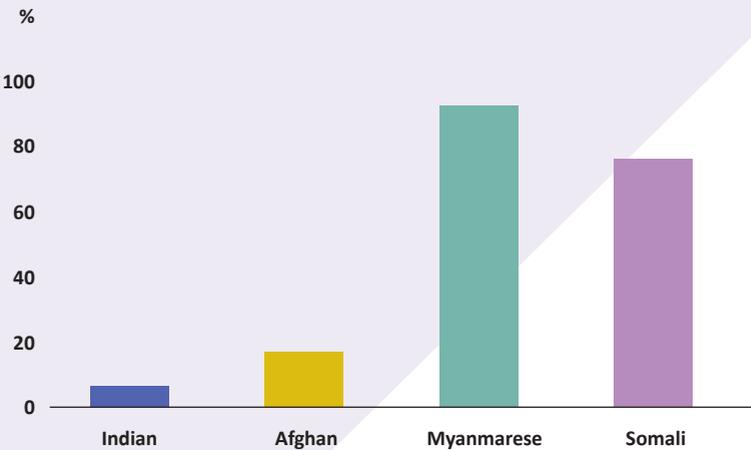
Half of Myanmarese and Somali refugees feel unsafe going to and from work

Education

Some refugees reported that their higher education levels did not aid in finding employment as their certification and skill levels were not recognised. Adequate access to all levels of education, including higher education, was a concern for all the refugee groups.

Many Somali and Myanmarese reported that their children experienced harassment and discrimination in school, causing them to attend school in lower numbers.

41% of Myanmarese children are not enrolled in schools

What were the profiling lessons?

- Profiling exercises benefit from having a dedicated coordinator present throughout the process in order to ensure continuity and consistency between all phases; from establishing the objectives to disseminating the final report.

- Working with local partners is key for effective profiling. Not only to inform logistical plans in complex urban environments, but also to guarantee proper translation into multiple languages to ensure comparable data is collected.

- The comparative analysis approach used in Delhi helped to systematically assess relative vulnerabilities between different groups. This is a recommended approach for profiling analysis.

- It is essential to revise and pilot questionnaires several times, to ensure that the desired information is collected. Once a questionnaire is finalized, it can be costly to change if questions turn out not to be relevant or appropriate.

- Sufficient resources and time must be allocated for the results dissemination phase. Sharing findings within the communities made the results in Delhi more robust and increased their usage and impact.

This summary provides a glimpse into a collaborative urban profiling process. UN, NGO and academic partners contributed to the process, working together to outline its objectives, design methodology and tools, deliver training, conduct data collection and analysis, and disseminate the findings.

JIPS supported these actors in all phases of the exercise, through an internationally endorsed methodology for profiling situations of displacement.

This glance into the profile of refugees in Delhi hopes to spark interest in both the specific findings of this exercise and urban profiling processes in general.

info@jips.org
+41 22 552 22 77
www.jips.org

www.jet.jips.org
www.parkdatabase.org

@JIPS_profiling
JointIDPProfilingService