

AUGUST 2022

NEWSLETTER



SUPPORTING THE NEEDIEST CHIN & AFGHAN FAMILIES TO ACCESS CLEAN DRINKING WATER

The quality of water in underdeveloped refugee settlements in Delhi is poor and contamination and high salinity are prolonged concerns raised by the Urban Refugee families. Chronic illnesses such as Cholera and Typhoid have been commonly reported by the Chin & Afghan families. Untreated water and lack of proper sanitation and hygiene put refugee health, education, and livelihoods at risk.

Through the distribution of portable water purifiers, JRS reached out to 180 (838 PoCs) Chin & Afghan urban refugee families. The families are now able to store clean water for their household use and are relieved of spending the family's limited income on packaged drinking water.



FRIENDSHIP DAY CELEBRATION

The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between people, countries, cultures, and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities. By developing the trends of friendship among people, societies, and countries we can achieve a better level of stability, solidarity, and peace.

On 9th August, the JRS Urban Refugee project team celebrated Friendship Day with the Chin women students of the tailoring course. It was a collective effort by the women to exhibit unity and create beautiful hand bands for each other.

Everyone came up with a distinct positive point about one another; laughter and smiles filled the room with positivity creating a welcoming atmosphere.





POST COVID-19 SUPPORT FOR CHIN AND AFGHAN WOMEN

The Urban Refugee families are yet to recover their livelihood lost to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has affected in a loss of stable income especially affecting the women and girls whose access to safe sanitary practices was risked. Thus, JRS offered recovery support to ensure hygienic menstrual practices and avoid infections that might weaken their immunity.

Through the distribution of towels and sanitary pads, JRS was able to reach out to 200 women and girls from the Chin & Afghan families/communities.



SESSIONS ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

On 20 August, one-hour sessions on GBV were organized in two JRS Centres for Chin & Afghan women. The sessions were conducted by Mr. Anthony Chettri, Lead, Organizational and Programme Sustainability, Indo Global Social Service Society.

The Urban Refugee women at risk of abuse and violence during forced home quarantine caused by the aftermath of Covid-19, participated in the sessions. The facilitator explained the different forms and effects of GBV to the participants with the help of movie clips from Bollywood.

EXPOSURE VISIT FOR AFGHAN GIRLS CLUB AT ALL INDIA RADIO



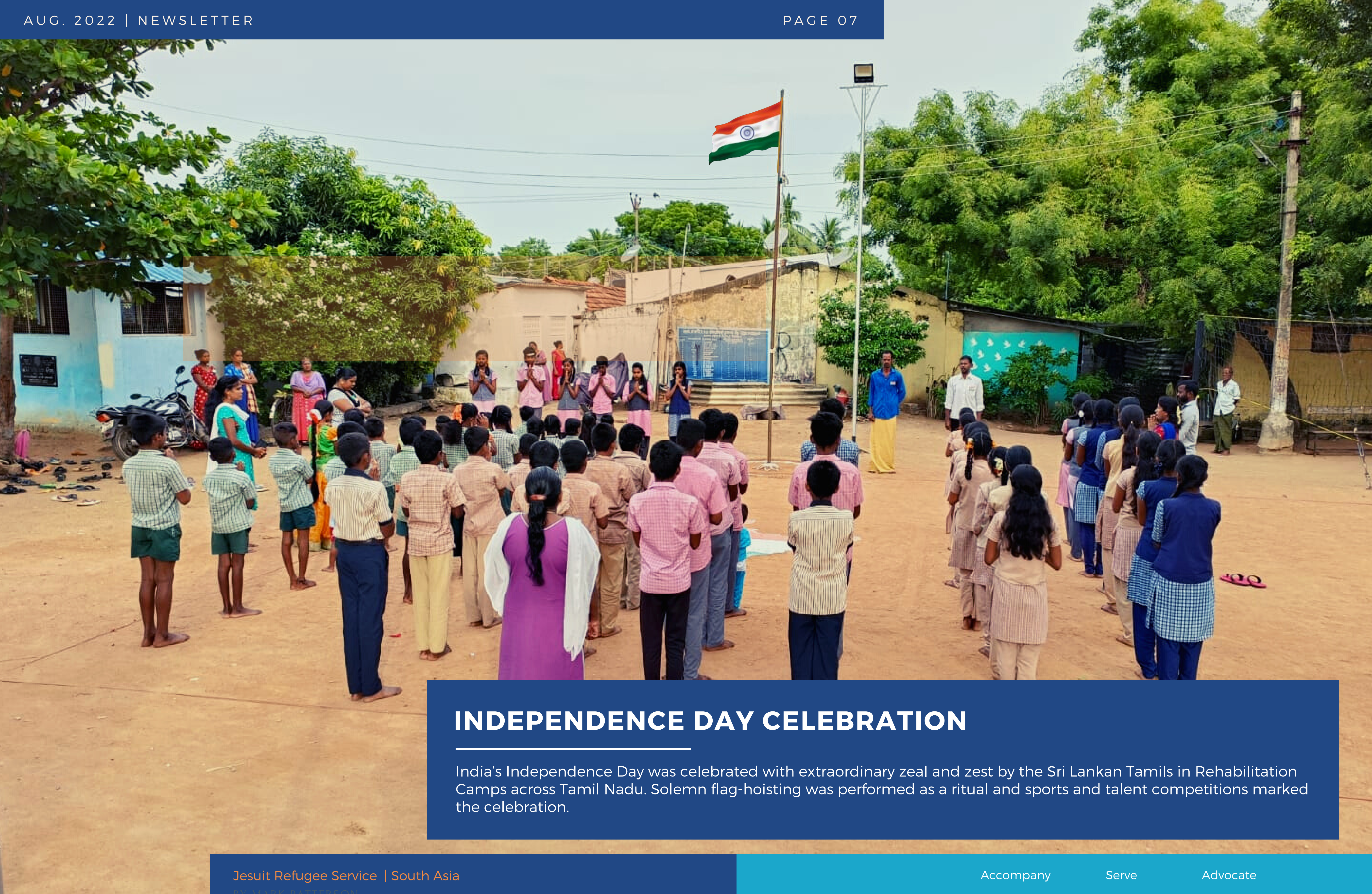
A group of 18-members of an Afghan Girls' Club, Tilak Nagar had their first exposure trip as part of their course to the All-India Radio Program Broadcasting House. The girls witnessed the Radio Museum, had an opportunity to see a live studio, interacted with the officials at the station on how broadcasting is done and went through the equipment required for the same. The visit was accompanied by the Urban Refugee Project Director along with the Radio Program Coordinator. The visit was a fruitful one and one of the girls expressed her passion to become an RJ. At the end of the program, the girls are hoping to achieve skills like audio modulation, communication, podcasting, social engagement, teamwork ethics, interviewing, etc

PEACE SESSIONS

The peace session was conducted at the Chin center by the Education Coordinator of the Regional Office. Likewise, a similar session was conducted in the country unit in Tamil Nadu. The sessions commenced with an ice-breaker that required them to make a circle for a group activity. This enrooted the value of cooperation, good listening, and concentration power. To encourage participation, the following question was asked, i.e., "What is Peace? The participants came up with responses like- calmness, absence of war and violence, proper rules and regulations, etc.

The basic elements of human rights are based on the concept of a peace and reconciliation approach. Forgiveness is a vital factor in the realization. Therefore, the participants were nurtured with moral values like love, kindness, and compassion so that they can lead a harmonious life in the future with their family and friends. The session was concluded with feedback and one of the students shared that "Everyone needs to light a candle instead of cursing the darkness."





INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

India’s Independence Day was celebrated with extraordinary zeal and zest by the Sri Lankan Tamils in Rehabilitation Camps across Tamil Nadu. Solemn flag-hoisting was performed as a ritual and sports and talent competitions marked the celebration.



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

International Youth Day (IYD) was observed by the Sri Lankan youth in 55 Rehabilitation camps across Tamil Nadu. The observance was marked by a group reflection on the theme of Intergenerational Solidarity. The youth pledged to foster as well as promote intergenerational solidarity in their own families and communities. The observance was also marked by sports and talent shows.

SESSIONS ON TREE OF LIFE

The tree of life is a workshop methodology for children between the age category of 12-17 years old. The sessions were facilitated by Ms. Zakira Ganji and Ms. Gul Bashra Ahmadzai, JRS/CRS project Field Animators. It was conducted in five different locations for Afghan PoCs and it is a narrative practice that is the metaphor to use different parts of a tree to represent the different aspects of one's life. Additionally, the session had three parts, that is, tree of life where all the participants had to draw a tree and its branches. Everyone was encouraged to write about where they came from, their family history, and significant learnings.

They were guided to use the soil/ground to reflect on their daily life activities, in the trunk they were asked to write about their talents, and skills and the branches were used to define their hopes, dreams, and wishes. Besides that, in the leaves, they highlighted the people they value. To conclude the activity, all the trees were collected and taped together to create a forest to highlight the strength of togetherness.

Besides that, the facilitator also talked about 'Good touch and Bad touch' and ways to protect themselves when facing such incidences of abuse. At the end of the program, students were asked about their takeaways and they were given some refreshments and stationery items.





UNHCR MEETING: LEGAL ANALYSIS ON LOCAL SOLUTIONS FOR SRI LANKAN REFUGEES IN INDIA

Mr. Antony Arulraj represented JRS at the UNHCR Meeting held in Chennai, on 24 August 2022. The keynote address on Legal Analysis on Local Solutions for Sri Lankan Refugees in India was delivered by Mr. M Gandhi, an Independent Legal Expert who is also the Vice President of the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi. Mr. Gandhi's legal analysis was focused on finding local, legal solutions for Sri Lankan Refugees in India. He highlighted the favorable legal solutions that are present in the Citizenship Act 1955: Citizenship by Birth under Section 3.1.a that enables any person born on Indian soil on or after 26 January 1950 but before 1 July 1987 to become Indian citizens irrespective of their parent's nationality.

The meeting was attended by eminent persons like Dr. Kalanithi Veerasamy, a Member of Parliament, and Ms. Jacintha Lazarus IAS, Rehabilitation Commissioner, and academics like Dr. Bernard D' Sami, Dr. Parivelan, Dr. Sunod Jacob, and others.

Jesuit Refugee Service

Nonprofit organization

We accompany, serve, and advocate the cause of refugees and other forcibly displaced people, so that they may heal, learn and determine their own future.

Delivering Significant Change

62,189 people were served in 2021

JRS South Asia was present in 2 countries

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- Serve
- Advocate

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