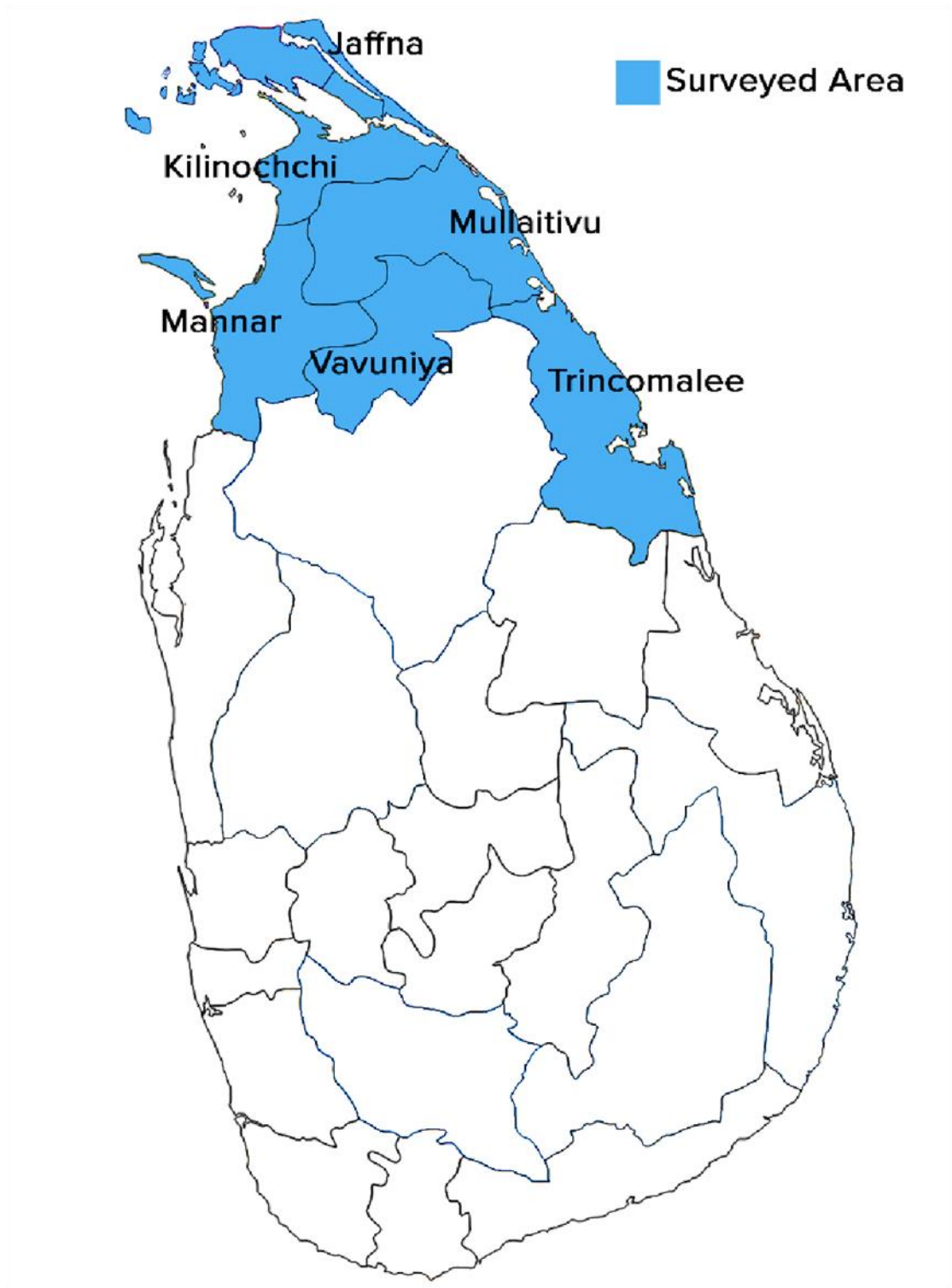


Sri Lankan Refugee Returnees in 2018



Results of Household Visit Protection Monitoring Interviews (Tool Two)
September 2020





Contents

Reading keys	3
Abbreviations	3
Introduction	4
Methodology	6
Sample size and availability for interview	7
Summary of findings	8

Detailed summaries by theme

A. Basic information on respondents	12
B. Registration and other visits by authorities	15
C. Civil documentation	17
D. Land and shelter	22
E. Security and justice	25
F. Livelihoods	31
G. Returnee sentiments regarding return and reintegration	35
H. Reintegration programmes of UNHCR and others	38

Reading keys

Constraints: Users of this data should remain aware of the following factors:

Sample size: The sample size (357 households) represents a significant proportion (50%) of all 2018 returnee households and reaches all districts with significant refugee return. Thus, this data is highly representative of the refugee returnee experience during the reporting period.

Refugee returnees, not IDP returnees: This data reflects the experience of refugee returnees in 2018 and should not be assumed also to reflect the experience 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 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.

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

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

Abbreviations

BC	Birth Certificate
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
DS	Divisional Secretary
GN	Grama Niladhari
HoH	Head of Household
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
MRE	Mine Risk Education
NFI	Non-Food Item
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIC	National Identity Card
PWSN	Persons with Specific Needs
SL	Sri Lanka
TID	Terrorist Investigation Division
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Introduction

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, in particular in Tamil Nadu, India, continues to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Sri Lankan refugees.

This initiative is aimed at obtaining and analysing 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 on the basis of data collected from returnees every month upon their immediate return to their places of origin is known as “Tool One”, and the report produced on the basis of data collected from 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 donors and 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 refugees who wish to return. UNHCR Sri Lanka staff meet each facilitated returnee upon arrival at the airport to ensure his / her 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 intervention. 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 government authorities to obtain further assistance. Furthermore, 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 this group to approach UNHCR for protection monitoring purposes and referral to specialized agencies that can support their reintegration process.

In addition to collecting monitoring information from individuals who approach UNHCR or during frequent visits conducted by UNHCR and partners to returnee areas, UNHCR Sri Lanka utilizes the two “tools” to ensure a systematized approach to returnee protection assessment

and monitoring and has done so since 2011. These monitoring “tools” cover all refugee returnees known to UNHCR, whether their return is facilitated or spontaneous.

Tool One:

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

Although Tool One interviews are onetime snapshots of the initial return experience for each family, the comparison of this assessment data from month to month indicates trends and feeds into 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 return. The methodology also disproportionately relies on responses from heads of household, and thus, does not necessarily reflect the age, gender and diversity spectrum of 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 refugee returnees, to collect a comprehensive mix of quantitative and qualitative data regarding the return and reintegration experience (in general one year after return).

UNHCR gains in-depth knowledge and information necessary to analyse the reintegration process and protection challenges faced by returning refugees through both a mid and long-term perspective. Moreover, since interviews take place inside the returnee’s home and include open-ended questions, a more accurate and in-depth response is 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 2018 Tool Two exercise, and is the work of UNHCR Sri Lanka, with the combined efforts of Protection and Field teams in Jaffna and Colombo. This means that although conducted in 2019 the exercise focuses on those who returned in 2018.

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 reintegration experience of refugees.

Sampling 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 in 2017 and 2018. The sample selection technique sought to balance the return type and districts of returnees; respondents were spread across Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee and Vavuniya districts.

UNHCR Colombo office provided UNHCR Jaffna office with the (randomly) selected list of households for interviewing specific to each district. Field staff visited sample households in November and December 2019 and interviewed the most senior member of the household present. Respondents were informed that the exercise was voluntary and that their participation or non-participation has no link to material assistance or other programmes. Although no visited family refused to participate, family members from 56 out of 357 households selected for the survey were not available at the time of the visit as the entire family had reportedly moved to another location in Sri Lanka, or for other reasons. If a household was empty at the time of the visit but neighbours indicated that the family still lived there, the team returned for the interview at another time.

Sample selection was undertaken as follows. 563 families who returned in 2018, approximately 50% of these families (297 families) were randomly selected for the administration of Tool Two. Additionally, another 60 families were randomly selected to be re-interviewed of the 300 families (representing approximately 50% of 2017 returnee families) who were administered the Tool Two questionnaire in 2017. In all, of the 357 families (297 + 60) randomly selected for the administration of the Tool Two structured questionnaire, face-to-face interviews were conducted among an adult family member from 301 families i.e. a response rate of 84%.

Responses were recorded by staff via pen and paper interviews. At the end of every other week, all completed questionnaires were sent to UNHCR Colombo. Questionnaires were scrutinized and keyed into a Microsoft Excel data base by a single data coder. Data analysis was then carried out using a combination of Microsoft Excel and SPSS¹ software.

¹ Statistical Package for the Social Science

Sample size and availability for interview

- ▶ 357 households were selected for the sample in 2018. 301 (84%) were located and respondents interviewed at their stated address, similar to the 82% in 2017 (Table 1).

Table 1: Sample achievement comparison 2015, 2017, 2018

Year	2015	2017	2018
No. of selected households	150	283	357
No. of successful Interviews	113	233	301

- ▶ 16% of families selected in 2018 (56 families in all) were unavailable to be interviewed (Table 2): mainly from the districts of Mullaitivu (8 out of 30 families in Mullaitivu district, i.e. 27%), Kilinochchi (19 families i.e. 26%) and Mannar (15 families i.e. 19%).

Table 2: Overview of the sample

District	Total sample size sought (families)	Located and interviewed		Families unavailable for interview
		Families	Individuals	
Jaffna	84	77	176	7
Kilinochchi	72	53	142	19
Mannar	79	64	149	15
Mullaitivu	30	22	44	8
Trincomalee	19	17	43	2
Vavuniya	73	68	196	5
Total	357	301	750	56

- ▶ According to community members or local officials, the main reasons for the unavailability of returnees was attributed to the returnees moving to another place in the country from the originally stated address or returning back to India (Table 3).

Table 3: Reasons for unavailability of returnees as per neighbours, community or GN

District	Total	Returned, but since moved elsewhere, location unknown	Returned, but since moved elsewhere in Sri Lanka	Returned, but since moved back to India	Returned, but since moved outside of Sri Lanka and India	HoH Died	HoH returned to India to bring back family
Jaffna	7	-	1	5	-	-	1
Kilinochchi	19	2	8	7	2	-	-
Mannar	15	1	9	3	-	2	-
Mullaitivu	8	-	3	5	-	-	-
Trincomalee	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
Vavuniya	5	3	1	-	1	-	-
Total	56	6	23	21	3	2	1

Base: (Former) neighbours, community or GN of families unavailable for interviews









The remainder of data in this report represents responses from those 301 households comprised of 750 individuals, who were visited and interviewed. 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.

Summary of findings

- ▶ Among the 301 respondents surveyed, 81% were heads of the household, another 15% their spouses and the rest were other family members. 46% of the respondents were males and 54% females.
- ▶ In these 301 households, there were 750 individuals (family members) including the respondents, resulting in an average household size of 2.5: lower than the average Sri Lankan household size of 3.8. Also, the average number of adults of working age (18-59) was just 1.4 among returnees, compared to 2.2 nationally. This suggests the higher level of vulnerability of returnees compared to the population of Sri Lanka in general, since in returnee households there was an average of almost one less adult of working age compared to the national average. Disability or death of an adult in these returnee refugee households would have a significant impact on the family's wellbeing.
- ▶ 11% of all family members (including the respondents) were persons with specific needs (PWSNs), mainly pertaining to coping with being a single older person, having physical disabilities, and requiring support for being a woman at risk.
- ▶ Almost all respondents (98%) said their own and their families' movements were unrestricted.
- ▶ All refugee returnees were registered with the DS or GN. 20% of respondents said there were also visits to register their family by people other than from the DS or GN) – much lower than the 52% saying so in 2017.
- ▶ 5% of individuals did not have any birth certificate (issued in Sri Lanka, India or any other country). 6% of individuals did not have a Sri Lankan birth certificate and 11% of adults didn't possess a Sri Lankan national identity card. Many of those (40% of those without a Sri Lankan birth certificate, and 57% without a Sri Lankan national identity card) had applied for these documents and had not received / not collected them. The rest had problems in not having relevant supporting documents.
- ▶ Over a quarter (29%) of the family members (216 out of 750 individuals) were born in India and all of them had the relevant Indian birth registration documents. While most families with Indian born children didn't experience problems in obtaining Sri Lankan citizenship for them, a fifth (21%) did face issues in the past or were currently facing them with regard to obtaining citizenship. While about half of them had subsequently resolved these issues, the rest were still experiencing difficulties in getting Sri Lankan citizenship for their children. The main reasons stated were delays in obtaining birth certificates issued in India or not having sufficient funds to pay late registration or penalty fees.
- ▶ While 69% of refugee returnees have land, similar to the percentages in 2017, where 72% said they had land. In 2018 and 2017, the percentage of returnees owning land was lowest in the Jaffna district: 49% and 54% respectively. The majority of householders without land had applied for land but the process was ongoing at the time of the survey, and only 2 out of the 60 applicants had so far been successful.

- ▶ While 69% of respondents said they owned land, only 51% resided in a house / shelter on this land.
- ▶ More than half of all respondents (59%) said they did not receive shelter assistance. Shelter assistance was mainly provided by the Sri Lankan government, predominantly in the form of permanent housing.
- ▶ 99% said there were no landmines where they lived. Only 1% said there were landmines in their area, and 4% had received MRE information.
- ▶ Overall, about a quarter (24%) said there was military presence in their village / area. While the majority of respondents said there were no problems with the military's presence in their area or that it was good to have the military present, a significant minority were unhappy with the military's presence or did not want to comment on this aspect.
- ▶ The intention to go to the police in case of serious crimes was almost universal, and a quarter had done so. However, only half the respondents said they would seek assistance from the law courts in case of disputes. This was mainly due to social stigma associated with going to courts, not having any idea of how to go about the legal process or having cost concerns.
- ▶ Only a little over half the adults (57%) were registered to vote. The main reason mentioned for not being registered (by 77% of those not registered to vote) was that their applications for registration were pending approval from the authorities.
- ▶ The vast majority (87%) were at ease to voice their political views in public.
- ▶ 89% of respondents said they felt completely safe where they were residing currently, and 10% said they felt partially safe. Of the 750 individuals in the sampled households, two experienced safety concerns.
- ▶ A third of returnee families had received livelihood assistance, mostly from INGOs or UN agencies, mainly in the form of material with some receiving cash.
- ▶ Key concerns among refugee returnees were lack of government assistance (59%), lack of a livelihood (51%) and shelter / housing (45%).
- ▶ A third of households didn't have an income and depended on the government or relatives for handouts. Among the balance two thirds, only 10% of households had a member with a permanent income. Most were in jobs with daily or seasonal incomes. Youth unemployment was high (with one in two of the 18-35-year-olds being unemployed).
- ▶ Despite these concerns, 90% of respondents said they and their families were satisfied with their decision to return to Sri Lanka (slightly more than the 85% who said so in 2017 as well as in 2015). The two main reasons for being satisfied were the ability to return to their home country (stated by 57% of those who were satisfied to return) and being reunited with their relatives (43%). Among those unhappy to return, the main reason was the lack of livelihood opportunities (stated by 76% of those who were unhappy to return).

- ▶ As many as 90% intended to stay for good in the current area (similar to the 92% who said so in 2017). However, most of the 10% who said they may not stay for good said they would wait a while and then decide.
- ▶ Only 6% said they would not advise refugees to return to Sri Lanka. As many as 92% of all respondents said they would advise potential future refugee returnees to return with UNHCR assistance, mainly because of safe passage of return and receiving financial assistance.
- ▶ All returnees were repatriated from India, of whom 93% had returned via UNHCR's facilitated voluntary repatriation programme and most of the rest had returned spontaneously. Almost all UNHCR facilitated returnees (97%) used the reintegration grant for everyday expenses. Almost all of them (98%) also received the NFI cash grant from UNHCR, which was mainly used to purchase NFI items and for daily expenditure.
- ▶ 70% of these facilitated returnee households also received reintegration assistance from the Sri Lankan government in the form of cash.
- ▶ The two main suggestions by facilitated returnees for UNHCR to improve their assistance were to improve the repatriation grant (45%) and improve the quantity / quality of information provided in India (42%).
- ▶ 85% of households had their own toilet, almost always a permanent one. The incidence of having an own toilet was higher than in 2017 (79%).
- ▶ Half the households obtained their drinking water from protected dug / tube wells, and about a fifth each had piped water or water from a public source (public tap / standpipe or common well). However, 8% obtained drinking water from unprotected / contaminated / other sources.
- ▶ Only 13% had to travel more than 500 metres to collect water. As many as 74% had access to water less than 100 metres from their homes.
- ▶ While 92% of respondents mentioned their families had on average, three meals a day, the balance 8% said they had two meals.
- ▶ Almost all respondents (99%) said that they / their family members were subjected to health screening or testing on their return to Sri Lanka, mostly at the airport but also at hospitals and by Health Ministry officials.
- ▶ All schooling age children were attending school. A third of respondents also mentioned that their (school-going or grown up) children had relevant school/university/diploma documents from Indian institutions, and almost all of them said that these documents were accepted locally.
- ▶ A comparison over the last three surveys is shown below. While access to own toilets and drinking water have improved, and the vast majority were satisfied that they returned to Sri Lanka, a concern is that the number of households with no livelihood has increased.

Comparisons by year		2015	2017	2018
	Average size of household	2.6	2.8	2.5
	Households with no livelihood	22%	26%	35%
	Feel generally or completely safe	97%	96%	99%
	Satisfied with return to Sri Lanka	85%	85%	90%
	Household has own toilet	66%	79%	85%
	Access to uncontaminated drinking water	94%	84%	92%
	School age children attending school	100%	100%	100%
	No landmines in area	97%	95%	99%

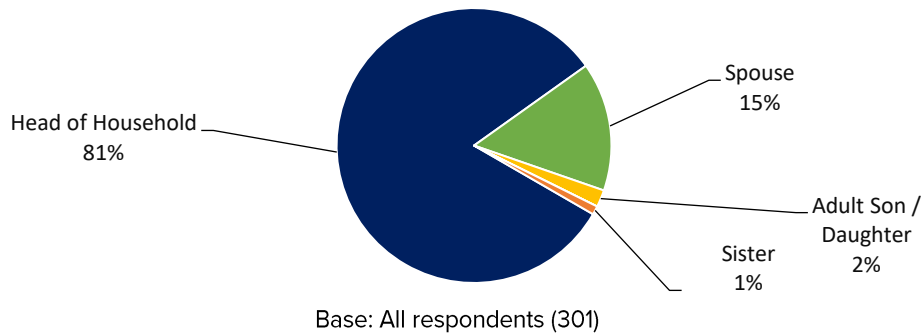
A Basic respondent information

Intent of analysis: To illustrate the profiles of the households and respondents surveyed, which also points to the vulnerability risks faced by these refugee returnees due to small numbers of working age adults in these households.

Sample profile

- ▶ 81% of respondents were HoHs (Figure A.1).

Figure A.1: Main respondent of the family



- ▶ Of the 750 returnees, the male to female split was 49:51 (Table A.1) and 43% of them were in age categories of below 18 years and above 60 years.

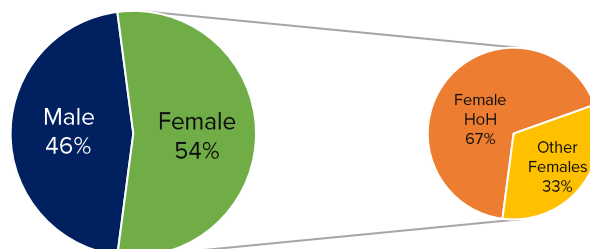
Table A.1: Gender and age of returnees

Age	All (100%)	Male (49%)	Female (51%)
0-4 Years	2%	1%	1%
5-11 Years	15%	7%	8%
12-17 Years	12%	7%	5%
18-35 Years	26%	13%	13%
36-59 Years	31%	14%	17%
60+ Years	14%	7%	7%

Base: All Individuals: 750

- ▶ The majority of respondents (54%) were female, except in the Mannar district where just 39% were female. Two thirds of female respondents (67%) were HoHs and one third (33%) were other female family members (*Figure A.2*).

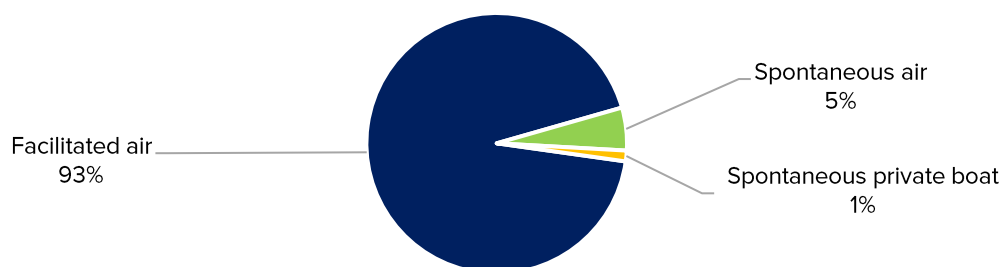
Figure A.2: Gender split of respondents and profile of female headed households



Base: All respondents (301)

- ▶ All interviewed returnees were voluntarily repatriated from India. 93% of all returnees had returned via UNHCR’s facilitated voluntary repatriation programme and 6% of the returnees had returned spontaneously (*Figure A.3*).

Figure A.3: Type of return to Sri Lanka



Base: All respondents (301)

Vulnerability risk

- ▶ The 301 respondents interviewed represented 750 individuals. The average returnee family size was 2.5 (similar to the returnee family size of 2.6 in the 2017 survey). The average returnee household size was much lower than the Sri Lankan national average household size of 3.8 (*Table A.2*). Also, the average number of working age adults (18-59 years) in a typical returnee household was only 1.4, well below the Sri Lankan average of 2.2. Therefore, disability or death of an adult in refugee returnee households would have a significant impact on the welfare of the family.

Table A.2: Age profile in an average household: Sri Lanka vs Returnees

Average no. of individuals in each age group	Sri Lanka (5.4m households)	Returnees (301 households)
0-4 Years	0.3	0.1
5-17 Years	0.8	0.7
18-59 Years	2.2	1.4
Above 60 Years	0.5	0.3
Average household size	3.8	2.5

- ▶ 11% of all individuals had specific needs (*Table A.3*). The foremost was assistance for being a single older person, followed by support for being a woman at risk.

Table A.3: Persons with Specific Needs (PWSNs) in family

Specific need	Number of individuals	Percentage of returnees
Single Older person	25	3%
Woman at risk (single female HoH)	17	2%
Physical disability	14	2%
Mental illness	5	1%
Blind	4	1%
Mute	2	++
Speech impairment	1	++
Single parent	1	++
Other	12	2%
Total having specific needs	82	11%

Base: All individuals (750)

++ Less than 0.5% viz. Mute 0.3%; Speech impairment 0.1%; Single parent 0.1%

B Registration and other visits by authorities

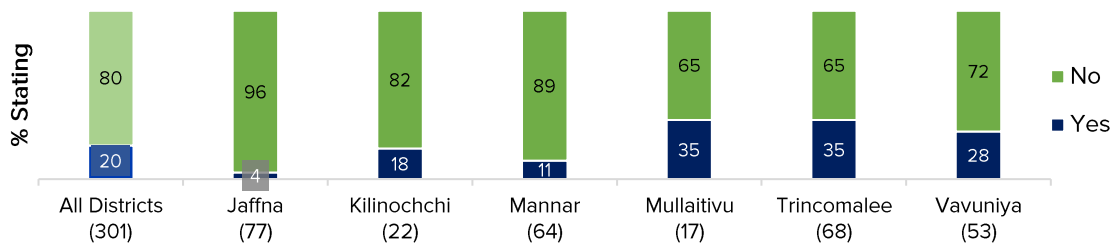
Intent of queries: To identify if returnees are able to register as residents in areas of return, if they in fact do so; and to ascertain if returnees are visited by security forces or police, for registration or any other purposes, and the frequency of such visits.

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 said their houses / families were already registered with the DS / GN.
- ▶ Overall, 20% of respondents said that there were visits to register their family by people other than from the DS or GN (Figure B.1). This is significantly lower than the 52% saying so in the 2017 survey.

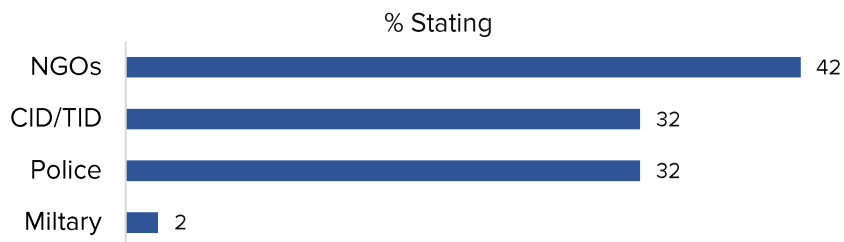
Figure B.1: Extent of visits to home to register family, other than by DS / GN authorities



Base: All respondents

- ▶ Among those visited, most visits were by NGOs, CID/TID and Police (Figure B.2).

Figure B.2: If visited for registration purposes other than by DS / GN, by whom

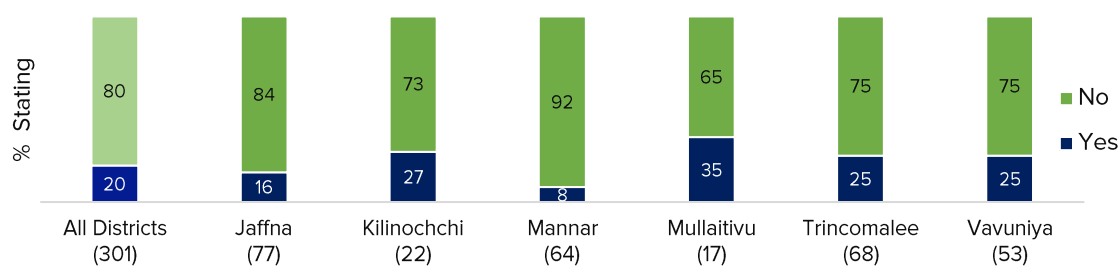


Base : Respondents from households that have been visited by authorities other than DS/GN (59)

Other visits

- ▶ A similar proportion (20%) said there were visits by persons or groups / organisations for conducting interviews other than for registration (*Figure B.3*). This too was much lower than the 67% saying so in 2017.

Figure B.3: Extent of visits to home for interviews other than for registration



Base: All respondents (301)

- ▶ Most such interviews were by NGOs followed by the Police (*Figure B.1*).

Table B.1: Extent and frequency of visits to home for interviews other than for registration

Institutions from which visited	% who were visited	% visited once	% visited more than once
NGOs	59	27	32
Police	19	14	5
Government	14	12	2
Military	7	5	2
Other	11	3	8

Base: No. of households visited other than for registration (59)

C Civil documentation

Intent of queries: To determine if returnees have essential civil documentation (such as birth certificates and National Identity Cards) and to determine if there are any constraints to access them. In this section, the enumerators' ensured data was collected for each family member, not merely the respondent or head of household. For birth certificates, data reflected Sri Lankan vs. non-Sri Lankan issued birth certificates. These queries also helped determine the percentage of refugee returnees without essential documents and may be at risk of statelessness.

Birth Certificates (BCs)

- ▶ 5% of all individuals did not have **any BC** (issued in India or in Sri Lanka), compared to 8% in 2017 and 4% in 2018.
- ▶ 6% of all individuals did not have a SL BC (*Figure C.1*). Among under 18s too, 6% did not possess a SL BC (*Table C.1*). The percentage of individuals not having a SL BC was highest in Trincomalee, Kilinochchi and Vavuniya districts.

Figure C.1: Incidence of individuals not having a Sri Lankan Birth Certificate

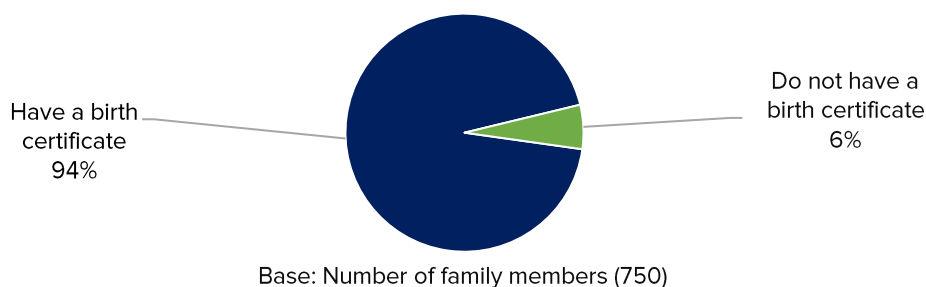


Table C.1: Extent of all individuals, and those under 18, without a SL BC, by district

District	Total no. of all individuals	No. of individuals without a Sri Lankan BC	As a percentage of total surveyed individuals	Total no. No. of Under 18s	No. of Under 18s without a Sri Lankan BC	As a percentage of Under 18s
Jaffna	176	6	3%	46	2	4%
Kilinochchi	142	12	8%	42	2	5%
Mannar	149	3	2%	42	-	-
Mullaitivu	44	3	7%	14	-	-
Trincomalee	43	4	9%	10	2	20%
Vavuniya	196	15	8%	68	8	12%
Total	750	43	6%	222	14	6%

- ▶ Among the 6% (43 individuals) who did not possess a SL BC, 8 individuals had a SL BC in the past but didn't have one now (*Table C.2*). The main reason for not having one now was that they have applied and were awaiting the document (4 individuals). Other reasons were that they were unable to find relevant birth related documents or birth records (3 individuals), and not knowing how to go about with the application process (1 individual).

33 of these 43 individuals have never had a SL BC (*Table C.2*). Here too, many had applied for one and were awaiting the document (13 individuals), and others mentioned that the births were not registered in Sri Lanka (10 individuals) or that they have no supporting documents to register the birth (10 individuals).

In sum, among the 43 individuals without a SL BC, 17 (40%) have still not received / collected the document after applying for it.

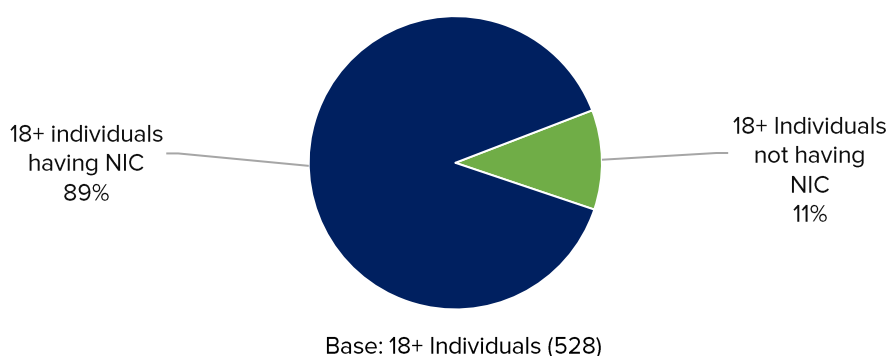
Table C.2: Breakdown of those who don't have a SL BC and reasons thereof

Category	%	Reasons (No. stating)
Had SL BC in past but not now	19%	Applied, not received (4) Don't know how to reapply (1) No supporting documents (3)
Never had SL BC	76%	Applied, not received (13) Birth not registered in SL (10) No supporting documents (10)
No response	5%	-
No. who don't have a SL BC	43	43

National Identity Cards (NICs)

- ▶ Among all individuals who were adults 11% (60 individuals) did not have a SL NIC (*Figure C.2*). The percentage not having SL NICs was lowest in Jaffna district and highest in Mullaitivu and Trincomalee districts.

Figure C.2: Incidence of adult individuals not having a Sri Lankan NIC



- ▶ Of these 60 adults, 12 have had a SL NIC in the past but do not have it now (*Table C.4*). The main reasons for this were that they had applied but are awaiting the document (6 individuals) and that they no longer have supporting documents to apply (6 individuals).

Among the balance 48 adults who have never had a SL NIC, the main reasons mentioned were the same (*Table C.4*): applied and are awaiting the document (28 individuals) and not having supporting documents to apply (19 individuals).

Therefore, of the 60 individuals without a SL NIC, 34 (57%) have still not received / collected the document after applying for it.

Table C.4: Breakdown of those who don't have a SL NIC and reasons thereof

Category	%	Reasons (No. stating)
Had SL NIC in past but not now	20%	Applied, not received (6) No supporting documents (6)
Never had SL NIC	80%	Applied, not received (28) No supporting documents (19)
No. who don't have a SL NIC	60	60

Absence of essential documents

- ▶ Only 3% of individuals did not possess any essential identity document i.e. Sri Lankan BC, NIC or passport (*Figure C.3*). In Trincomalee district however, 6% (i.e. twice the overall average) did not possess any of these documents (*Table C.5*).

Figure C.3: Incidence of individuals (including minors) not currently having at least one of these Sri Lankan registration / identity documents: BC, NIC, Passport

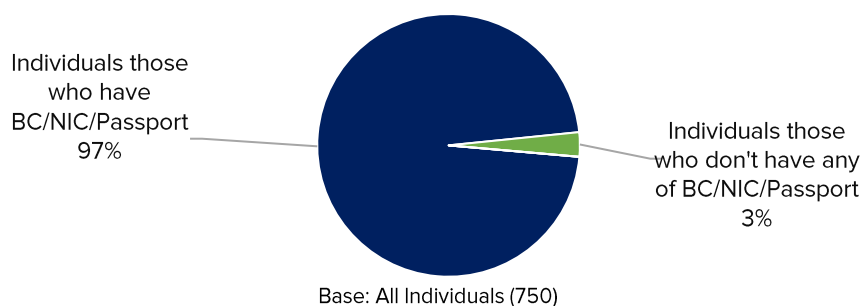


Table C.5: Incidence of individuals (including minors) not currently having at least one Sri Lankan registration / identity documents: BC, NIC, Passport, by district

District	Total no. of individuals	No. of Individuals without a SL BC, NIC or Passport	As a percentage all individuals
Jaffna	176	2	1%
Kilinochchi	44	1	2%
Mannar	149	-	-
Mullaitivu	43	2	5%
Trincomalee	196	11	6%
Vavuniya	142	3	2%
Total	750	19	3%

- ▶ 40% of households (121 out of 301 households) had children who born in India. Among the 750 family members represented in the research, as many as 29% (i.e. 216 children) were born in India (*Table C.6*).

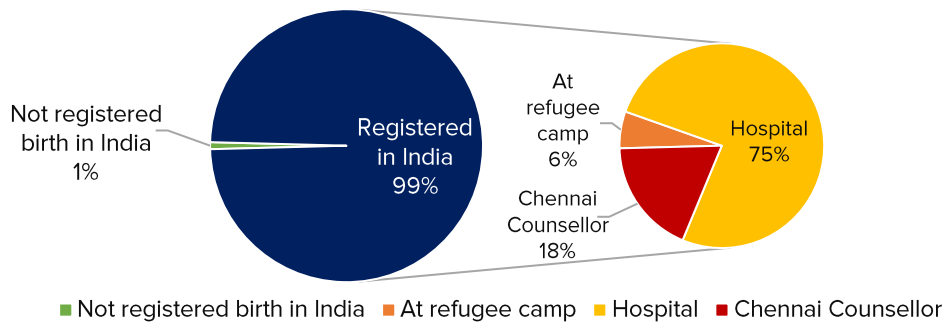
Table C.6: Number of individuals born in India

District	Individuals born in India	As a percentage of total surveyed individuals (n=750)	As a percentage of total surveyed children
Jaffna	50	28%	109%
Kilinochchi	12	27%	86%
Mannar	43	29%	102%
Mullaitivu	8	19%	80%
Trincomalee	64	33%	94%
Vavuniya	39	27%	93%
Total	216	29%	97%

Note: Some children have subsequently become adults resulting in percentages exceeding 100%

- ▶ Nearly all the children born in India (99%) had their births registered in India, mostly at the hospital where the child was born (*Figure C.4*). All of them had the birth documents issued in India.

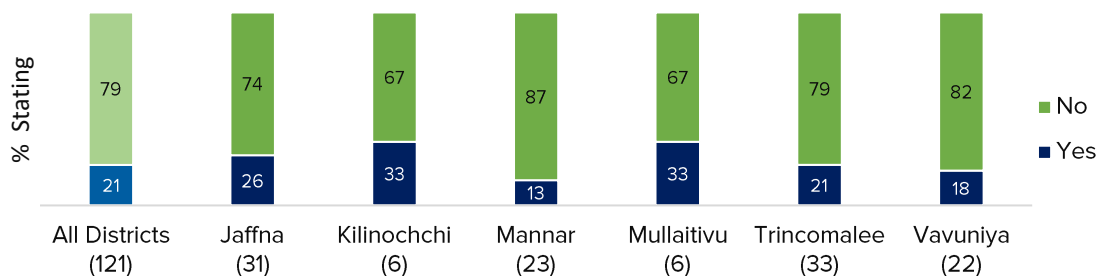
Figure C.4: Percentage of families whose children were born in India, and who registered their births in India



Base: Families whose members were born in India (121)

- ▶ Among the families (households) where children were born in India, most families did not experience any problems in obtaining Sri Lankan citizenship for the children, but about a fifth (21%) had faced or were facing issues in doing so (*Figure C.5*).

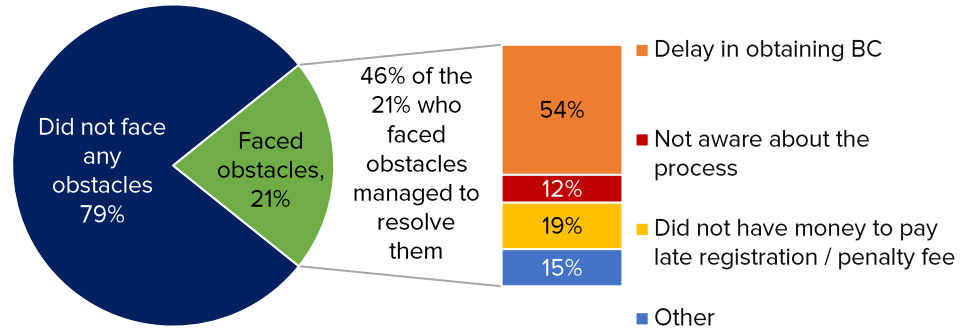
Figure C.5: Whether problems were experienced in obtaining Sri Lankan citizenship for any individuals born in India



Base: Households which had family members born in India (121)

- ▶ Almost half (46%) of those who faced issues had however been able to get them resolved. Most problems were to do with delays in obtaining the birth certificates and not having money to pay late registration / penalty fee (*Figure C.6*).

Figure C.6: Extent of having had problems in obtaining Sri Lankan citizenship for individuals (children) born in India, and types of problems encountered

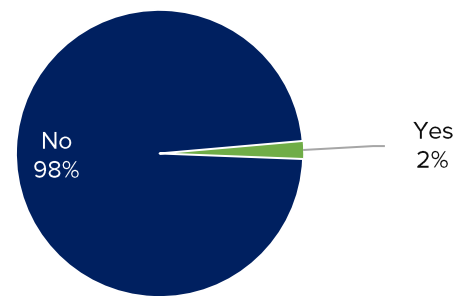


Base: Households which had family members born in India (121)

Families from plantation areas (Hill Country)

- ▶ Of the 301 families surveyed, only 2% (6 returnees) were originally from the plantation areas of the hill country (*Figure C.7*) and almost all of them had documents to prove their Sri Lankan nationality.

Figure C.7: Extent to which families were from the plantation areas (Hill Country)



Base: All respondents (301)

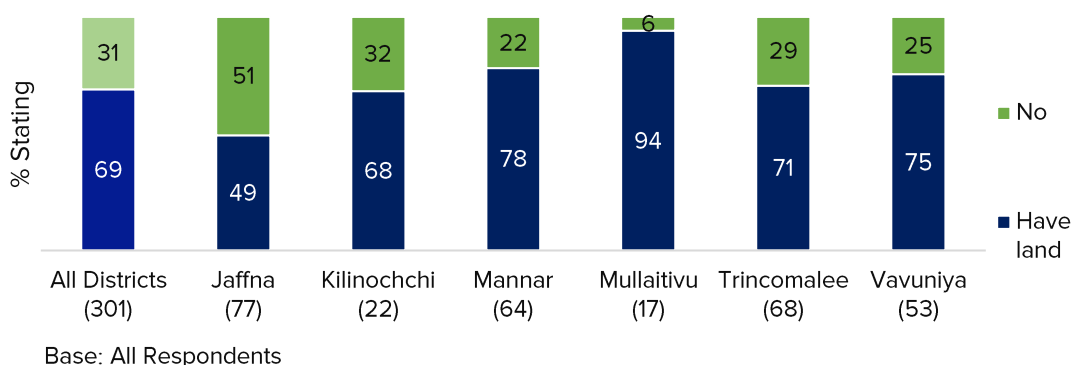
D Land and shelter

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

Land ownership and access to land

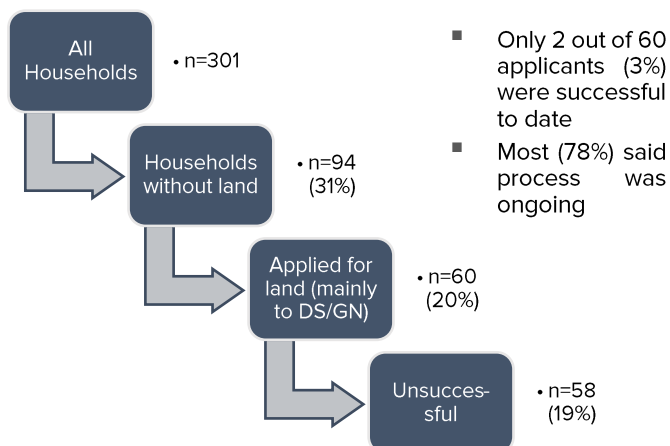
- ▶ Overall, 69% of respondents said they have land (*Figure D.1*). There were substantial variations in some districts: in Jaffna district only 49% said they have land and in the less populated Mullaitivu district as many as 94% said they have land.
- ▶ The percentage who said they owned land was similar to the ownership level in 2017, where 72% said they had land. In Jaffna district this percentage was only 49%.

Figure D.1: Extent to which the household has land



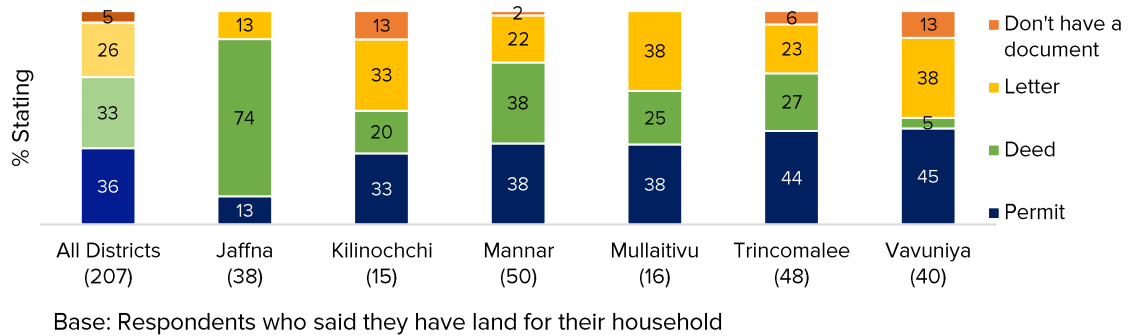
- ▶ Of the 94 families (31% of households) without land, 60 families had applied for land, mainly to the local authority (DS/GN) but only two applicants have been successful at the time of the survey. However, most said the process was ongoing (*Figure D.2*).

Figure D.2: Status of application for land: whether received land or not



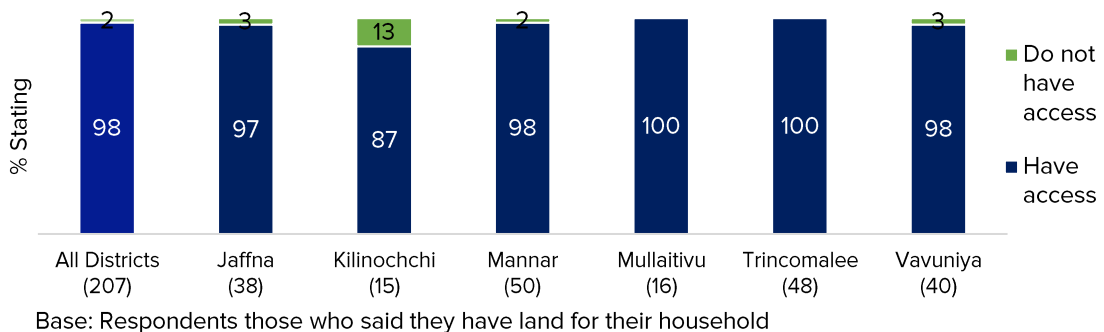
- ▶ Almost all of those (97%) currently having land have no current disputes regarding the land. Among the 3% having ongoing disputes most would go / have gone to the local authority (DS/GS) for resolution of the issue.
- ▶ Just 5% did not have any documents pertaining to their land (Figure D.3). Among this 5% (12 respondents), most (8 respondents) said they have applied for documents and are awaiting a response from the authorities. The remainder said they never had any documents in the first place.

Figure D.3: Documents possessed regarding land owned



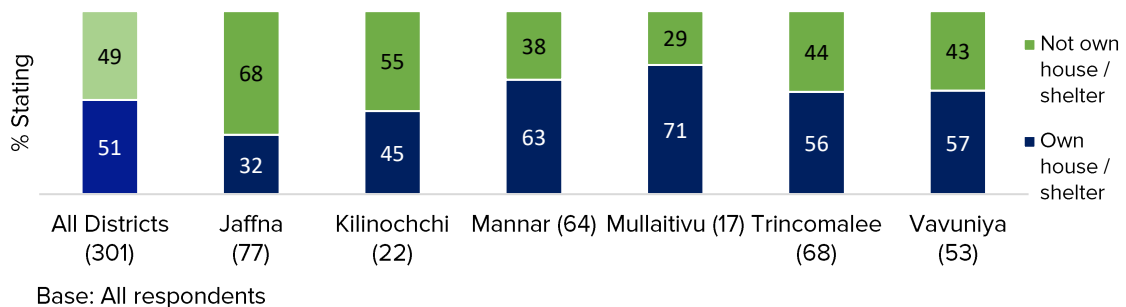
- ▶ Similar numbers (between a quarter and a third) each said the documents they had were permits, deeds and / or letters. In Jaffna district 74% said they had a deed.
- ▶ Almost all having land said they had access to the land (98%) (Figure D.4).

Figure D.4: Whether household has access to own land housing or shelter



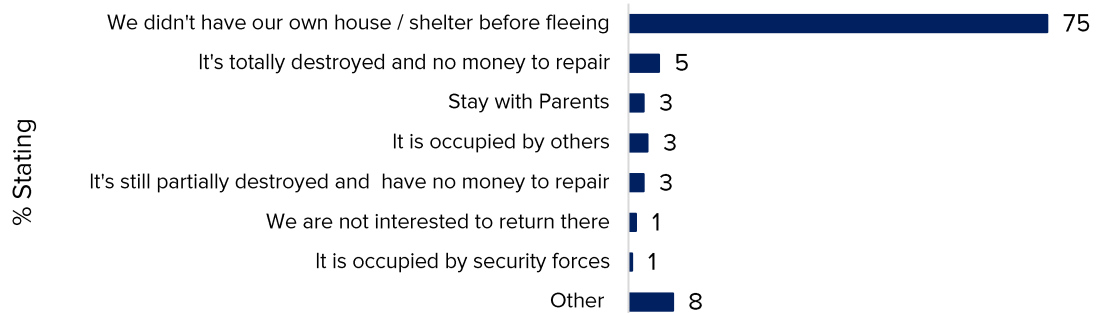
- ▶ Only about half the respondents (51%) said they were residing in their own house or shelter; 49% were not doing so (Figure D.5). In Jaffna district 68% were not residing in their own house or shelter.

Figure D.5: Whether currently residing in own house or shelter



- ▶ As many as three fourths (75%) of those who did not reside in their own home or shelter said they didn't have their own home / shelter in the first place before having to leave their abode (Figure D.6).

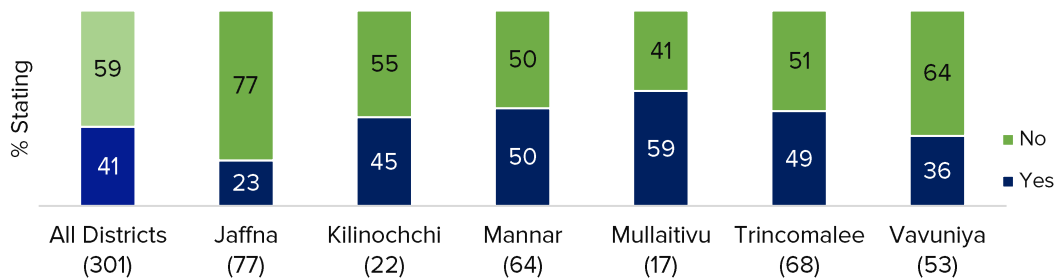
Figure D.6: Reasons for not residing in own house or shelter



Base: Respondents those who were not residing in their own home / shelter (147)

- ▶ About two fifths of all respondents (41%) said they received shelter assistance but as many as 59% did not (Figure D.7). In Jaffna district as many as 77% said they did not receive shelter assistance. Shelter assistance was mainly provided by the government, in the form of housing (Tables D.1 and D.2).

Figure D.7: Extent of receiving any shelter assistance



Base: All respondents

Table D.1: Who provided shelter assistance

Who provided shelter assistance	
Government	96%
Local NGOs	2%
Other	2%
Base: Those who received shelter assistance	123

Table D.2: Type of shelter assistance provided

Type of shelter assistance provided	
Permanent housing	96%
Transitional shelter	2%
Shelter materials	1%
Other	1%
Base: Those who received shelter assistance	123

E Security and justice

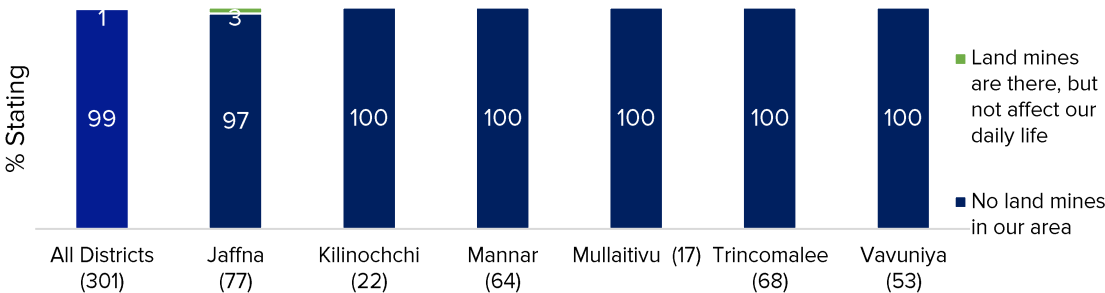
Intent of queries: To identify refugee returnees' personal perceptions of post-return security and military presence in areas of return; to ascertain how returnees re-integrate within their neighbourhoods and home communities; to identify the impact of landmines and UXOs on reintegration; and to know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

Given the sensitive nature of these questions, all were approached with a mixture of yes/no, multiple choice and open questions in order to promote an accurate response, but without leading a response.

Impact of landmines

- ▶ Almost all respondents said there were no landmines where they live (i.e. they were not affected) (Figure E.1)

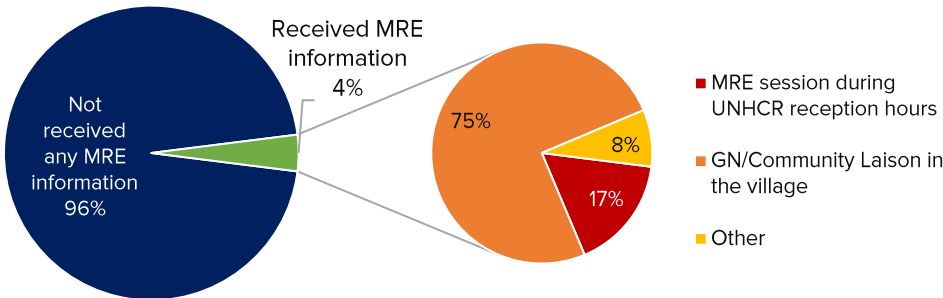
Figure E.1: Whether the presence of landmines in the area (if any) affects daily life



Base: All respondents

- ▶ Only 4% received MRE and most of them received MRE information via MRE sessions during UNHCR reception hours (Figure E.2).

Figure E.2: Extent of receiving Mine Risk Education (MRE) Information since returning and how this information was imparted

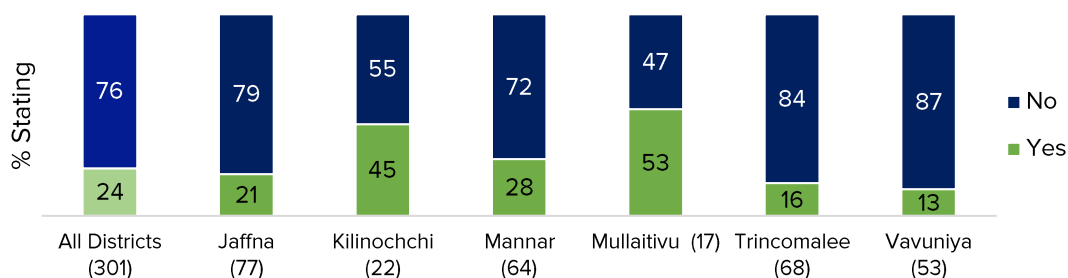


Base: All respondents (301)

Relations with the military

- ▶ Overall, about a quarter (24%) said there was military presence in their village / area (Figure E.3). In Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu about half said there was military presence locally or nearby.

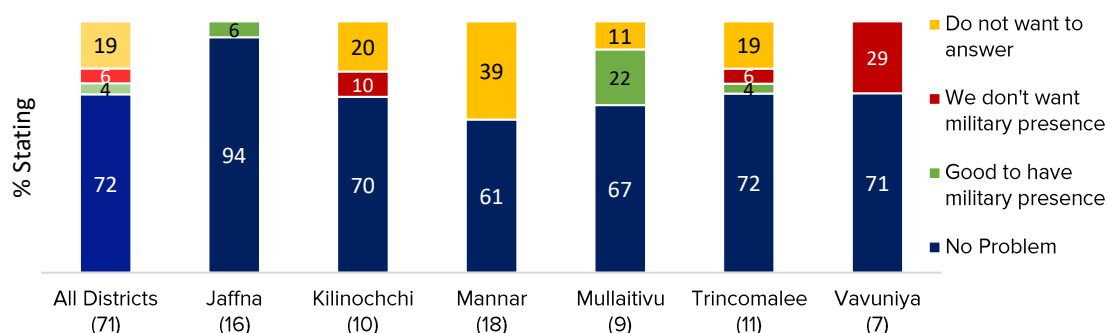
Figure E.3: Whether there is military presence in the local area or nearby



Base: All respondents

- ▶ Of the 24% who said there was military presence in their village / area, the vast majority (76%) said there was no problem / good to have the military, while a quarter refused to answer or said they do not want the military where they live (Figure E.4).

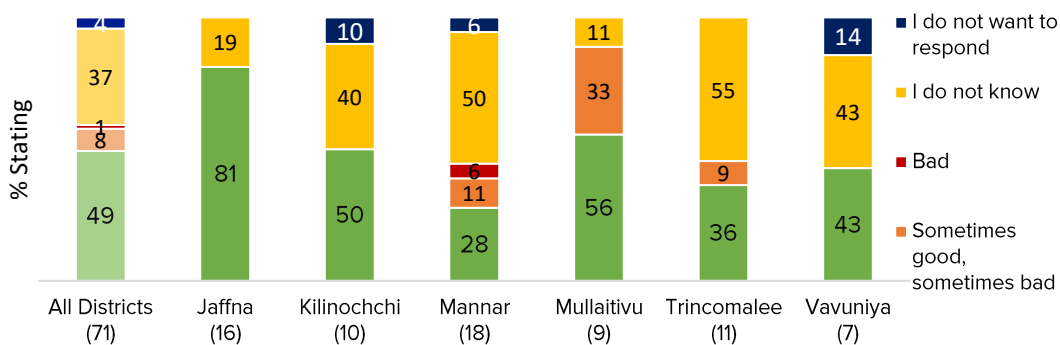
Figure E.4: Opinion about military presence in the village / local area



Base: Those having a military presence in local area or nearby

- ▶ Of this 24% having a military presence in their area, almost half (49%) said relations with the military were good and 8% said relations were sometimes good and sometimes bad (Figure E.5). Notably 41% responded as don't know or no comment.

Figure E.5: Relationship between the military and the community



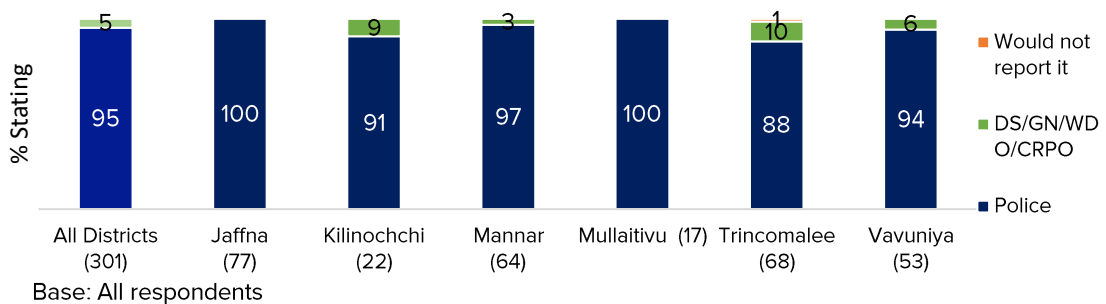
Base: Those having a military presence in the local area or nearby

- ▶ If the responses to the above two questions are taken together (ref. figures E.4 and E.5), there appears to be a significant minority who were not happy with the military's presence in the village or local area. In view of small sample sizes to this question by district, area-wise responses are indicative, but this unhappiness with military presence appears to be especially high from areas other than Jaffna district.

Access to Justice

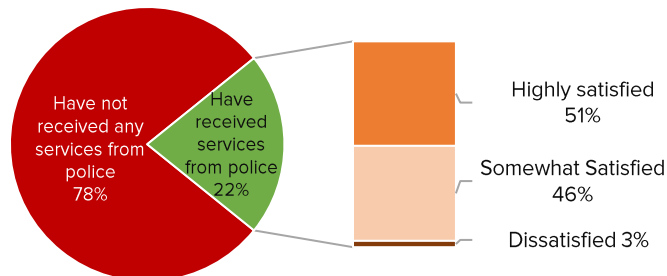
- ▶ In the case of a serious crime committed against the family, almost all said they would go to the police to report it (Figure E.6).

Figure E.6: If a serious crime committed against own family, to whom would they first report it



- ▶ A quarter said they sought the services of the police in the past year, and almost all of them (97%) were satisfied with the service obtained (Figure E.7).

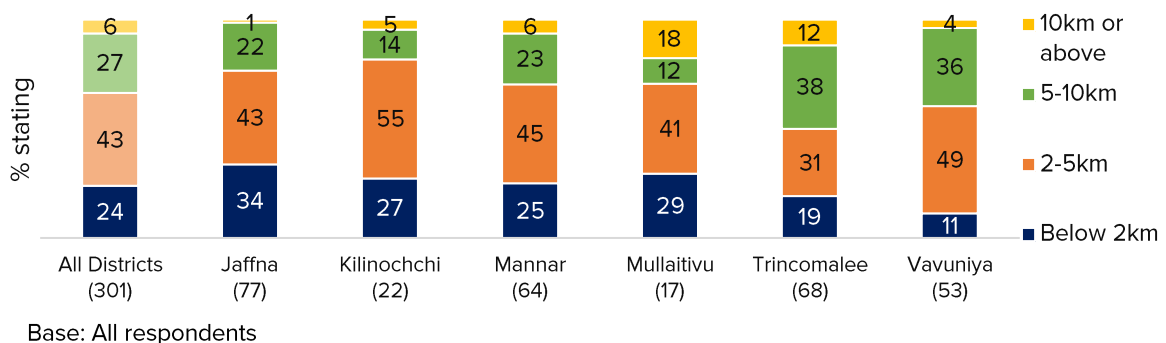
Figure E.7: Extent of seeking police services and satisfaction with police services



Base: All respondents (301)

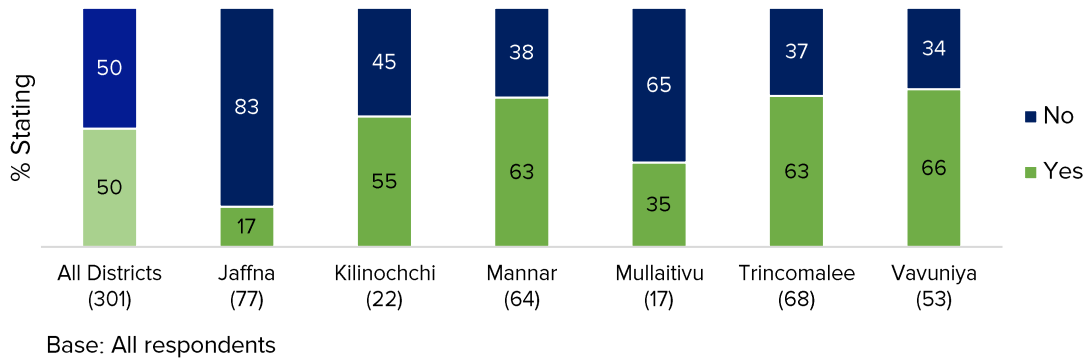
- ▶ Only a quarter (24%) of households were less than 2km from the nearest police station. Most were between 2-5 or 5-10km away (Figure E.8).

Figure E.8: Distance from the house to the nearest police station



- ▶ Only 50% of respondents did or would seek assistance from the courts of law for disputes (Figure E.9). In Jaffna (17%) and Mullaitivu (35%) these numbers were extremely low. Main reasons for the reluctance in going to court were social stigma associated with doing so (said by 44% of those unwilling to go to courts), not having any idea about the legal process (36%) and cost concerns (15%).

Figure E.9: Was or would assistance be sought from the courts in case of disputes



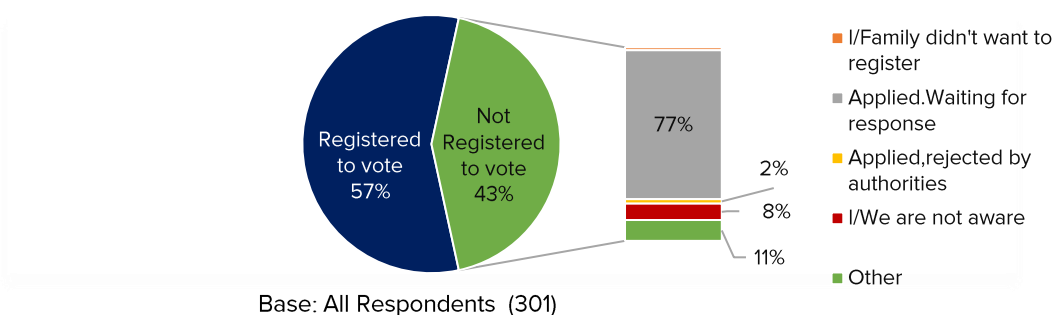
Participation in public affairs without being discriminated

- ▶ Overall, 57% of adults in the sample (56% of males and 58% of females) were registered to vote (Table E.1). Among the 43% not registered, the main reason (stated by 77%) was that their applications for registration were awaiting approval from the authorities (Figure E.10).

Table E.1: No. of adults in the family registered or not registered to vote

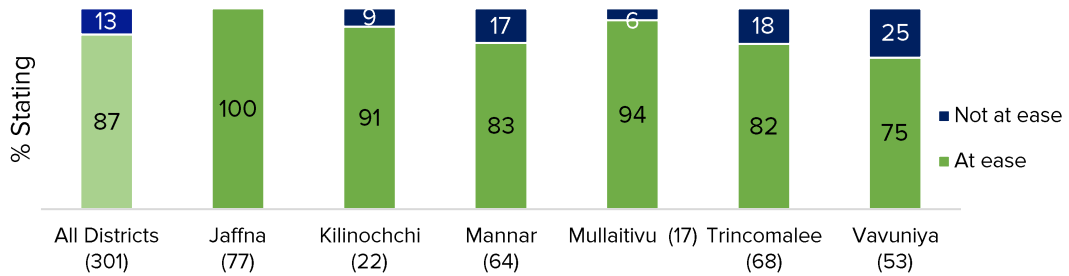
Registration status	% of all adults (18+)	% of all male adults (18+)	% of all female adults (18+)
Registered to vote	57%	56%	58%
Not registered to vote	43%	44%	42%
Base: All adults (18+ individuals)	528	253	275

Figure E.10: Main reasons for not registering to vote



- ▶ The vast majority (87%) were at ease to discuss their political views in public (Figure E.11). In the Jaffna district this was as high as 100%, and in Mullaitivu district, 94%.

Figure E.11: Opinion about discussing own political views in public

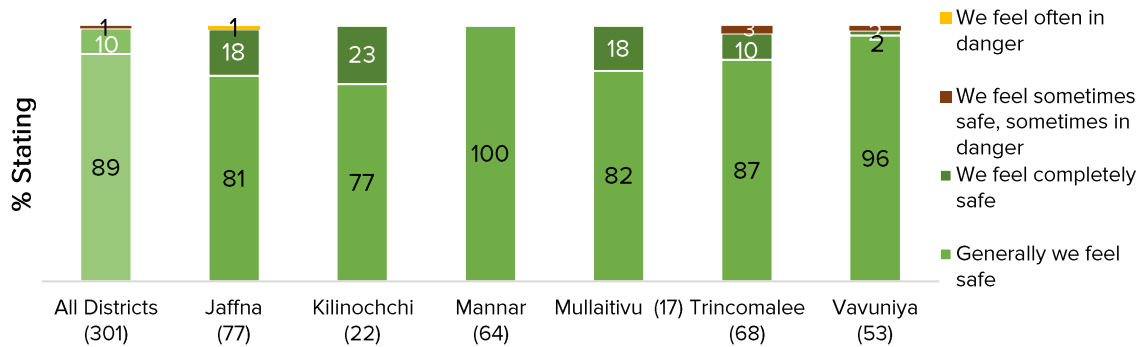


Base: All respondents

Issues and Perceptions

- ▶ Almost all said they felt completely safe (89%) or partially safe (10%) where they currently live (Figure E.12).
- ▶ Only 2 out of 750 individuals had experienced serious safety concerns. Respondents mentioned that one was arrested and the other was subjected to harassment / security interrogation by security personnel.

Figure E.12: Extent to which the family feels safe in currently residing area

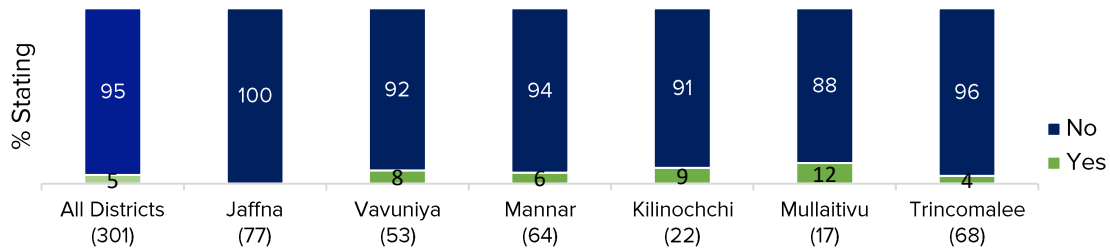


Base: All respondents

Relations with the community

- ▶ Almost all respondents (95%) felt they were not treated differently by the community due to being a returned refugee (Figure E.13).

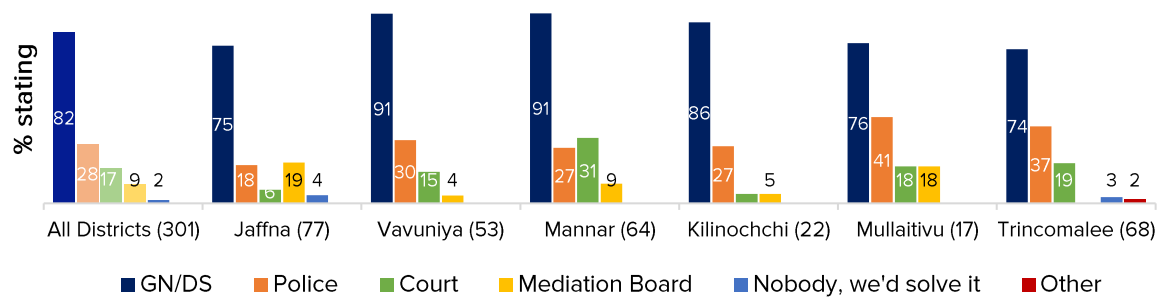
Figure E.13: Whether the family is perceived as being treated differently by the community because of being refugee returnees



Base: All respondents

- ▶ For civil disputes, over 80% said they would seek the help of the local authority (DS or GN) and a quarter said they would seek the help of the police (Figure E.14).

Figure E.14: If family has a civil (not criminal) dispute within community / neighbour, where would they go to solve it



Base: All respondents

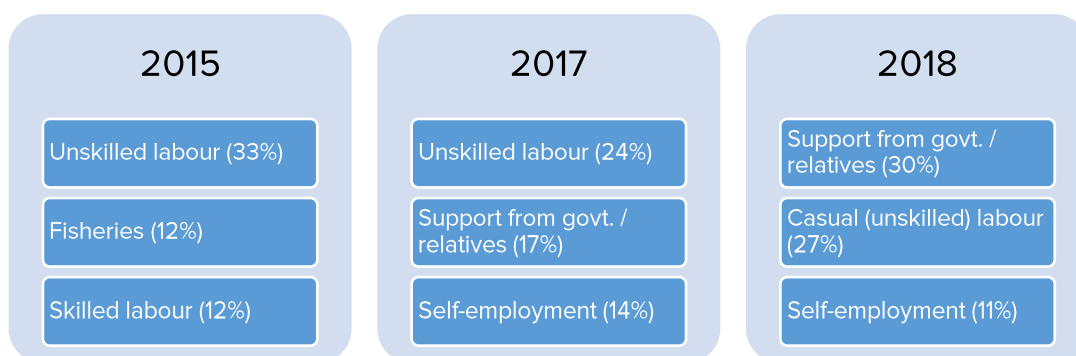
F Livelihoods

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

Livelihood

- ▶ Unlike previous years where unskilled labour was mentioned as the source of income by the highest number of respondents, in 2018 the highest mention was support from the government / relatives (*Infographic F.1*).

Infographic F.1: Main sources of income 2015, 2017, 2018



- ▶ Overall, most depended on casual labour jobs (27%), government or relatives support (30%) and self-employment (11%) as the key source of income (*Table F.1*). 4% of households had no livelihood but in Kilinochchi this percentage was as high as 18%. In 2017 too, these were the main sources of income (*Infographic F.2*).

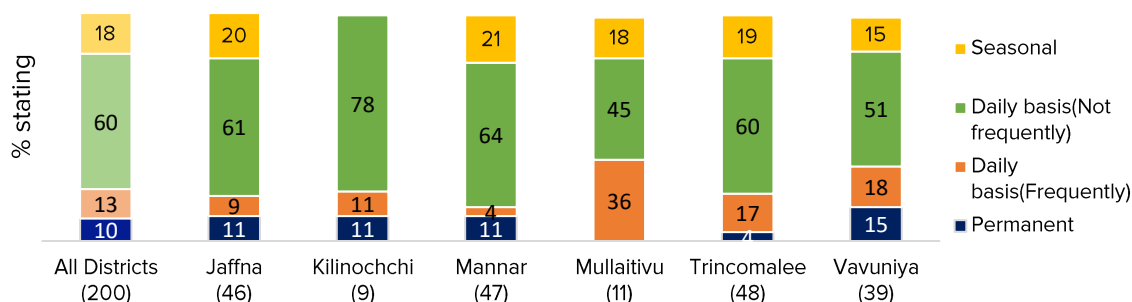
Table F.1: Family's livelihood / source of income, by district

	All Districts (301)	Jaffna (77)	Kilinochchi (22)	Mannar (64)	Mullaitivu (17)	Trincomalee (68)	Vavuniya (53)
Govt. / relatives	30%	36%	41%	25%	35%	29%	19%
Self-employment	11%	19%	5%	8%	12%	7%	9%
Farming	8%	3%	0%	13%	12%	10%	11%
Fishery	7%	6%	0%	9%	6%	13%	0%
Trading/Business	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	2%
Salaried job	6%	4%	5%	8%	0%	7%	8%
Skilled labour	4%	5%	5%	3%	6%	0%	8%
Other casual labour	27%	17%	27%	31%	29%	28%	34%
No livelihood now	4%	4%	18%	2%	0%	0%	8%
Foreign remittances	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Other	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Base: All respondents

- ▶ A third therefore had no livelihood (i.e. 30% depended on government or relatives support and another 4% overtly mentioning they didn't have one). Among the two thirds of households having a livelihood / income (200 out of 301 households), only 10% of had a permanent income. As many as 78% had irregular incomes - seasonal or infrequent daily income (Figure F.3).

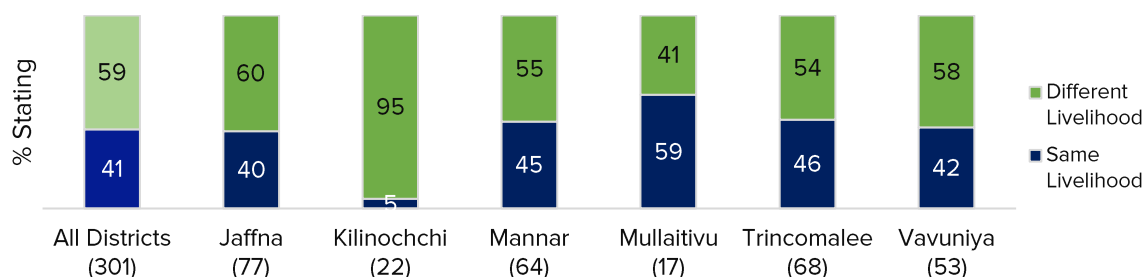
Figure F.1: Consistency of Livelihood / Source of income



Base: Respondents who have specific source of income

- ▶ The majority (59%) have had to adapt to a different livelihood after they came back as refugee returnees (Figure F.4).

Figure F.2: Whether respondents / family have the same primary livelihoods as they had before leaving Sri Lanka



Base: All respondents

- ▶ Among all respondents, the main impediments to restoring their former livelihoods were the lack of material and / or financial resources (Figure F.5).

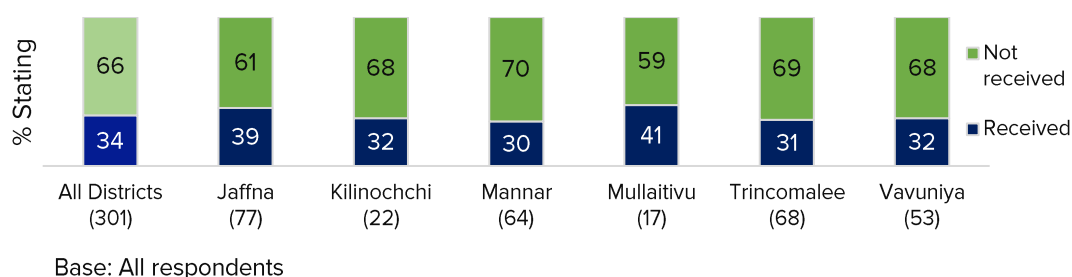
Figure F.3: Major impediments or problems (if any) to restoring livelihood



Base: All respondents

- ▶ A third (34%) received livelihood assistance (Figure F.4).

Figure F.4: Extent of receiving any livelihood assistance



- ▶ Most receiving livelihood assistance said this was provided by INGOs and UN Agencies (Table F.2), mainly in the form of material, and cash (Table F.3).

Table F.3: Source of livelihood assistance

Who provided livelihood assistance?	
INGOs	43%
UN Agency	25%
Government	20%
Local NGOs	17%
Base: Those who received livelihood assistance	102

(Note: Multiple responses: percentages can add up to above 100%)

Table F.4: Type of livelihood assistance provided

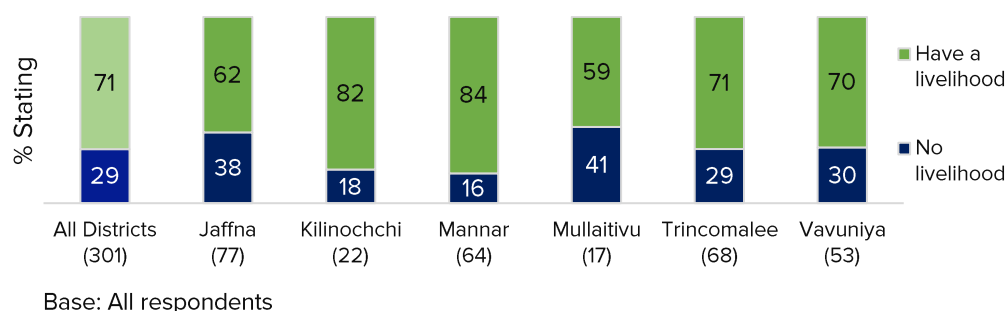
Type of livelihood assistance provided	
Material	77%
Cash	28%
Base: Those who received livelihood assistance	102

(Note: Multiple responses: percentages can add up to above 100%)

Youth unemployment

- ▶ 29% of households had at least one 18-35 year-old without a livelihood (Figure F.5). Most respondents (60%) said the parents supported these young adults financially.

Figure F.5: Presence of family members able to work, aged 18-35, without a livelihood



- ▶ In all there were 196 young adults (aged 18-35) among the 750 individuals in the sample. Among them, half (52%) were without a livelihood, of whom the majority were females (*Tables F.4 and F.5*).

Table F.4: Number of 18-35 year-olds among all individuals

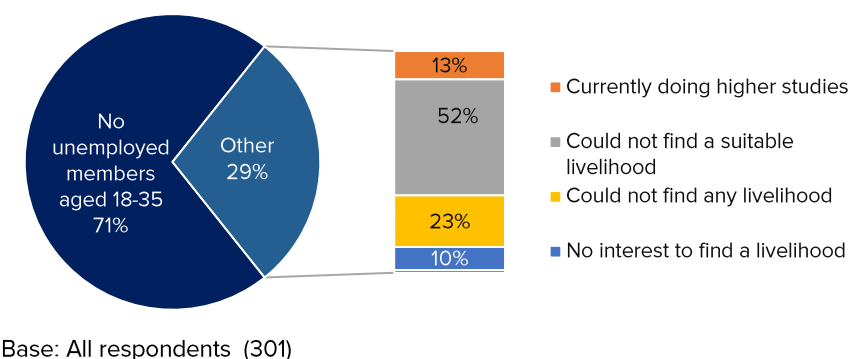
Incidence of 18-35 year-olds	No.
All individuals Aged 18-35	196 (26%)
Base: All individuals	750

Table F.5: Number of 18-35 year-olds without a livelihood

Incidence of not having a livelihood among 18-35 year-olds	No.
Not having a livelihood	102 (52%)
Males	42 (21%)
Females	60 (31%)
Base: All aged 18-35	196

- ▶ Main reasons for these 18-35 year-olds not having a livelihood were the inability to find any work (23%) or find suitable work (52%). Some of these 18-35-year-olds (13%) were currently undertaking higher studies (*Figure F.6*).

Figure F.6: Reasons for family members aged 18-35 being without a livelihood





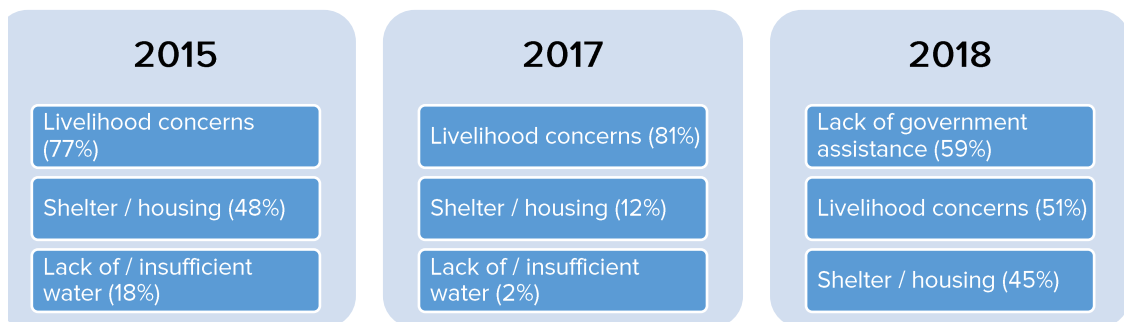
Returnee sentiments about return and reintegration

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

Concerns

- ▶ Lack of government assistance was the foremost concern in 2018 unlike in previous years. Nevertheless, livelihood concerns and shelter issues have been at or near the top of the list of concerns in all of the last three surveys (*Infographic G.1*). In 2015, as many as 18% were concerned about water availability.

(Infographic G.1): Livelihood concerns in the last three surveys



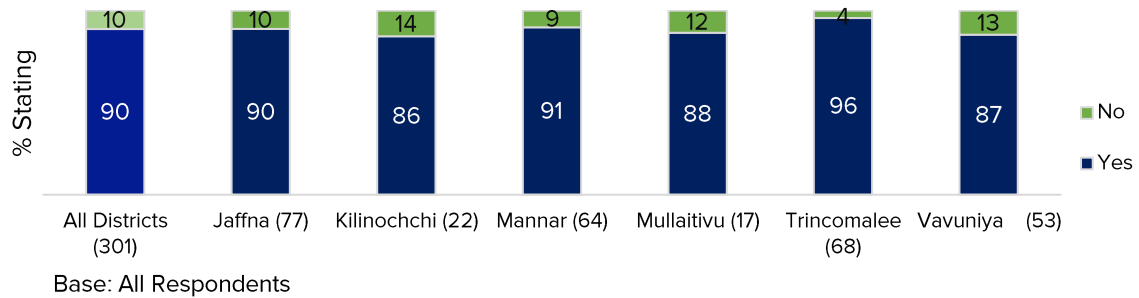
- ▶ In 2018, the top three current concerns overall were lack of government assistance, livelihood concerns and concerns about shelter / housing. (*Table G.1*). In Jaffna district, a key concern in 2018 was landlessness / land disputes (mentioned by 43%, almost by twice as many when compared to other districts).

Table G.1: Main concerns about returning to Sri Lanka

Concerns	All districts	Jaffna	Kilinochchi	Mannar	Mullaitivu	Trincomalee	Vavuniya
Lack of govt. support	59%	62%	55%	72%	71%	47%	55%
Livelihood	51%	45%	77%	31%	88%	63%	43%
Shelter	45%	55%	50%	42%	41%	40%	42%
Cost of living	39%	35%	27%	42%	53%	41%	40%
Landlessness/land disputes	26%	43%	27%	22%	0%	21%	21%
Water	22%	16%	36%	16%	6%	24%	38%
Sanitation	14%	10%	14%	19%	12%	9%	19%
Civil documentation	10%	6%	9%	6%	18%	16%	11%
HoH/income earner disabled	2%	0%	5%	2%	12%	3%	2%
Other	1%	0%	0%	3%	0%	1%	2%
Base: All respondents	301	77	22	64	17	68	53

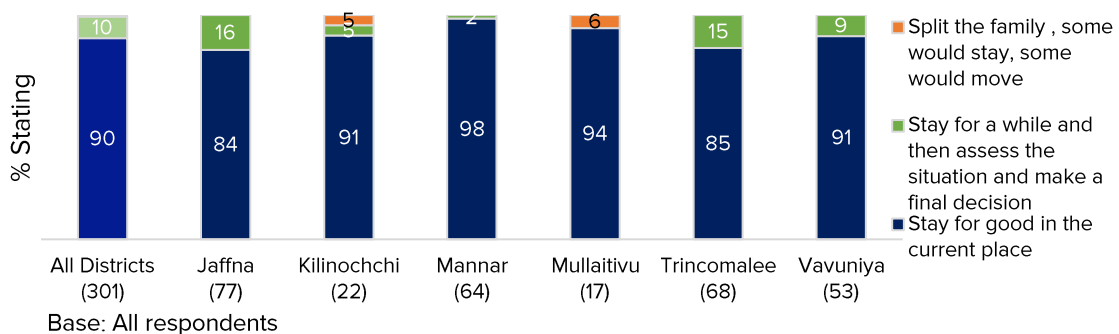
- ▶ When asked what information would be useful to have before deciding to return to Sri Lanka about 90% said they wanted (reassurance on) safety and security. Other information requirements were hardly mentioned.
- ▶ Overall, about 90% of respondents said their family was satisfied about their decision to return to Sri Lanka (*Figure G.1*), and about 10% were not satisfied with their decision to return. In 2017 and 2015, a slightly lower percentage (85% in each year) were satisfied that they had returned to Sri Lanka.

Figure G.1: Satisfaction about the decision to return to Sri Lanka



- The main reasons for being satisfied were the ability to return to their home country (stated by 57% of those saying Yes) and being able to reunite with their families (43% of those saying Yes).
 - Among those who were dissatisfied about returning to Sri Lanka (10% i.e. 29 respondents), the reason given by most (22 of these 29 respondents) was that there were no livelihood opportunities.
- ▶ As many as 90% intended to stay for good in the current area (*Figure G.2*) and a further 10% said they would stay for a while and then decide. In 2017, a similar proportion (92%) said they intend to stay for good in the current area.

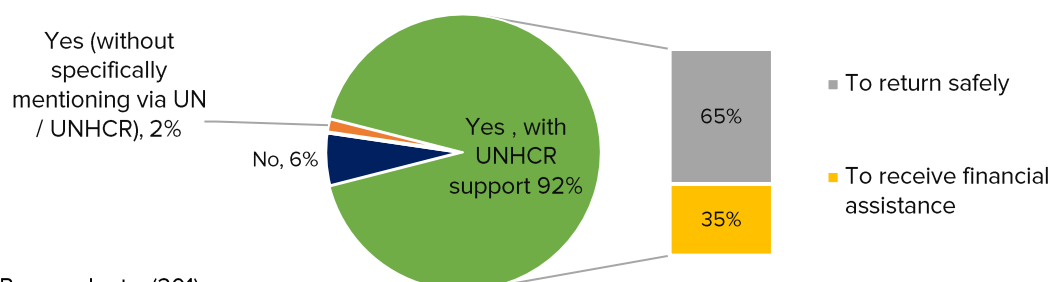
Figure G.2: Whether family intends to remain in the area or move elsewhere (in Sri Lanka or outside Sri Lanka)



- ▶ As many as 92% would advise refugees to return with UNHCR assistance (similar to the 91% who said so in 2017) and a further 2% would advise refugees to return even without UNHCR support. Only 6% would not advise refugees to return. In 2015 too, responses were similar (*Figure G.3*). The main reasons stated for advising to return

with UNHCR assistance were to return safely (65%) and to receive financial assistance (35%).

Figure G.3: Whether they would advise other refugees to return to Sri Lanka, and why



Base: All Respondents (301)

Other comments

- ▶ When asked for any comments that respondents wanted to be conveyed to UNHCR about their lives, most comments were with regard to the need for assistance particularly with regard to livelihoods (58%), and this concern was extremely high in the Mannar and Mullaitivu districts (*Table G.2*). Some comments were about the lack of Sri Lankan government support, the high cost of living and shelter issues (mentioned by 25%, 23% and 19% respectively). Other respondents (18%) also commented about the support they received from UNHCR.

Table G.2: Other comments about their reintegration that respondents wanted conveyed to UNHCR

Comments	All Districts	Jaffna	Kilinochchi	Mannar	Mullaitivu	Trincomalee	Vavuniya
Livelihood assistance	58%	45%	66%	77%	82%	35%	49%
Lack of SL govt. assistance	25%	26%	28%	16%	23%	24%	29%
High cost of living	23%	17%	23%	27%	23%	12%	28%
Shelter/living with others	19%	25%	19%	19%	14%	29%	13%
UNHCR support	18%	18%	15%	5%	18%	29%	28%
Expecting normal life / acceptance from people	13%	29%	4%	6%	5%	12%	10%
Mentally or physically ill, need support, medicine,	6%	12%	2%	2%	5%	12%	6%
Water, electricity, toilets	5%	3%	11%	3%	14%	6%	3%
Civil documentation / land document problems	5%	3%	2%	3%	14%	6%	7%
Women headed, single person, low income	4%	5%	6%	0%	9%	0%	3%
Happy with government support to return to SL	3%	3%	6%	2%	0%	6%	4%
Unemployment	3%	4%	4%	2%	5%	0%	1%
Base: All respondents	301	77	22	64	17	68	53



Reintegration programmes of UNHCR and others

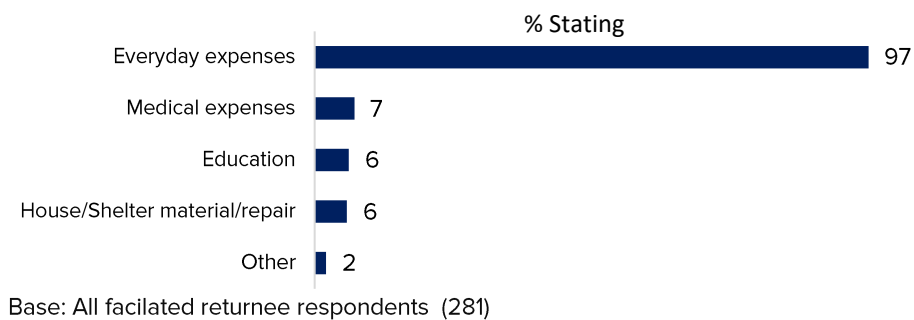
Intent of queries: To identify how returnees used financial and material assistance; to gather information if returnees preferred other items or programme alternatives; and to verify that intended beneficiaries received programme entitlements. This theme of queries is useful to UNHCR (and others) for 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.

UNHCR assistance among facilitated returnee households

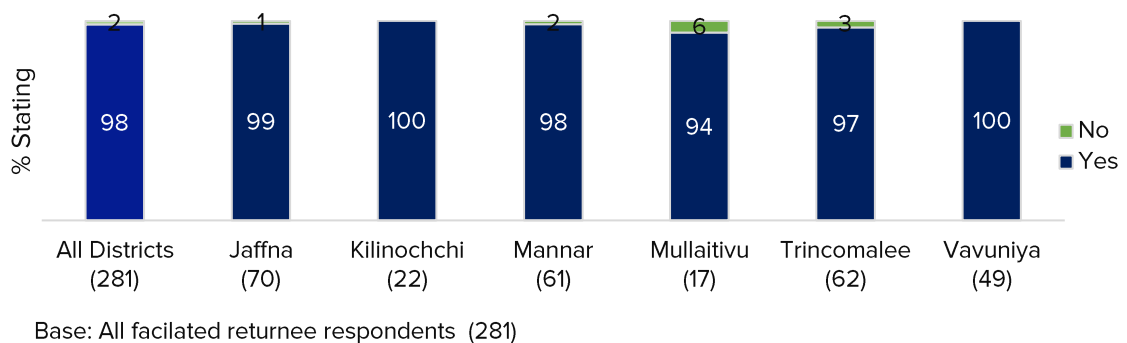
- ▶ 281 out of the 301 households surveyed (93%) were facilitated returnees. Almost all of them (97%) used the reintegration grant for everyday expenses (Figure H.1).

Figure H.1: How household used the reintegration grant



- ▶ 98% received the NFI cash grant from UNHCR (Figure H.2).

Figure H.2: Extent of receiving NFI cash grant from UNHCR



- ▶ Most bought NFI items (76%) and some (39%) used it for daily expenses (*Table H.1*).

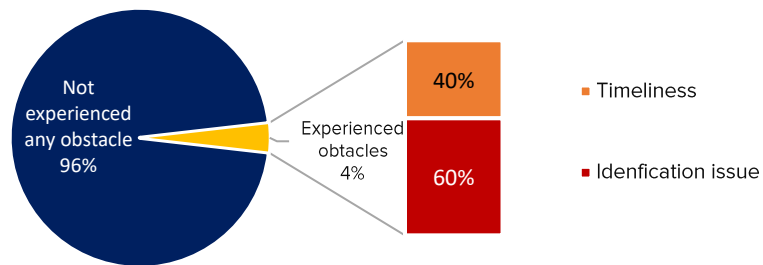
Table H.1: How the NFI grant was used

	All Districts	Jaffna	Kilinochchi	Mannar	Mullaitivu	Trincomalee	Vavuniya
Bought NFI items	76%	90%	77%	58%	88%	82%	65%
Everyday expenses	39%	26%	32%	48%	56%	37%	45%
Not yet spent	-	1%	-	-	-	-	-
Shelter materials	1%	-	-	-	19%	-	-
Base:	276	69	22	60	16	60	49

Base: Facilitated returnee respondents who received NFI cash grant from UNHCR

- ▶ Only 4% of recipients of NFI grants experienced obstacles in receiving it: mainly timeliness and identification issues (*Figure H.3*).

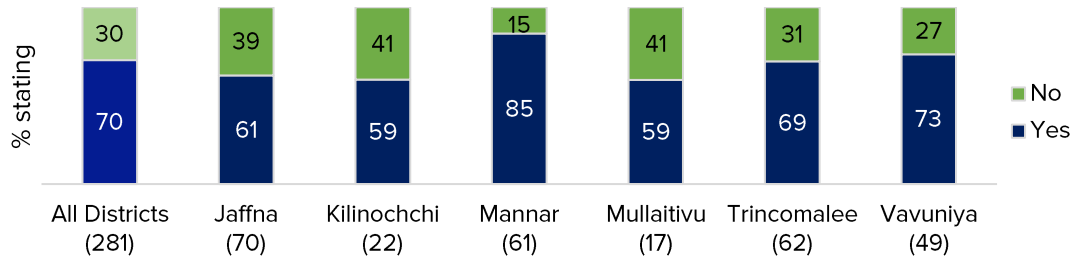
Figure H.3: Extent of obstacles in receiving grant, and type of obstacles



Base: Facilitated returnee respondents who received cash assistance from UNHCR (276)

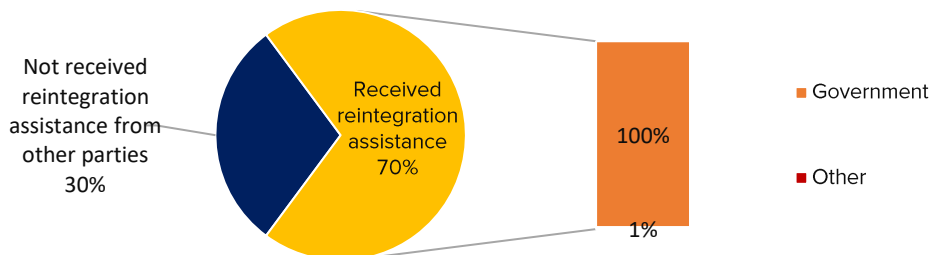
- ▶ 70% of facilitated returnee households received reintegration assistance other than from UNHCR (*Figure H.4*), from the Sri Lankan government in the form of cash disbursements from the Sri Lankan government (*Figure H.5*).

Figure H.4: Whether reintegration assistance received other than from UNHCR



Base: All facilitated returnee respondents (281)

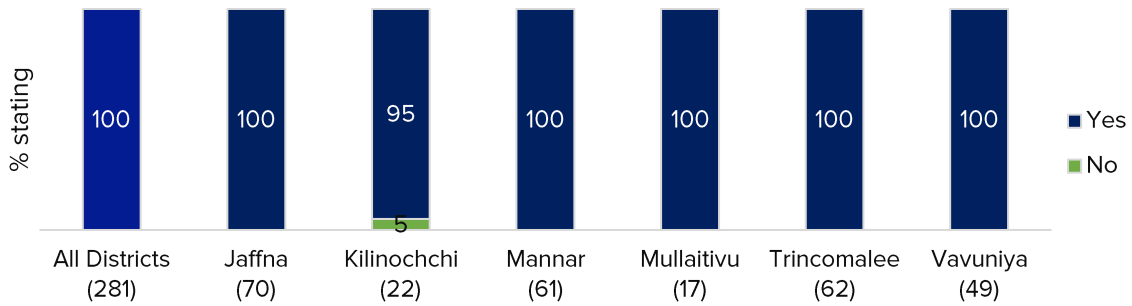
Figure H.5: From whom was non UNHCR reintegration assistance received



Base: All facilitated returnee respondents (281)

- ▶ All facilitated returnees had approached UNHCR staff (*Figure H.6*), 98% once and the rest two or three times, mainly to register with UNHCR.

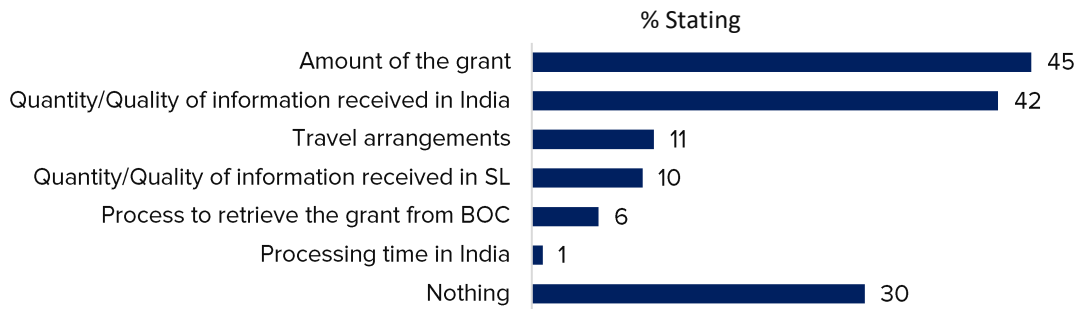
Figure H.6: Whether UNHCR office / staff were approached



Base: All facilitated respondents (281)

- ▶ When asked what UNHCR should mainly do to improve repatriation assistance, the two main suggestions were to improve the amount of the repatriation grant (45%) and improve the quantity / quality of information provided in India (42%) (*Figure H.7*).

Figure H.7: Suggestions re. main things UNHCR can do to improve its assistance

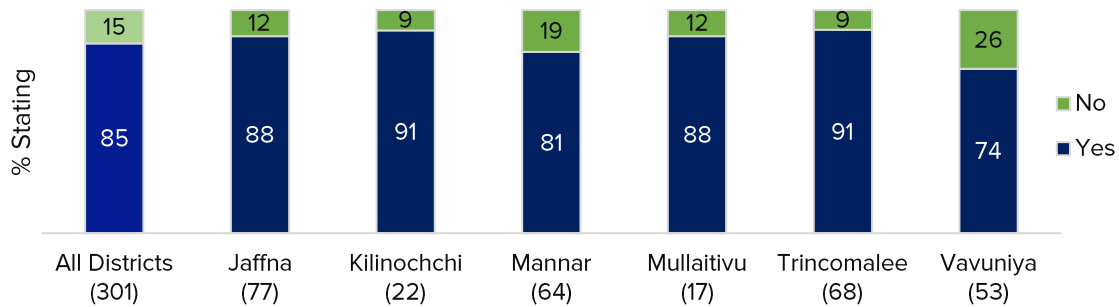


Base: Facilitated return respondents (281)

Water and sanitation

- ▶ Overall, 85% of households had a toilet in their land (*Figure H. 8*), more than the 79% in 2017 and 66% in 2015. Of those having a toilet in 2018, almost all (99%) had a permanent toilet.

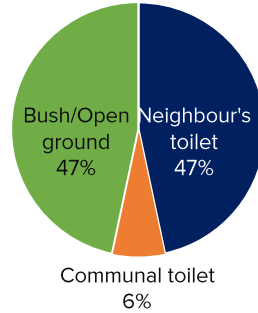
Figure H.8: Extent of having a toilet in one's own land



Base: All respondents

- ▶ Among the 15% of households not having a toilet, about half (47% each) used their neighbour's Toilet or the outside bush / ground. The balance 6% used a communal toilet (Figure H.9).

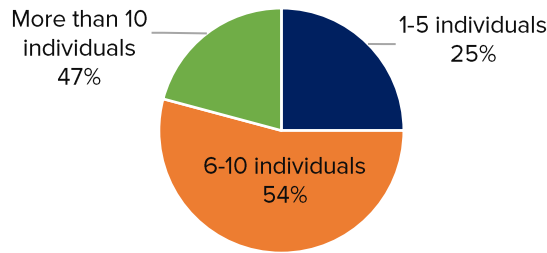
Figure H.9: If there is no toilet in own land, what is used instead



Base: Respondents who do not have toilets in their land (45)

- ▶ Among those sharing the neighbour's toilet as many half (54%) said the toilet was shared by 6-10 Individuals and a further 21% of respondents said more than 10 individuals shared the toilet (Figure H.10).

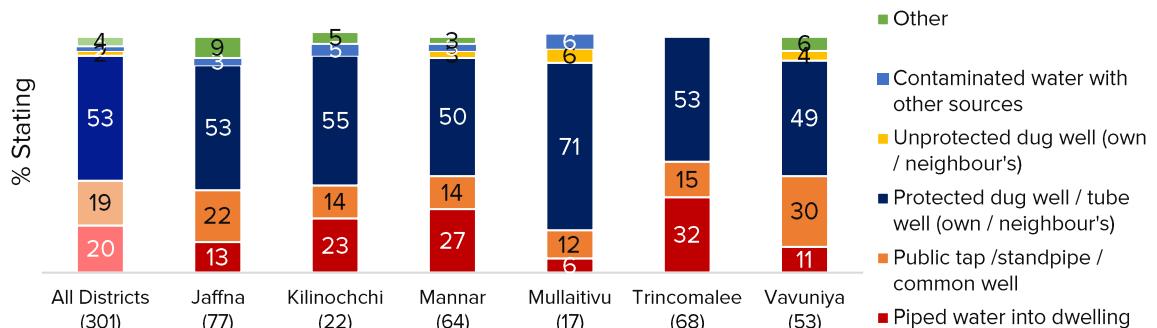
Figure H.10: Number of individuals sharing neighbour's toilet



Base: Respondents who use neighbour's toilet (24)

- ▶ For half the households (53%) the main source of drinking water was from a protected dug well or tube well. Another 20% of households had piped water, and 19% obtained their water from a public source (public tap / standpipe or common well). Just 8% obtained water from unprotected /contaminated / other sources. (Figure H.11).

Figure H.11: Main source of drinking-water for household



Base: All respondents

- ▶ For three fourths of households (74%), drinking water was available at a distance of less than 100 metres from the home. Another 11% had to travel between 199 to 500 metres, but 13% had to travel more than 500 metres for drinking water (Table H.2).

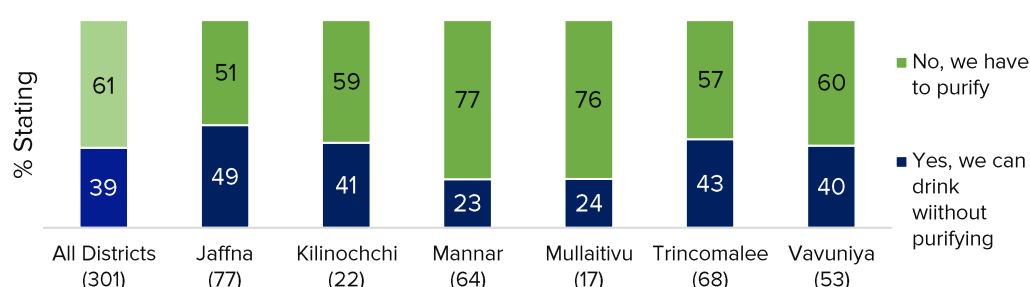
Table H.2: Distance from main drinking water source to house

District	Below 50 metres	50-100 metres	100-500 metres	500-1,000 metres	More than 1 km
Jaffna (77)	79%	5%	9%	6%	0%
Kilinochchi (22)	45%	14%	32%	9%	0%
Mannar (64)	75%	6%	14%	3%	2%
Mullaitivu (17)	53%	6%	12%	18%	12%
Trincomalee (68)	75%	7%	4%	6%	7%
Vavuniya (53)	49%	11%	11%	15%	13%
All Districts (301)	68%	8%	11%	8%	5%

Base: All respondents

- ▶ When asked if the water they drink can be consumed without purifying or boiling it, a little over a third (39%) said yes, but the majority (61%) said the water had to be purified / boiled. The need for purification / boiling was highest in Mannar and Mullaitivu districts (Figure H.12).

Figure H.12: Whether the water could be drunk without purifying / boiling

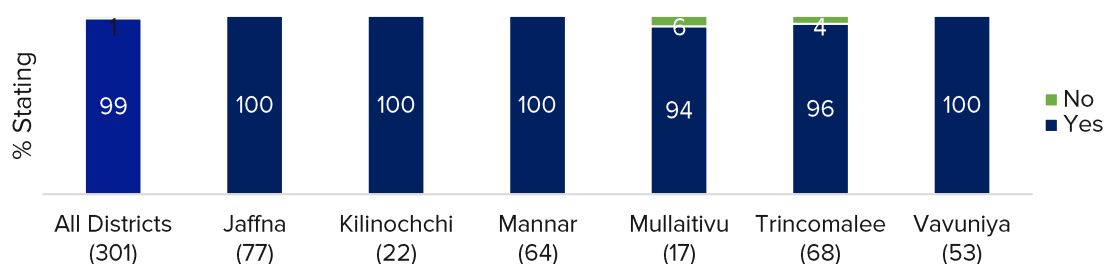


Base: All respondents

Health screening or testing

- ▶ Almost all respondents (99%) said that they / members of their family were subjected to health screening or testing on their return to Sri Lanka (Figure H.13).

Figure H.13: Whether respondent or family were health screened or tested in Sri Lanka because they were refugee returnees



Base: All respondents

- ▶ Multiple testing centres were mentioned, with the most mentioned being the airport (by 79%). About a third each also mentioned testing at a hospital and by health officials from the Ministry of Health. A tenth (10%) also said they / family members were tested at home. Testing was undertaken by the Anti-Malaria Unit (mentioned by 58%), a Medical Health Office (56%) or by MBBS doctors (43%).
- ▶ In terms of distance to the closest hospital, clinic or dispensary, about a quarter of households (28%) were less than 2 kilometres away, and 41% were between 2 – 5 km away. 31% were more than 5 km away. Returnees in Vavuniya had to travel the furthest. (Table H.3).

Table H.3: Distance to get to the closest hospital, clinic or dispensary

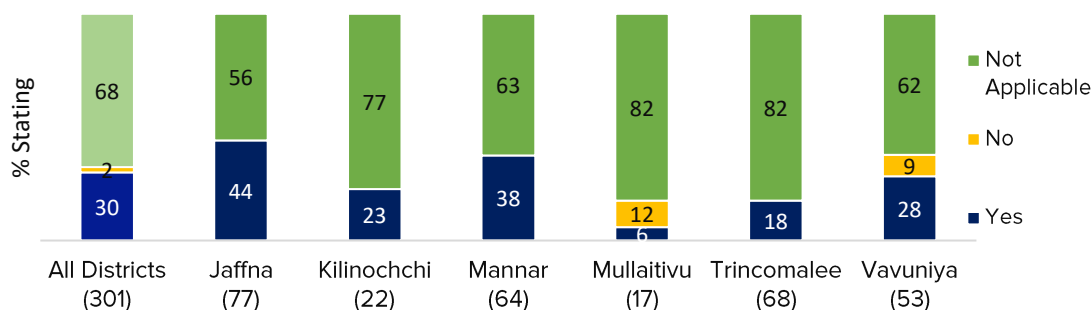
District	Below 2km	2-5km	5-10km	10km or above
Jaffna (77)	35%	40%	22%	3%
Kilinochchi (22)	41%	41%	9%	9%
Mannar (64)	36%	42%	20%	2%
Mullaitivu (17)	18%	53%	12%	18%
Trincomalee (68)	26%	41%	26%	6%
Vavuniya (53)	9%	36%	34%	21%
All Districts (301)	28%	41%	23%	8%

Base: All respondents

Education

- ▶ In terms of school attendance, all children were attending school.
- ▶ In 32% of households (98 households), children had studied in India at a school or higher education level. The vast majority of respondents from these households (91 respondents) said these educational documents (school / diploma / university certificates and other records from India) were accepted locally. However, 2% (7 respondents) said their documents were not accepted by the Sri Lankan educational authorities (Figure H.14).

Figure H.14: Whether all relevant schools/diploma/ university certificates / records from COA accepted by SL education authorities

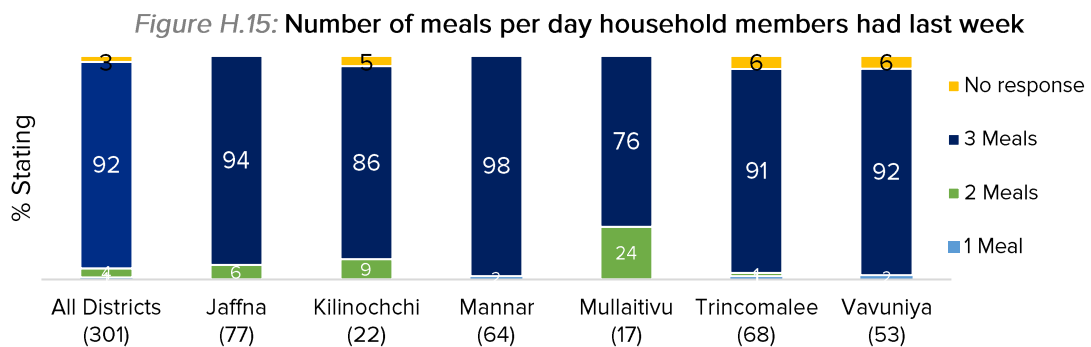


Base: All Respondents Interviewed

- ▶ Among these seven respondents, three had not specified a reason but the remaining four respondents gave the following varying reasons for the non acceptance of these educational documents:
 - Have to sit for the equivalent exam in Sri Lanka
 - Awaiting receipt of graduation certificate
 - Name differs in BC compared to NIC
 - Indian exam not considered to the equivalent of Sri Lankan A Level

Food security

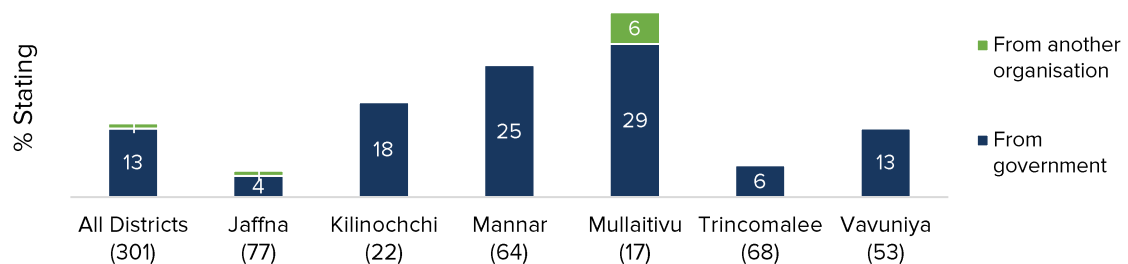
- ▶ In most households (92%), the family had 3 meals a day over the last one week, and in the balance households most had 2 meals a day (*Figure H.15*).



Base: All respondents

- ▶ 14% of households received food rations / allowances on arrival in Sri Lanka (*Figure H.16*), with 13% receiving them from the government and 1% from other organisations.

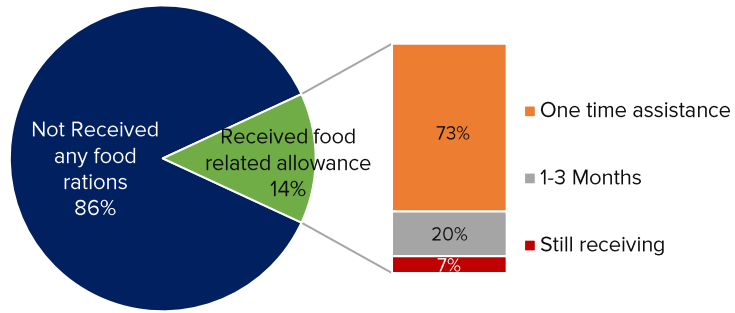
Figure H.19: Upon arrival, percentage who received food rations / allowances from the government or any other organization?



Base: All respondents

- ▶ Three fourths of these recipients said this was a one-time assistance, and rest mostly said the food allowances were for one to three months (Figure H.17).

Figure H.17: Period for which food rations / allowances were received

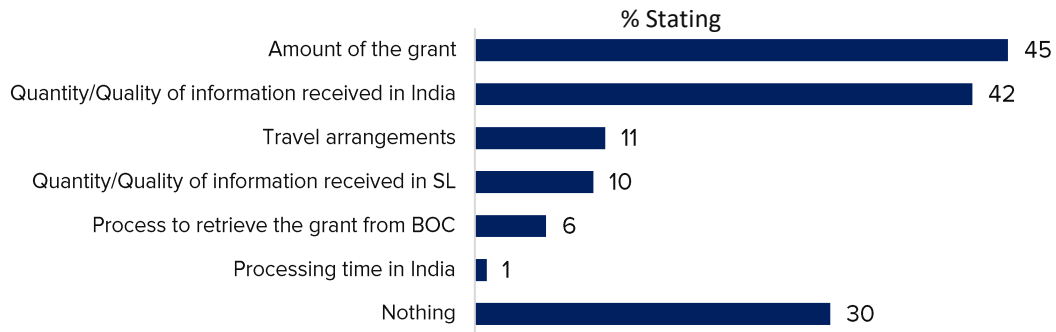


Base: All Respondents (301)

Recommendations for UNHCR to improve repatriation assistance

- ▶ Of the 301 respondents interviewed, 281 were facilitated returnees. When asked what UNHCR should mainly do to improve repatriation assistance, the two main suggestions provided were to improve the amount of the repatriation grant (stated by 45%) and to improve on the quantity / quality of information provided in India (Figure H.18).

Figure H.18: Suggestions re. main things UNHCR can do to improve its assistance for the repatriation of other returnees to Sri Lanka in future



Base: Facilitated returnee respondents (281)