

Global Response Platform – India briefing call meeting notes

Date: Wednesday 26 November 2025

Participants: Mosaik Education UNHCR India; UNHCR Tertiary Education team; BOSCO (UNHCR implementing partner in India); University of the Arts London; University of Leicester; University of Southampton; Refugee Education UK; University of Exeter; University of Leeds; Cardiff Metropolitan University; University of London, University College London.

Notes

1. The briefing paper was summarised through a presentation by UNHCR and Mosaik Education: see [briefing paper](#) and [slide deck](#).
2. Three areas for UK university engagement were outlined (elaborated in the briefing paper)
 - **Online scholarships**
 - Fee-waiver scholarships for online programmes (undergraduate, postgraduate, micro-credentials).
 - Delivery could be supported by UNHCR learning centres, combining online teaching with local facilitation and pastoral support.
 - Need to focus on portable and recognised qualifications in labour-market-relevant disciplines.
 - Scholarships at UK branch / partner campuses in India
 - Flexibility required around documentation and admissions, given refugee-specific constraints.
 - Potential for collaboration with learning centres and local partners for student support.
 - Foundational, English-language and academic skills programmes
 - Online foundation or pre-sessional programmes to address gaps in English and academic skills.
 - Delivered with facilitation through UNHCR learning centres.

- Models piloted in India could form part of a broader Global Response Platform, re-usable and adaptable elsewhere.

7. Branch campuses, 2+2 models and potential future humanitarian visas

- Should the UK introduce humanitarian student visa pathways, refugees might start their studies at a branch or partner campus and complete the degree in the UK. This is recognised as a medium- to long-term prospect rather than an immediate option.
- A nearer-term model could be that refugee students complete the first two years in India through a branch or partner campus (e.g. in engineering or computer science). They then complete a final-year online top-up degree with another UK institution.

8. Political context and implications for targeting

- UNHCR India explained that:
 - The political environment is heterogeneous and nationality-specific; there is no single refugee policy.
 - Some groups (e.g. certain non-Rohingya Myanmar communities, some Afghans) may have slightly more political space than others.
 - For programme design, this may mean taking a staggered approach to build programmes inclusive of all groups.

9. Next steps

- The briefing paper on India and meeting notes to be shared with participants.
- Universities are invited to express interest by email, noting prospective types of engagement, subject areas / qualification levels.
- Mosaik, UNHCR India and UNHCR's Tertiary Education team are available to join bilateral or small-group calls to explore specific ideas.
- Based on expressions of interest, a smaller group of universities will be convened.