

Russian Federation

September 2021

Presence: The UN Refugee Agency has been working in the Russian Federation since 1992. It is currently operating through a Country Office in Moscow.

Legal framework: The 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol were acceded to in 1992. The national refugee law was adopted in 1993. The **State Migration Policy Concept** was endorsed in 2018.

Strategy: UNHCR's work is guided by a **Multi-Year Protection Strategy 2021-2023** and **Communications Strategy** from 2019 to 2023.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	20,269
Asylum-seekers	853
Stateless people	60,143
Total population of concern	81,265

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	18,428	China	295
Afghanistan	770	Afghanistan	176
Syria	361	Ukraine	148

Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Inclusion: Persons of concern to UNHCR, irrespective of their status, can avail themselves of basic medical assistance if they have symptoms or were diagnosed with COVID-19.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR Moscow has created a dedicated [section](#) of the HELP web page to ensure that refugees have access to up-to-date information on COVID-19 prevention measures. Partner NGOs were conducting counselling by phone, hotlines, and ad-hoc WhatsApp chats.

Health: Vaccination of foreigners, including PoC, is undertaken only in regard to persons with legal status and identity documents. UNHCR and partners prepared lists of PoC who wished to undergo vaccination through the programme offered by the Russian Red Cross.

HIGHLIGHTS 2021

351,670 persons naturalised

in the first half of 2021, of which **184,385** were from Ukraine, **653** from Afghanistan, **602** from Syria and **62** from Yemen. **3,226 stateless persons** acquired RF citizenship.

3,441

Person of concern in 43 regions of Russia received legal aid through UNHCR and its partners

43

cases at risk of refoulement were prevented by UNHCR and partners

Statelessness

In August 2021, amendments to the law "On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation", according to which stateless persons in the Russian Federation will be able to obtain temporary identity cards, entered into force.

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S RUSSIA VISIT



High Commissioner Filippo Grandi visited Russia in late June for a meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As part of his visit, the HC met with GWA Manizha.

Key Priorities

- **Protection (monitoring):** UNHCR is supporting authorities in creating a more favourable protection and asylum space.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR is complementing the efforts of the Government to develop a fair and effective asylum system in accordance with international standards.
- **Durable Solutions:** UNHCR assists refugees in Russia to find sustainable solutions with focus on their **local integration**.
- **Integration:** To facilitate the integration of refugees, CO Moscow works in collaboration with the partners on legal, economic, and social inclusion through assistance in naturalization, gaining employment and access to education.
- **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance:** UNHCR works closely with community leaders among PoCs to **support** them and to engage in local activities, advanced trainings, cultural events, and networking.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** UNHCR runs information campaigns fighting discrimination and advocating refugee rights in collaboration with media and cultural institution.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR strives to raise awareness and promote tolerance towards refugees and stateless persons through various public information and awareness-raising activities. These include contests, exhibitions and special events dedicated to World Refugee Day. UNHCR supports a human rights film festival and conducts workshops for journalists.
- **Capacity building:** UNHCR builds the capacity of partners and trains legal aid providers jointly with experts, Bar Associations and Unions of Lawyers.

Working with partners

- UNHCR cooperates with non-state and state stakeholders, including the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EMERCOM, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent **States** (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization, CIS Border Guards, the judiciary, ombudsmen, academia, civil society, cultural institutions, and mass media.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR seeks to preserve protection space by fostering public awareness of refugee protection and understanding of its mandate, global activities, Global Compact on Refugees.

Statelessness

- The Russian Federation did not accede to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. UNHCR continues to work with authorities to ascertain the number of persons who remain stateless.
- In promotion of the #IBELONG campaign to end statelessness by 2024, UNHCR supports Government's efforts in statelessness-related policies and procedures.
- Materials about former stateless persons, in particular about a **doctor** working to save COVID-19 patients, were published on UNHCR Russia website and social media.



UNHCR Presence in Russia

Staff:

15 National Staff
4 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Moscow

Financial information (28 September 2021)

Financial requirements

USD 5.7 M

Funding gap
56%
3.2 M



Funded
44%
2.5 M

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