

# Russian Federation

March 2022

**Presence:** The UN Refugee Agency has been working in the Russian Federation (RF) since 1992. It currently operates through a Country Office located in Moscow.

**Legal Framework:** The Russian Federation is party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. The national refugee law was adopted in 1993.

As of 31 March 2022, **304 refugees, 13,717 temporary asylum (TA) status holders and 5,833 asylum-seekers** from 70 countries were registered by the Russian Ministry of the Interior.

*Statistics are updated quarterly*

## KEY FIGURES

**285,537**

refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine arrived in Russia from 24 February to 31 March 2022

**18,100**

refugees and displaced persons arriving in Russia from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine received medical assistance as of 31 March 2022

**15,082**

cases were assisted by 166 psychologists

**16,640**

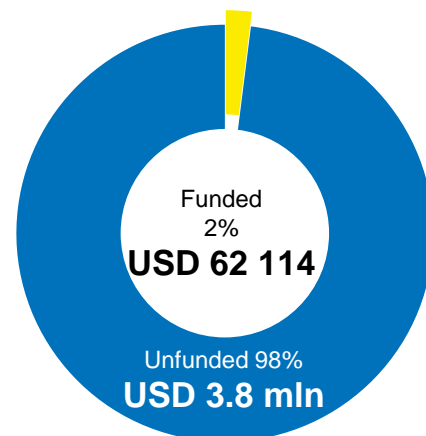
SIM-cards of various mobile operators were issued free of charge

*\*Source: EMERCOM of Russia*

## FUNDING (AS OF 29 MARCH 2022)

**USD 3.8 million**

requested for the operation in Russia



The staff members of an employment centre provide consultations to refugees at a temporary accommodation centre in Taganrog, 23 March 2022 © Sergey Plishenko



Volunteers play with refugee children in a transit centre in Rostov region, 23 March 2022 © UNHCR/Dinara Galakhova

## Highlights

- The Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergency Situations and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters – EMERCOM of Russia – which has been designated as focal point for organizing assistance and accommodating the newly arriving refugees and displaced persons from Ukraine, prepared temporary accommodation points (TAPs) in 85 regions of the Russian Federation. 1267 TAPs with a total capacity of over 98,840 people have been prepared in the country.
- According to the Russian Ministry of the Interior, between 18 February and 16 March 2022, out of all the arrivals to the Russian Federation, a total of 1,515 residents of Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine formally filed requests for temporary asylum on the territory of the Russian Federation. Temporary asylum was eventually granted to 1,204 people. All persons arriving from Ukraine benefit from a 90-day free visa regime, and many have yet to decide whether to formalise their status in the Russian Federation beyond that date or seek other solutions.
- Starting from 5 March 2022, foreign citizens, and stateless persons from the territories of Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine can enter and leave the Russian Federation for the states of their citizenship or permanent residence without a visa using valid identity documents recognized by the Russian Federation, as well as ID cards with expired validity.
- On 21-24 March 2022, UNHCR Representative ad interim, Mr. Karim Atassi, visited a transit center and several TAPs in Rostov region. The purpose of the visit was to meet with partners and discuss humanitarian needs. During this visit, UNHCR Representative met with refugees and displaced persons from Ukraine. He also met with the deputy governor of Rostov region, director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regional office, regional commissioners for human and children's rights (ombudsmen), Head of the Red Cross branch, as well as the representatives of EMERCOM who have facilitated this field visit.
- UNHCR Russia created a [dedicated section](#) on its website containing useful links and information on humanitarian aid, psychosocial and legal support for refugees from Ukraine arriving to Russia.
- On 18 March 2022, UNHCR Russia signed a partnership agreement with the Russian Red Cross (RRC) to address the most pressing humanitarian needs of the displaced persons and refugees of Ukraine. The partnership focuses on the acquisition and distribution of basic relief items for the most vulnerable categories of the displaced persons (including single mothers, children, and the elderly), training in psychosocial support and emergency response for the staff and volunteers of the RRC regional branches. The agreement covers the regions of Kursk, Belgorod, Volgograd, and Lipetsk.
- On 9-11 March 2022, UNHCR Russia team conducted a participatory assessment with Afghan and Syrian refugees in Ivanovo. The team also interviewed newly arrived Afghan students. All were in a difficult financial situation and required support. They were referred to UNHCR partners' lawyers to facilitate their access to asylum procedure, which will open the door for them to different types of assistance, including medical. Part of the mission was also devoted to communication with women community members, GBV prevention and psychological training, as well as presentation of refugee-led organizations.
- On 21-22 March 2022, UNHCR Russia team conducted a monitoring visit to Saint-Petersburg to, inter alia, assess the progress of the attendees of the Russian language classes arranged by partner organizations. 12 persons originating from Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen, mostly women, are taking a 120-hour Russian language course.
- The amendments to the regulations on medical assistance were issued by the Russian government on 6 March 2022. According to the amendments, nationals of the Russian Federation and Ukraine as well as stateless persons who were residing in Ukraine and came to Russia are eligible for free of charge medical treatment, including emergency, specialized and highly technological medical assistance, vaccination, and medications.
- On 30 March 2022, UNHCR Representative ad interim, Mr. Karim Atassi, discussed with Russia's Commissioner for Human Rights (Federal Ombudsman), Ms. Tatiana Moskalkova, the situation of refugees and displaced persons, focusing on the most vulnerable categories such as women, children, and the elderly.

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