

# Russian Federation

June 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 (MOI).

*Latest figures to date provided by the MoI*

## KEY FIGURES

**1,460,650**

refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine arrived in Russia from 24 February to 30 June 2022

**52,300**

refugees and displaced persons arriving from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine in Russia received medical assistance as of 1 July 2022

**28,454**

cases were assisted by 242 psychologists as of 1 July 2022

**24,544**

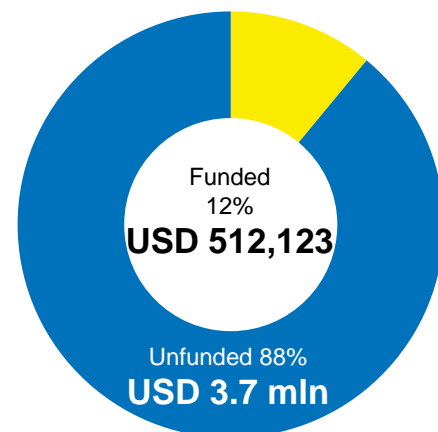
SIM-cards of various mobile operators were issued free of charge as of 1 July 2022

*\*Source: EMERCOM of Russia*

## FUNDING (AS OF 30 JUNE 2022)

**USD 4.2 million**

requested for the operation in Russia



Children attending the theater performance 'Beauty Aygul' based on Afghan fairy tale in Museum of Moscow. 18 June 2022 © UNHCR/Ruslan Altimirov



Russian Goodwill Ambassador Manizha performing for the refugee children at the summer camp in St. Petersburg. 28 June 2022 © Sergey Nikolaev

## Operational context

- 1,284 temporary accommodation points (TAPs) with a total capacity of more than 95,1 thousand people have been prepared by the authorities on the territory of 85 constituent entities of the Russian Federation in order to accommodate arriving people. As of June 2022, TAPs were filled at 35% of their capacity.
- On 15 June 2022, UNHCR Russia hosted the monthly coordination meeting with its NGO partners. A team from the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Russia (Ombudsman) attended as guest speakers and provided a briefing on refugees arriving from Ukraine.
- On 24 June 2022, UNHCR Representative in Russia, Mr. Karim Atassi, attended the expanded session on international cooperation and protection of migrants of the Expert Council, established under the auspices of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Russia (Ombudsman). Two main topics were addressed during the meeting: the Draft Law on Asylum and legal status and implementation of rights of persons arriving from Donetsk and Luhansk, and other regions of Ukraine.
- On 23 June 2022, UNHCR Representative in Russia, Mr. Karim Atassi, provided a briefing on Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons in Russia for diplomats from the political, human rights and migration/refugee sections of the embassies of Norway, France, Canada, US, UK, Austria, Switzerland, Finland and Lithuania.
- On 30 June 2022, UNHCR Russia Representative, Mr. Karim Atassi, provided a briefing on Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons in Russia to Mr. Hemaidawi, Ambassador of the League of Arab States in Moscow.



*Ilya Chechelnitzky, the first deputy of the working apparatus of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation, with participants of the monthly Coordination Meeting between UNHCR and its Russian NGO partners. 15 June 2022*  
 © HCHR Press Service

## Highlights

- On 24 June 2022, the President of the Russian Red Cross (RRC), Mr. Pavel Savchuk, met with the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Mr. Raouf Mazou and other senior UNHCR officers at the agency's HQ in Geneva. During the meeting several key aspects of the response for Ukrainian refugees and displaced persons presently in Russia were discussed. Both sides stressed the importance of the cooperation between RRC and UNHCR during the current context.
- On 1 June 2022, UNHCR Russia together with RRC jointly visited the Temporary Accommodation Point (TAP) for Ukrainian refugees in Vladimir which is considered the largest in the region with a capacity for 350 persons. Many refugees said they hoped to return home, especially if there were a reconstruction programme, while many others who have already found an employment and are settling in, said the destruction is so significant that the return would be unlikely in the near future. UNHCR advised TAP residents to address UNHCR's legal NGO partners in case they require further counselling.
- On 22 June 2022, UNHCR Russia and its NGO partner Health and Life foundation launched the school preparatory courses for refugee children in Moscow. The project includes 100 academic hours of Russian language classes required for admission to the first grade of a Russian public school. Fourteen students from Afghanistan, Syria and Tajikistan are attending these courses.
- Within a 10-day period starting from June 18, UNHCR Russia together with Russian museums, NGOs, libraries, and publishing houses, organized a series of events devoted to **World Refugee Day**, known under the umbrella name of [the Point of displacement project](#). The events included workshops for children and adults, theatre performances, violin concert, lectures, public discussions, board and outdoor games, photo exhibitions, excursions in different languages and a summer camp for refugee kids. The activities were held predominantly offline, in Moscow and St Petersburg, with only a few of them in the online format. The main events are listed below:
  - ✓ **Children of St Petersburg NGO and UNHCR Russia held a summer camp for 20 refugee children.** The camp took place in St. Petersburg from June 20 to July 4. One of the activities prepared within the summer camp and supported by UNHCR Russia and the Russian Red Cross in St. Petersburg was a music lesson with UNHCR Russia Goodwill Ambassador singer Manizha. This event offered children a possibility to identify their talents and communicate in a relaxed private setting.

- ✓ **Tretyakov Gallery** in Moscow announced **free entry for refugees and temporary asylum status holders** for the whole duration of the "Point of Displacement" project (18-28 June 2022).

- ✓ **Refugee-led workshop on Afghan traditional cuisine and integration.** The Garage Museum hosted a culinary workshop jointly with UNHCR Russia. The purpose of the event was to disseminate information on the importance of integration and the knowledge that refugees contribute to their host countries, while sharing a meal and understanding diverse cultures. The workshop was led by Asifa, an Afghan refugee who was one of the characters of UNHCR Russia's 2021 cookbook. The cookbook can be downloaded from [UNHCR Russia website](#) in the digital format.



*Afghan refugee Asifa holds a culinary workshop for the guests of the Point of Displacement project at Garage Museum. 26 June 2022 © Ruslan Altimirov*

- ✓ **Museum of Moscow together with UNHCR Russia organized a theatre performance “Beauty Aysel” based on Afghan fairy tales for children from 4 to 12 years old.** The performance was followed by a clay workshop for children with different levels of language skills. The key message of the performance and the workshop was the respect for other cultures, the formation of an attitude for the perception of different audiovisual forms. The events were attended by children with refugee and migrant backgrounds.

- ✓ **The St. Petersburg branch of the Russian Red Cross presented the exhibition “Famous Refugees.”** The exhibition was installed in the hall on the first floor of the Russian National Library. It was created as part of a joint project of the St. Petersburg branch of the Russian Red Cross and UNHCR. The Commissioner for Human Rights in St. Petersburg took part in the opening ceremony and mentioned the importance of actively drawing attention to the problems of refugees in her speech: “A lot depends on each person, and any contribution is important. Children especially need to be told that there are people who need our help, our support and our friendship.”



*Commissioner for Human Rights in St. Petersburg Svetlana Agapitova speaking at the opening of the “Famous Refugees” exhibition. 20 June 2022 © Russian National Library*

- On 18 June 2022, UNHCR NGO partner, Civic Assistance Committee, held a [WRD event](#) at the inclusive centre Tverskaya 15 in Moscow. They invited speakers from other NGOs that initiated projects in 2022 aimed at supporting refugees. In addition to public talks, a verbatim performance based on the refugee stories prepared by UNHCR Russia in 2021 was staged.



*Chairman of the Civic Assistance Committee Svetlana Gannushkina during the Q&A session at the inclusive centre Tverskaya 15 in Moscow. 18 June 2022 © Ksenia Belolutskaya*

- Media project on sustainable development Plus One (+1) released an article with latest statistics on refugees in Russia and globally; on UNHCR's role, key documents, and categorization of persons under its mandate. The text also touches upon the protection of refugee rights, durable solutions, donor relations and other relevant information with a high-quality [visualization](#).

- For the second time in a row, students of Russia's Far Eastern University in Vladivostok organized a **Refugee Week** event at their campus. Aside from thematic social media posts that were made since May, the programme encompassed photo contests, exhibitions, performances by music band and dancers, quizzes, workshops as well as the collection of humanitarian aid for refugees in the region. Their main event was held on June 20, World Refugee Day – the participants spoke of displacement as a global phenomenon and called for compassion and ways of empowering refugees all over the world.



*Students of the Far Eastern Federal University joined the global week of solidarity with refugees. 24 June 2022  
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