

Russian Federation

May 2023

Presence: The UN Refugee Agency has been working in the Russian Federation 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 2023, **276 refugees, 53,719 temporary asylum status holders and 2,894 asylum-seekers** from 71 countries are registered by the Russian Ministry of the Interior (Mol).

KEY FIGURES

2,852,395*

refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine arrived in Russia through Russia-Ukraine border from 24 February to 4 October 2022

1,275,315*

refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine recorded in Russia as of 31 December 2022

43,171

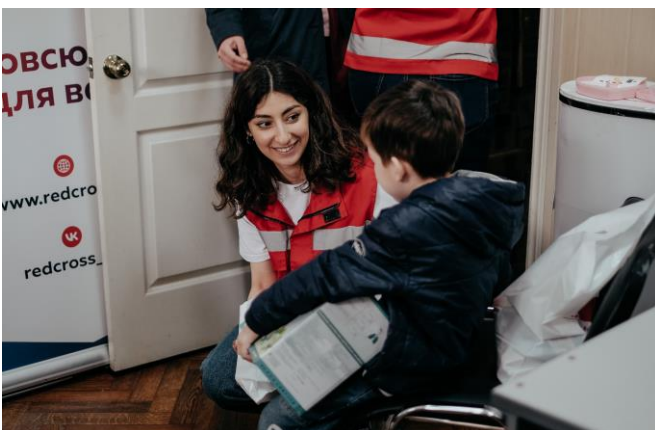
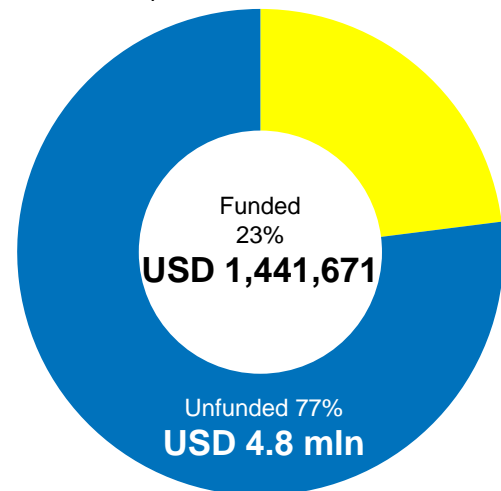
refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine were provided with counselling by UNHCR and its partners, either in person or over the phone since January 2023

**Latest figures to date are provided by EMERCOM of Russia - pending update*

FUNDING (AS OF 31 MAY 2023)

USD 6.2 million

requested for the operation in Russia in 2023



UNHCR Russia partner Russian Red Cross distributes humanitarian assistance to refugees in Rostov © Russian Red Cross



UNHCR Russia NGO partner "Faith, Hope, Love" provides humanitarian aid to refugee children from Ukraine living in a TAP in Pyatigorsk © FHL

- **Mission to Kaluga.** On May 25, UNHCR Russia visited Kaluga to meet with Ukrainian refugees. The meetings were organized by the regional branch of the Russian Red Cross (RRC). 17 adults from Ukraine (13 women and 4 men; 5 of whom were over 60 years old) participated in the discussions. Out of the 17 refugees, eleven were not living in the TAP. The refugees were from Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv regions. Among the main concerns raised: difficulties in finding employment, lack of sufficient housing, problems with obtaining confirmation of employment records from Ukraine, access to social benefits, and lack of access to free life-saving medicines. The participants expressed appreciation for free of charge state healthcare which contributed to address chronic diseases as well as access to expensive surgeries. This became possible owing to the government resolution of 6 March 2022, in accordance with which Ukrainian refugees can receive free primary medical care, vaccinations and prescription drugs, specialized aid, including high-tech treatment, if it is an emergency. Families highlighted that children were supported by teachers regarding schooling issues. Counselling on various other matters was provided, such as access to free of charge insulin, an issue that will be followed-up by the RRC and UNHCR.
- **Mission to Tula.** On May 30, UNHCR Russia carried out another visit in Tula, where discussions with Ukrainian refugees living outside of TAPs were held by the regional RRC branch. 32 adult refugees from Donetsk, Luhansk, and Kharkiv regions participated in group discussions. The majority came to Tula in 2022. Most of them came mainly to join relatives in Tula, while some rented apartments on their own. The main issues raised by the participants included: unavailability of housing and the high cost of renting, especially for older people, and problems in confirming employment history from Ukraine with a view to secure pensions. Some individuals expressed concern over the lack of compensation for their destroyed property in Ukraine. Many expressed satisfaction with regard to access to free of charge state healthcare. All expressed appreciation for the financial, humanitarian, and psychological assistance provided by the RRC. Overall, since 2022, more than 71,000 persons have approached the RRC for psychosocial support alone, which is provided at TAPs and at regional offices, as well as via the hotline.
- **Legal Assistance.** Two nationals of a Central Asian country, supported by UNHCR's legal partners, received temporary asylum in the Moscow Region. Additionally, in a precedent setting case concerning another individual originating from Central Asia, a District Court in Moscow Region decided that the Migration Department of the Moscow Region must grant temporary asylum to the applicant. The Court of Cassation of a Federal Okrug cancelled a negative decision of the Regional Court of Appeal related to a national of Afghanistan, relying on the UNHCR Handbook and Guidelines on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status, to substantiate a violation of procedural requirements. Finally, an Iranian national, detained for a long period of time, was released, and granted protection, thanks to the efforts of a UNHCR legal partner.
- **Lecture for children attending an art programme at Garage Museum.** In May, UNHCR made a presentation about the activities and mandate of UNHCR, as well as the upcoming [Point of Displacement](#) project to be launched on World Refugee Day. The target audience consisted of 20 children with refugee backgrounds who are studying different forms of artistic expression at the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art.
- **Interviews with DAFI students in Russia.** In May, UNHCR published stories of two DAFI students studying in Moscow. [Diana](#) and [Presilia](#) shared the stories of their families (refugees from Afghanistan and Angola) and talked about their motivation to continue studying. The two personal stories seek to encourage prospective DAFI scholars to submit their applications when the new selection process begins, and to highlight refugees' talents, perseverance and determination.
- **Partnership with Lampa Film Festival.** In May, UNHCR Russia and the Organizing Committee of the LAMPA International Impact Film Festival announced [a joint special nomination](#). Lampa is a film festival that seeks to disseminate video content on social topics and popularize volunteerism in the world. The nomination 'The Road to Home' accepts entries from filmmakers whose films address the issues of refugees and stateless persons, as well as assistance to people forced to leave their homes. The nomination also covers the topic of inclusion. The organizers will also accept entries from directors with displacement backgrounds. The deadline for applications is June 19.

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