

# Russian Federation

July 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 30 June 2023, **248 refugees, 36,524 temporary asylum status holders** and **4,851 asylum-seekers** from 76 countries are registered by the Russian Ministry of the Interior (Mol).

## KEY FIGURES

**1,275,315\***

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

**2,852,395\***

border crossings from Ukraine to Russia through Russia–Ukraine border from 24 February to 4 October 2022

**55,807**

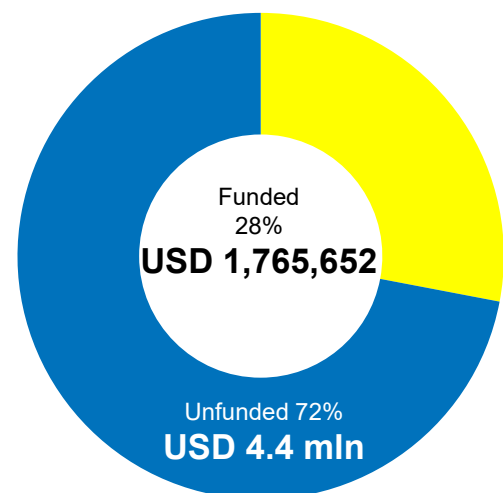
refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine were provided with counselling by UNHCR and its partners, either in person or over the phone since January 2023

*\*Data sources: UNHCR collation of statistics made available by the authorities*

## FUNDING (AS OF 20 JULY 2023)

**USD 6.2 million**

requested for the operation in Russia in 2023



VIII International Olympics of Legal Clinicians discussing statelessness in Nizhny Novgorod © UNHCR



UNHCR Russia staff held a meeting with refugees from Ukraine in Ufa © UNHCR

- **Nizhny Novgorod region.** On July 3-5, UNHCR visited Nizhny Novgorod region jointly with the Office of the Ombudsman of the Russian Federation:
  - **Visit to a childcare facility.** UNHCR visited a childcare facility where 30 Ukrainian children with intellectual disabilities are hosted. Among them, some are orphans, and the rest are children without parental care. All the children have a learning impairment or an intellectual disability, their health conditions were assessed upon arrival to Nizhny Novgorod, also for determining and assigning the relevant disability group levels for the children who met the eligibility criteria. Thanks to this evaluation, the children receive a monthly disability allowance. UNHCR assessed the reception conditions and care of the Ukrainian children as adequate. The childcare facility has a well-organized infrastructure for studying, leisure and living in accordance with the specific needs of the children.
  - **Legal assistance to refugees.** UNHCR staff talked to two retirees during a visit to the Russian Red Cross. The couple had to flee Donetsk region and they currently live in a temporary accommodation point (TAP) in Nizhny Novgorod. The couple shared positive feedback on reception conditions, access to medical care, and reception within the host community. The main topic discussed was access to pension allowance in Russia. UNHCR provided relevant information on its legal partner in Nizhny Novgorod who can support the refugees with the procedure.
- **Bashkortostan.** On July 24-27, UNHCR Moscow visited the Republic of Bashkortostan to familiarize with the situation of refugees from Ukraine residing in TAPs and in their own accommodation arrangements:
  - **Meetings with refugees.** During the mission, UNHCR visited 3 TAPs operating in the region: 2 in the city of Ufa and 1 in Sterlitamak. Most of the refugees UNHCR met with are from Mariupol and other areas in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Kharkov. Some of the concerns expressed by the refugees related to access to medical care and inclusion in pension benefits in accordance with past work experience. UNHCR also had the opportunity to communicate with refugees from Ukraine living outside of TAPs thanks to the support of the Russian Red Cross. Refugees informed about different challenges in gaining access to services and settling in Ufa. The refugees arrived in Ufa to join their relatives who had already moved to the region in 2014. Counselling was provided and the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Bashkortostan took note of a case to follow up on assessment of disability benefits during the meeting.
  - **Positive impact of the maternity grant.** In Ufa, several families shared that they were able to buy new lodgings thanks to the maternity grant which was used as down payment for an apartment or house. The maternity grant is awarded by the Pension and Social Insurance Fund of the Russian Federation, and it is given once the registration of birth of a child is concluded.
  - **Visit to a geriatric ward.** UNHCR also visited a geriatric ward where 7 older refugees reside. Specialised medical services and daily care facilities are available. Access to this institution is provided upon request of the refugees, and in line with the recommendation of TAP managers and the Ministry of Family, Labour, and Social Protection. The conditions were assessed as adequate.
- **Seminar with the Ombudsmen of the Volga Federal District in Nizhny Novgorod.** On July 4, UNHCR held a seminar for the Ombudsmen from 11 regions of Russia. The event was attended by the representatives of the key ministries responsible for reception of refugees from Ukraine, including the Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Health, EMERCOM, as well as the Ombudsman for the Children's Rights of Nizhny Novgorod region, the head of the regional branch of the Russian Red Cross and representatives of the Federal Ombudsman's Office. The seminar included presentations on UNHCR mandate, humanitarian principles, standards of working with refugees and displaced persons and discussions among the participants on the most challenging issues related to reception and integration of refugees from Ukraine.
- **VIII International Olympics of Legal Clinicians 2023 in Nizhny Novgorod.** On July 27-30, the VIII International Olympics of Legal Clinicians was held at the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Nizhny Novgorod. A total of 54 law students from 4 countries (Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Moldova) participated in the event. This year's Olympics focused on the topic of statelessness and sought to promote the #iBelong campaign, which is due to end in 2024. The Olympics was organized by the Centre for the Development of Legal Clinics with UNHCR's support. The participants were divided in teams and worked on a case based on a real-life story of a stateless person. The students trained their skills in interviewing, legal analysis, development of a legal position, providing counselling, preparing legal documents and interventions.
- **Russian language classes for refugee children.** UNHCR partner Health and Life Foundation started a two-month Russian language programme to prepare 15 Afghan refugee children for school for the new academic year and help them enrol in primary school. The project is supported by an Afghan community centre that provides premises for the classes.

**CONTACTS:**

**Magdalena Aguilar Pulido**, UNHCR Russia External Relations Officer  
Email: [aguilarp@unhcr.org](mailto:aguilarp@unhcr.org)

**Ararat Babayan**, UNHCR Russia Senior External Relations Assistant  
Email: [babayan@unhcr.org](mailto:babayan@unhcr.org)