

Russian Federation

February 2022

The **UN Refugee Agency** has been working in the Russian Federation since 1992. It currently operates through a Country Office in Moscow.

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

UNHCR's work is guided by a **Multi-Year Protection Strategy** from 2021 to 2023 and a **Communications Strategy** from 2020 to 2023.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	15,052
Asylum-seekers	1,091
Stateless persons	56,960
Total population of concern	73,103

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	13,298	Ukraine	543
Afghanistan	686	Afghanistan	196
Syrian Arab Republic	328	Syrian Arab Republic	126

*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

UKRAINE SITUATION

At the time of updating this fact sheet, in light of the rapidly deteriorating situation and hostilities in Ukraine, UNHCR is ramping up its response and capacity in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

UNHCR estimates that up to 4 million refugees may flee Ukraine, with more than 650,000 people having already crossed an international border in search of safety from 24 to 28 February.

UNHCR declared a Level 3 Emergency for Ukraine and a Level 2 Emergency for neighbouring countries on 25 February. UNHCR and OCHA jointly [launched](#) the [Humanitarian Flash Appeal](#) and the [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) for the Ukraine situation on 1 March.

HIGHLIGHTS (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021)

735,385

people were naturalized in 2021, of whom **375,989** were from Ukraine, **1,411** from Afghanistan, **1,270** from the Syrian Arab Republic and **111** from Yemen. **6,118 stateless persons** acquired Russian citizenship.

24,082

legal consultations were provided to **6,897 persons of concern** in **40 regions** by UNHCR and partners.

1,809

persons of concern were assisted by UNHCR and partners to facilitate integration and naturalization.

Statelessness

Nearly 600 temporary IDs for stateless persons have been issued since August 2021, when a respective law came into effect.

COOKBOOK PROJECT FEATURING REFUGEES



UNHCR launched a [project](#) showcasing recipes of six refugees. Much more than a recipe book, "Kitchen stories", recounts refugees' stories, memories and dreams and promotes their inclusion to shape stronger societies. ©UNHCR/Ruslan Altimirov

Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR is supporting authorities in creating a more favourable protection environment and asylum system by maintaining dialogue on issues pertaining to UNHCR's mandate.
- **Integration:** UNHCR assists refugees in finding sustainable solutions by facilitating their [local integration](#). UNHCR works with partner NGOs on legal, economic, and social inclusion through assistance in obtaining residence permits, citizenship, employment and access to education.
- **Voluntary repatriation:** UNHCR provides counselling to persons of concern who express their interest in returning to their home countries and, if conditions allow, processes cases for voluntary repatriation.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR maintains regular contact with refugee communities to inform them about planned projects and to learn about their initiatives. It also organizes vocational trainings for persons of concern to become self-sustained and independent.
- **Social cohesion:** UNHCR encourages social cohesion initiatives such as workshops, museum activities, festivals aimed at enhancing dialogue, and interaction between refugees and host communities.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR strives to raise awareness and promote tolerance towards refugees and stateless persons through information campaigns and awareness-raising activities. These include contests, exhibitions, public talks, roundtables, and special events dedicated to World Refugee Day.
- **Capacity-building:** UNHCR conducts trainings and knowledge-sharing sessions for NGO staff to efficiently assist persons of concern. As part of these activities, UNHCR and partners organize seminars on interviewing techniques. UNHCR also trains legal aid providers jointly with experts, Bar Associations and Unions of Lawyers.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with State and non-State stakeholders, including the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EMERCOM, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the judiciary, Ombudspersons, 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 the mandate, global activities, and 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 that have advanced substantially over the years.

UNHCR Presence in Russia

Staff:

15 National Staff
4 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Moscow

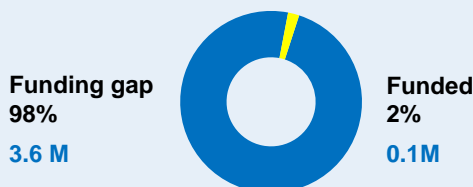


GWA Manizha during a [music lesson](#) for children at an inclusive center in Moscow ©UNHCR/Svetlana Klimova

Financial information (22 February 2022)

Financial requirements

USD 3.7 M



UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2022 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland

Unearmarked contributions provides UNHCR with vital flexibility in determining how best to protect and assist persons of concern who are in the greatest needs or at the greatest risks.