

Russian Federation

1 September 2019

On October 31, 2018, the President of the Russian Federation endorsed [the Concept of the State Migration Policy](#) valid throughout 2019 – 2025.

The Concept sets forth directions and goals of Russia in the migration sphere, including asylum system and treatment of foreigners. The document re-confirms Russia's commitment to its international obligations and ensures fruitful cooperation with international organizations to more effectively regulate international migration flows.

Since its opening in 1992, the Country Office (CO) Moscow works with the Government and its competent bodies to facilitate identification of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons, ensure their protection in accordance with international standards, and assist in finding durable solutions for Persons of Concern (PoCs).

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 1 JULY 2019)

Refugees (non-Ukrainian)	385
Refugees (Ukrainian)	137
TA Holders (non-Ukrainian)	1755
TA Holders (Ukrainian)	60 193
Stateless persons	178 000
TOTAL:	240 470

Top-3 countries of origin:

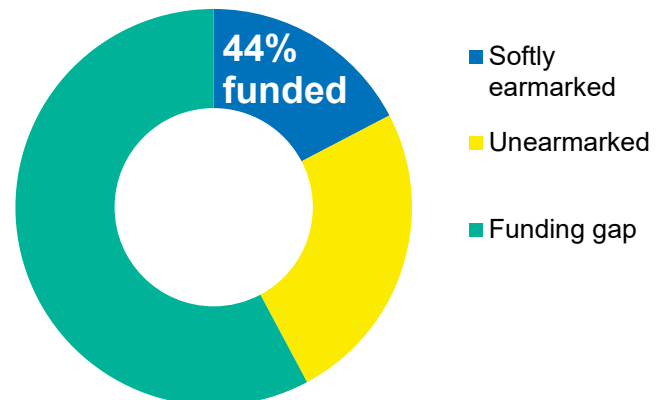
Temporary Asylum (TA) holders : Ukraine (97,1%), Syria (1,1%), Afghanistan (0,8%)

Refugees: Afghanistan (50,7%), Ukraine (26,2%), Georgia (5,3%)

FUNDING (SEPTEMBER 2019)

USD 6.5 M

requested for the RF situation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

19 National Staff

4 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office (CO) in
Moscow



Working with Partners

- CO Moscow's key government counterparts are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior. UNHCR also works with EMERCOM of Russia, Ministry of Justice and judiciary;
- CO Moscow collaborates with CIS IPA, CSTO, CIS Border Guards;
- CO Moscow works with international non-governmental organizations (ICRC, IFRC) and UN agencies; UNHCR is a member of the UN Team in Russia and UN Thematic Group on gender issues;
- CO Moscow organizes information workshops for regional Ombudsmen;
- UNHCR cooperates with Academia – holding various events for students and professors on Refugee Law and providing support to legal clinics in order to expand potential sources of free legal aid for persons of concern and developing the expertise of future practitioners;
- Most of CO Moscow's activities are implemented through local non-governmental partners including: "Memorial" Human Rights Centre;
- "Civic Assistance" Committee; "Faith, Hope and Love" Inter-Regional Public Charitable Organization; "Health and Life" Charitable Foundation; Centre for International Cooperation of the St. Petersburg Red Cross, Children's Fund of North Ossetia and Human Rights Institute;
- For its partner organizations, UNHCR conducts expert meetings on judicial engagement with focus on access to rights;
- CO Moscow advises partner organizations on fundraising in the changing funding environment for their projects;
- CO Moscow is part of a Working Group on Education, where it joins efforts with "Civic Assistance" Committee, "Memorial" Human Rights Center and "Health and Life" Charitable Foundation in advocating for children's right to school education;
- UNHCR, Inter-Regional Public Charitable Organization "Faith, Hope and Love" and "Health and Life" Charitable Foundation are part of a Working Group on Employment, advocating for PoCs' access to formal employment.

Main Activities

Protection

- Advocating with competent authorities to support the rights of asylum-seekers, such as access to the asylum procedure - including at the borders, international airports and pre-removal detention facilities;
- Ensuring individual legal assistance and counselling through partner organizations and independent lawyers. As of Mid-Year of 2019, 2,635 PoCs received legal consultations from UNHCR and partners;
- When necessary, supporting judicial engagement in individual cases before national courts, and in selected cases before the European Court for Human Rights (66 cases by Mid-Year of 2019);
- Intervening to prevent *refoulement* of asylum-seekers to countries where their lives may be at risk (117 positive outcomes within the first half of 2019);
- Regularly informing competent agencies about known stateless individuals and, through partner organizations, providing legal assistance to stateless persons and those with undetermined status (893 persons assisted as of Mid-Year of 2019);
- Taking part in UNHCR's global campaign for the eradication of statelessness; disseminating information materials and collaborates with media throughout the country; lobbying for accession of the Russian Federation to the two UN Conventions on statelessness.

Education

- Together with its partner organizations, assisting PoCs' experiencing difficulties with enrolling their children in schools hampered by strict requirements on presenting documents and residence registration as well as language skills. In the first half of 2019, UNHCR together with its partners continued providing assistance with school enrolment to 57 children, while 20 were successfully admitted to schools in Moscow and St. Petersburg;
- Moscow's "Health and Life" Charitable Foundation conducts Russian language courses for refugees from Afghanistan and African countries. With the support of UNHCR, the "Civic Assistance" Committee is running an integration project for persons from Syria in the Moscow region, providing Russian language courses for adults and children and assisting the PoC with placement to local schools.
- Assisting talented young refugees with enrolling in colleges and universities through **DAFI**, a German-funded scholarship program. During the past 20 years, over 200 refugee students received higher education in Russia through this programme.

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LINKS

www.UNHCR.ru

www.facebook.com/unhcr.russia

Health

- Directly and through its partner organizations in Moscow assisting eligible individuals with accessing the obligatory state medical insurance;
- Supporting a medical assistance programme for categories of PoCs that are not entitled to the state medical insurance and have serious health issues (519 persons received medical consultation and/or treatment and medicines in 2019);
- Provision of psychological assistance (31 persons in 2019);
- Provision of limited one-time financial assistance for the most vulnerable cases, such as women with children and persons with health problems (118 persons in 2019).

Durable Solutions

- **Local integration.** To facilitate the integration of refugees, CO Moscow works on legal, economic and social aspects through assistance in obtaining residence permits, temporary residence permits, citizenship, gaining employment and access to education.
- **Voluntary repatriation.** In 2019, UNHCR provided assistance with documents and visas, airfare and a travel allowance to 4 persons returning to their countries of origin.
- **Resettlement.** No cases were submitted for resettlement in 2019.