

# Russian Federation

March 2024

**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 2024, **247 refugees**, **15,378 temporary asylum status holders** and **1,694 asylum-seekers** were registered by the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) of the Russian Federation.

## KEY FIGURES ON UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

**1,212,585\***

refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine recorded in Russia as of 30 June 2023

### UNHCR missions in 2024:

3 missions carried out in 3 regions (Bryansk, Vladimir, and Tatarstan).

### UNHCR and partners response in 2024:

11,064 refugees used the telephone counselling/hotline of UNHCR and Partner NGOs.

11,176 refugees provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid.

8,290 refugees received protection services in border regions (Kursk, Belgorod, Voronezh, Rostov).

3,900 refugees received protection services in other Russian regions (including Moscow and Saint Petersburg).

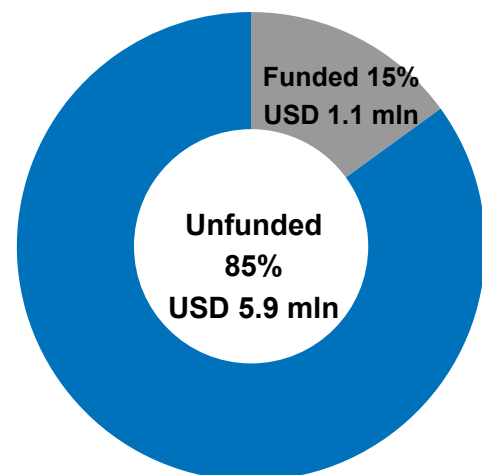
### UNHCR missions in 2022-2024:

50 missions in 33 regions

## FUNDING (AS OF 31 MARCH 2024)

**USD 7.0 million**

requested for the operation in Russia in 2024



UNHCR meeting with Ukrainian refugees in Bryansk region © UNHCR/Alexandra Shishkova



UNHCR representatives at an awareness-raising session on refugee protection for the students of the Diplomatic Academy © UNHCR/Maria Vediakova

- **Mission to Bryansk.** From 4 to 6 March, UNHCR visited Bryansk to meet with Ukrainian refugees living in Temporary Accommodation Points (TAPs) and in private accommodation. Discussions were conducted with 11 refugees from Ukraine (9 women and 2 men). The majority of the refugees arrived in the spring of 2022. Some of the participants living in TAPs expressed satisfaction with the conditions and with the assistance offered by the migration service and public notary to translate and certify their documents needed for enrolment in educational institutions or employment. The Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights and the regional Duma provided assistance to some participants seeking recalculation of their pensions. Refugees are concerned with the high cost of rent, especially for older people. Pension allocation was also raised as an issue, due to difficulties in obtaining confirmation of employment history from Ukraine.
- **Mission to Vladimir.** From 18 to 20 March, UNHCR visited Vladimir, and met with Ukrainian refugees living in and outside of TAPs. Residents of the TAP expressed satisfaction with the conditions. All working-age refugees were employed. Meetings were also conducted with 9 Ukrainian refugees living outside of the TAPs. Most of these refugees were employed, although not all formally. Their main concerns continue to be related to access to pensions and accurate calculation, as well as obtention of temporary registration at their place of stay. Partners in the region collaborate with various charity organizations assisting refugees and others in need.
- **Evacuation of Russian nationals and their Palestinian relatives from Gaza.** From 25 to 28 March, while visiting Makhachkala (Dagestan), UNHCR encountered Palestinian refugees and their Russian family members who had been evacuated by the Russian authorities from Gaza in late 2023. UNHCR visited the TAP which accommodates 187 evacuees. Close cooperation between national authorities and civil society in addressing the needs of the evacuees was observed.
- **Litigation successes.** Following legal partners' interventions before the courts, 8 people were released from pre-removal detention in Saint-Petersburg and Leningrad Region, including asylum-seekers from Yemen (4) and Ukraine (1) and stateless people (3).
- **Conference on Legal Clinics.** On 13 March, UNHCR participated in a Conference organized by the Ministry of Higher Education and Science on "Legal Clinics – New Vision on Practical Orientation of Higher Education". Tendencies in the development of legal clinics were discussed jointly by academia, managers of legal clinics, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Higher Education and Science. The importance of the educational function of legal clinics coupled with their free legal aid component were emphasized.
- **Engagement with students.** On 20 March, UNHCR facilitated an awareness-raising session on refugee protection for the students of the Diplomatic Academy as part of the university Discussion Club "Bona Fide". Students actively participated in the discussions on refugee-related matters globally and UNHCR's activities. Also, UNHCR and the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN) announced a contest for the best student research papers on such refugee-related topics as responsibility sharing in refugee protection, access to territory and asylum, amongst others.
- **External engagement.** UNHCR and the International Lampa Festival of social impact films announced an [open call](#) to collect movies on refugee and statelessness topics or from directors with displacement backgrounds. UNHCR will cooperate with Lampa Film Festival for the second year in a row by arranging film screenings and public discussions after them. UNHCR also will award the best movie in its nomination "The Road to Home". This year, Lampa will arrange movie screenings in the city of Perm in October and in Moscow – in December.

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