

# Russian Federation

April 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:** 7 missions carried out to 7 regions (Tatarstan, Bryansk, Vladimir, Rostov, Tver, North Ossetia-Alania, Kaluga)

### UNHCR and partners response in 2024:

**15,152** refugees provided with information through telephone counselling/hotline of UNHCR and Partner NGOs

**14,591** refugees provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

**10,398** refugees received protection services in border regions (Kursk, Belgorod, Voronezh, Rostov)

**4,874** refugees received protection services in other Russian regions (including Moscow and Saint Petersburg)

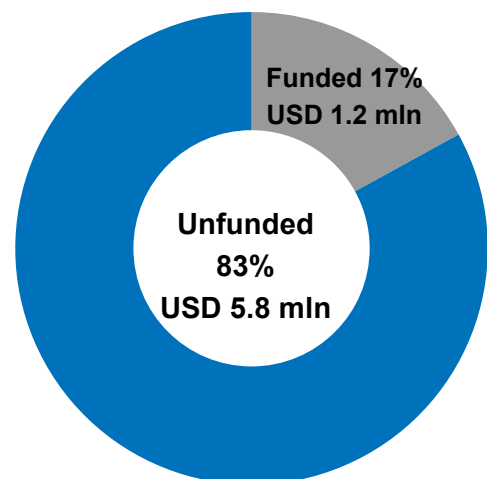
**UNHCR missions from 2022-2024:** 54 missions in 34 regions

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

## FUNDING (AS OF 30 APRIL 2024)

**USD 7.0 million**

requested for the operation in Russia in 2024



UNHCR making a presentation on the principle of non-refoulement for students of MGIMO Model of United Nations © MUN Organizers



UNHCR at an information session on international legal regulation of forced displacement at RUDN University in Moscow © RUDN University

- **UNHCR Regional Director for Europe mission to Moscow.** Between 10-12 April, UNHCR Regional Director for Europe, Mr. Philippe Leclerc, visited Moscow and met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry for Emergencies, and the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights. The Director also held meetings with UNHCR partner organizations and members of the diplomatic community in Russia to discuss UNHCR's operations in the Russian Federation.
- **Presentation at CIS Interparliamentary Assembly Session.** On 18 April, the UNHCR Moscow Representative participated in a session organized by the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS). UNHCR's presentation focused on the importance of the legislative asylum framework and the need to ensure alignment of the national legislation and practice with the 1951 Convention.
- **Mission to Rostov region.** From 2 to 5 April, UNHCR and partners visited the Rostov region and met Ukrainian refugees residing at two temporary accommodation points (TAPs) hosting 500 refugees, and few living in private accommodation in the host community. The region hosts approximately 180,000 Ukrainian refugees, with nearly 6,000 in 39 TAPs. Many refugees are either retirees or mothers caring for their children. TAP residents who are employed work in agricultural or construction companies. All children have access to education. UNHCR also met with 23 Ukrainian refugees living outside of the TAPs. Refugees obtained information on legal assistance which can be supported by UNHCR's partners in the region.
- **Mission to Tver.** From 15 to 17 April, UNHCR in coordination with the Federal and Regional Offices of the Commissioner for Human Rights visited the city of Tver. This was a follow-up to the mission to assess improvements in the conditions for Ukrainian refugees following a mission last year. UNHCR visited three TAPs. Parents shared that there are many opportunities for cultural activities for their children to participate in. Ukrainian families living in the region who are facing economic difficulties can move to TAPs. Counselling was provided and information on how to access further assistance locally was shared.
- **Mission to Vladikavkaz.** From 15 to 19 April, UNHCR and partners visited Vladikavkaz. UNHCR visited all three operational TAPs and also met with 24 Ukrainian refugees staying outside of TAPs. Requests for legal assistance were forwarded to UNHCR's local partners for follow-up. UNHCR also organized participatory assessment sessions with 17 refugees from Syria and Palestine who highlighted the need for Russian language classes and legal support. Overall, refugees noted a positive attitude and welcoming atmosphere in the region. UNHCR is exploring how to support Russian language classes for the refugees.
- **Mission to Kaluga.** From 22 to 23 April, UNHCR visited Kaluga region, together with the Office for the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation, to meet refugees from Ukraine residing at two of the ten TAPs in the region, as well as those living in private accommodations. Families with many children were assisted with economic support through a special program extended by the Kaluga region authorities. UNHCR also met with five refugees living outside of TAPs, who had come to the Russian Federation on their own and support themselves through their own means.
- **Engagement with university students (Blishenko Readings).** On 13 April, UNHCR co-moderated a round table on the international legal regulation of migration and forced displacement that was organized by the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN). The round table was attended by lecturers and students from various Russian universities. UNHCR's presentation focused on its activities in Russia and humanitarian principles.
- **Models of the United Nations at MGIMO University and Kazan Federal University.** On 15 and 25 April, UNHCR took part in the Model of the United Nations events at MGIMO University and Kazan Federal University. Students attended a lecture by UNHCR on the principle of non-refoulement under international law and its exceptions under the 1951 Convention, as well as the main international legal mechanisms regulating expulsion. At Kazan Federal University the students simulated the work of UNHCR, addressing the challenges of irregular entry and issues of discrimination.
- **Legal Clinics.** On 18-19 April, with UNHCR's support, the Centre for Development of Legal Clinics held the Lawyer's Professional Skills School for students of legal clinics, focused on forced displacement and statelessness. The event took place at the Faculty of Law of Moscow State University and 29 students working in legal clinics attended, representing 7 law schools from Moscow, Moscow region, Volgograd, and Kazan. All the participants are prepared to provide legal support to asylum-seekers and stateless people approaching the respective law clinics or referred to them for assistance.

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