

Russian Federation

August 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 30 June 2024, **230 refugees, 13,933 temporary asylum status holders** and **3,368 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: 18 missions carried out to 18 regions (Tatarstan, Bryansk, Vladimir, Rostov, Tver, North Ossetia-Alania, Kaluga, Krasnoyarsk, Novgorod, Arkhangelsk, Krasnodar Krai, Penza, Chelyabinsk, Omsk, Mordovia, Komi, Voronezh, Tula)

UNHCR and partners response in 2024:

28,772 refugees provided with information through telephone counselling/hotline of UNHCR and Partner NGOs

24,112 refugees provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

15,490 refugees received protection services in border regions (Kursk, Belgorod, Voronezh, Rostov)

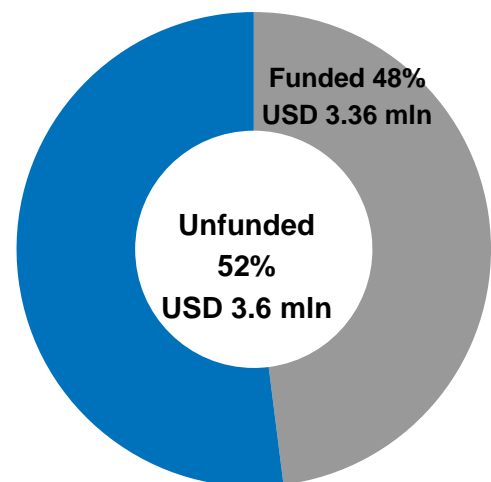
8,845 refugees received protection services in other Russian regions (including Moscow and Saint Petersburg)

UNHCR missions in 2022-2024: 65 missions in 43 regions

FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST 2024)

USD 7.0 million

requested for the operation in Russia in 2024



Participants of the International Summer School on Legal Skills in Kaliningrad © UNHCR



Participatory assessment meeting with Ukrainian refugees in Voronezh region © UNHCR

- **Improved access to higher education for refugee children.** A total of 37 refugee children took part in the UNHCR-funded programme implemented by the NGO “Home is Near”, which aims at strengthening children’s skills and knowledge in order to pass the final mandatory school exams. The partner NGO organized online sessions for children residing in various regions of Russia on the following school subjects: Russian language, Literature, Math, Biology, Chemistry and Social Science. As a result, 12 children with the highest scores entered prestigious Russian universities such as the Moscow State University and the Higher School of Economics. UNHCR will continue supporting refugee children in improving their potential for accessing higher and tertiary education. A new group of school children for the 2024-2025 programme is currently being formed.
- **International Summer School on Legal Skills in Kaliningrad.** On 20-28 August, the XIII International Summer School “Future Lawyers: Essential Skills for Success”, took place at the Baltic Federal University named after Immanuel Kant, with UNHCR’s support. A total of 85 students from 18 cities of Russia, as well as from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, deepened their knowledge of international law and acquired soft skills necessary for a successful career in law. UNHCR co-facilitated lectures and workshops where asylum-related topics were incorporated into case studies.
- **Summer school on migration in Saint Petersburg.** On 26-29 August, UNHCR partner, the Russian Red Cross (RRC) regional branch in Saint Peterburg, hosted the VIII Summer School on Migration for Students of Russian Universities. A total of 30 students from Russian regions attended the summer school. It was an intensive course filled with lectures and case studies on global migration trends, international human rights and humanitarian law, and the migration situation in Russia. The presentations and lectures were delivered by a wide range of experts and academics of various universities, RRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC). UNHCR delivered a presentation on refugee law, followed by case studies on refugee status determination and discussions. In addition, UNHCR gave a lecture on the national asylum legislation. The event is a good platform to raise awareness about forced displacement and support the development of students’ knowledge and skills.
- **Mission to Voronezh.** From 5-8 August, UNHCR visited Voronezh region in coordination with the Regional and Federal Offices of the Commissioner for Human Rights. UNHCR visited two temporary accommodation points (TAPs) out of 85 in the region and met with 31 refugees. Meetings were also held with Ukrainian refugees living outside of TAPs. At the meeting with Ukrainian refugees living in the community, refugees noted the limited possibilities to access housing as banks tend to reject their applications for mortgages if their permanent residency registration has not been changed from their home region to Voronezh. Refugees also raised problems with temporary registration in Voronezh. The Federal Commissioner for Human Rights took note of the problems since this is also a recurrent issue in other regions.
- **Mission to Tula.** From 12-14 August, UNHCR visited Tula region in coordination with the Regional and Federal Offices of the Commissioner for Human Rights. UNHCR visited two out of 23 TAPs operational in the region and met with 18 refugees. Both TAPs are in rural areas, yet access to medical assistance, schools and places of work is ensured. Pensions and social benefits tend to be assigned according to the refugee’s age and status. Some cases continue to need support to restore documents that have been destroyed or lost. The Regional Commissioner took note of these cases to assist with the process. At the Red Cross office in Tula, UNHCR also had a participatory assessment with Ukrainian refugees who live independently. Participants were mostly older persons renting apartments, who shared the difficulties of supporting themselves and their families, due to low wages and lack of work opportunities according to their experience and circumstances. The Regional Commissioner for Human Rights will follow up on issues regarding pension payments and agreed with refugees to discuss the possibility for refugees to be placed in TAPs, to reduce their living costs.

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