

Russian Federation

September 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: 21 missions carried out to 21 regions (Tatarstan, Bryansk, Vladimir, Rostov, Tver, North Ossetia-Alania, Kaluga, Krasnoyarsk, Novgorod, Arkhangelsk, Krasnodar Krai, Penza, Chelyabinsk, Omsk, Mordovia, Komi, Voronezh, Tula, Tyumen, Oryol and Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug)

UNHCR and partners response in 2024:

32,231 refugees provided with information through telephone counselling/hotline of UNHCR and Partner NGOs

27,820 refugees provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

17,050 refugees received protection services in border regions (Kursk, Belgorod, Voronezh, Rostov)

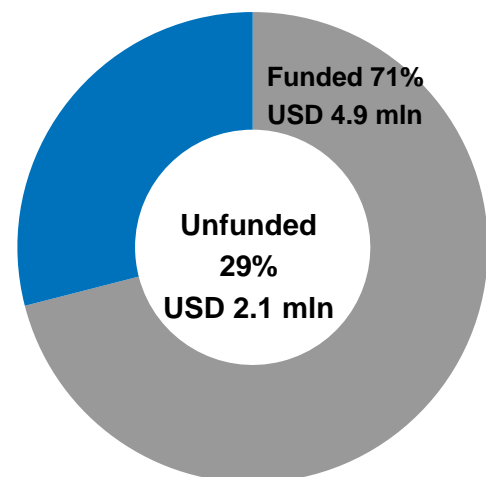
9,889 refugees received protection services in other Russian regions (including Moscow and Saint Petersburg)

UNHCR missions in 2022-2024: 68 missions in 45 regions

FUNDING (AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2024)

USD 7.0 million

requested for the operation in Russia in 2024



Participants of the seminar for lawyers in Moscow © UNHCR



Participatory assessment meeting with Ukrainian refugees in Surgut (Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug) © UNHCR

- **Mission to Tyumen.** From 2-5 September, UNHCR visited Tyumen in cooperation with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation to assess the standard of treatment of refugees from Ukraine living on their own as well as in TAPs. UNHCR visited 2 TAPs hosting 173 refugees. Most refugees in the region have no barriers in accessing the labour market and related social benefits. Families with children were accommodated in centrally located TAPs to ensure children's easy access to schools and kindergartens. The Department of Social Protection of the Tyumen region shared with UNHCR a sample of the so-called "social passport" that was created for all refugees arriving in the region. This allowed the collection of all needed information to assess and analyze potential vulnerabilities and the needs of families, in order for various government structures to respond, including social protection, health, and education.
- **Mission to Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug.** From 9-12 September, UNHCR visited Khanty-Mansiysk region in cooperation with the Ministry for Emergency Situations. UNHCR visited two out of six TAPs in the region (in Khanty-Mansiysk and Surgut) and met with 27 refugees. Those living in TAPs receive temporary registration and have access to schools and medical facilities. Various forms of social support – for example, child allowances – are available to them. Refugees from Kherson have acquired property in the region through housing certificates provided by the federal government. During the visit, daily life issues were raised by residents at the TAPs, such as adequate provision of food for persons with diabetes and others with medical constraints, as well as for babies. Local authorities took note of the information to follow up and improve the situation.
- **Mission to Orel Region.** From 16-19 September, UNHCR visited Orel region. The mission was arranged in cooperation with the Regional and Federal Offices of the Commissioner for Human Rights. UNHCR visited two out of 40 TAPs in the region as well as had sessions with Ukrainian refugees who live outside of TAPs. Refugees living in TAPs are satisfied with their living conditions and report easy access to health care, employment, and education. Those refugees living outside of TAPs shared that landlords refuse to provide them with temporary registration. The lack of temporary registration affects their access to medical care, education, and mortgages. UNHCR discussed the issues raised by refugees with the Office of the Regional Human Rights Commissioner for their further consideration.
- **Humanitarian assistance for school children from Karabakh in Stavropol region.** From 23 August to 17 September, a total of 193 gift cards from a local retail store were procured by UNHCR to distribute among families with forcibly displaced children from Karabakh, who predominantly live in the Stavropol region. The cards allowed most vulnerable families to purchase clothes for children and/or basic school stationery. The biggest portion of cards were received by families residing in Pyatigorsk. This activity was implemented in collaboration with UNHCR's partners.
- **Seminar for lawyers from the regions.** On 25-26 September, a seminar for lawyers on legal assistance to refugees was held in Moscow. The event was organized by UNHCR with the support of the Federal Union of Lawyers of Russia, Regional Bar Associations and UNHCR's partner organizations "Faith, Hope, Love" and the Russian Red Cross. Lawyers from 15 regions learned about UNHCR's mandate and its activities in the Russian Federation, as well as the work of partner organizations in the provision of assistance to refugees.
- **Access to education/school enrolment support.** During September, UNHCR provided legal and counselling support to refugee families to facilitate the school enrolment process for 52 refugee children in Moscow, Moscow region and Saint Petersburg. Eight refugee children were also assisted to access pre-school education-kindergartens. Children originate from Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Palestine, and other countries. As part of the school enrolment preparedness process, UNHCR provided financial support for organising Russian language classes for refugee children in Moscow and Saint Petersburg. The course was facilitated through "Etnosfera" in Moscow and through the Russian Red Cross in Saint Petersburg. The course allowed for improving language skills of 9 children in Moscow and 11 in Saint Petersburg, which helped children to successfully pass the entry language tests as part of the mandatory enrolment process for foreign children. All children were provided with backpacks, stationery, games, and books.

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