

Russian Federation

September 2024

UNHCR has maintained a [presence](#) in the Russian Federation since 1992, and currently operates through its Country Office in Moscow.

UNHCR works to ensure forcibly displaced and stateless people are informed of their rights, while advocating for improved national [asylum legislation](#).

The Russian Federation is a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. The [national refugee law](#) was adopted in 1993.

POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2024) *

Refugees	1,226,732
Asylum-seekers	784
Stateless people	91,442

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	1,223,794	Ukraine	357
Afghanistan	1,136	Afghanistan	142
Palestine	238	Syrian Arab Rep.	65

* UNHCR Mid-Year Statistical Report 2024 and UNHCR [data finder](#)

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

Protection: Refugees from Ukraine have access to asylum/temporary asylum, residence permits and have the right to work. They can stay either in Temporary Accommodation Points (TAPs) or in private accommodation.

Supporting the most vulnerable: UNHCR and partners are supporting persons at heightened risk, including single parents/caregivers, older people, people with disabilities.

Counselling: UNHCR and NGO partners have expanded their counselling services. In the first eight months of 2024, 24,335 refugees from Ukraine were assisted with in-person counselling; and 28,772 refugees were reached via hotlines.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS): In the first eight months of 2024, 24,112 refugees were provided with MHPSS.

Coordination: UNHCR exchanges on a monthly basis with the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner in the Russian Federation and partner NGOs on refugee needs and concerns identified directly or through them.

HIGHLIGHTS

Protection monitoring missions

In the first eight months of 2024, UNHCR visited 18 regions of the Russian Federation, meeting refugees from Ukraine hosted in 29 Temporary Accommodation Points (TAPs) as well as those staying in private accommodation.

The visits to Russian regions were conducted jointly with the Ministry of Emergencies (EMERCOM), the Russian Red Cross (RRC), and/or the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner in the Russian Federation.

Seminar for lawyers in Krasnoyarsk (Siberia)

On 4 - 5 June, UNHCR conducted a two-day seminar for lawyers to discuss legal assistance on asylum and statelessness matters. More than 30 lawyers from Krasnoyarsk, Amur, Irkutsk, Tyumen, Novosibirsk regions and the Republic of Sakha-Yakutia, as well as representatives of the Russian Red Cross and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Krasnoyarsk, participated in the event.



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World Refugee Day (WRD) activities in Russia

The WRD programme in Moscow featured a performance of the social project Upsala Circus, excursions, music concerts, a screening of a new UNHCR [video](#) about refugee children from Afghanistan, DR Congo and Syria, a series of workshops for children and adults. The Free Youth Theater in Tobolsk, Siberia, released a [radio play](#) "Asylum" based on UNHCR's comic book, while the students of Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok organized a [Refugee Week](#).

Key Priorities

- **Advocacy:** Through regular discussions with government counterparts, UNHCR advocates for the improvement of the access to protection in line with international protection standards.
- **Protection:** UNHCR, its NGO partners, as well as a network of 84 lawyers and advocates in 46 regions of the Russia Federation provide legal and social counselling, including on the asylum procedure, as well as access to rights and services.
- **Capacity-building:** UNHCR conducts trainings and knowledge-sharing sessions for first-line responders to meet the needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people. Training is also provided to partners and legal practitioners regarding forced displacement and statelessness, identification of people at heightened risk, data protection, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and the legal framework.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR maintains regular contact with refugee communities, mainly through participatory assessment sessions, to learn about their needs and tailor UNHCR's response.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Emergencies, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner in the Russian Federation and regional ombudspersons, academia, media, and civil society.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR works to preserve the protection space by fostering public awareness of international protection and understanding of UNHCR's mandate, global activities, and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). UNHCR also strives

to raise awareness and promote tolerance towards forcibly displaced and stateless people through information campaigns and other related activities. These include exhibitions, roundtables, Models of the UN and dedicated events on World Refugee Day.

Statelessness

- Russia is not a party to the 1954 or 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness. UNHCR supports government efforts in implementing policies and procedures aimed at eradicating statelessness, which have advanced significantly in recent years.
- To mark the 10th anniversary of the global [#IBelong](#) campaign, UNHCR initiated an interactive educational activity. Together with the Centre of Development of Legal Clinics, it organized nine regional and one international school on legal professional skills being held from Kaliningrad to Vladivostok.

UNHCR Presence in the Russian Federation

Staff:

19 National Staff
5 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Moscow

Affiliate workforce:

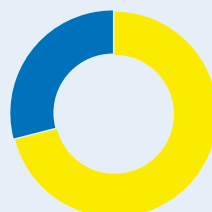
3 UNVs

Financial information (as of 30 September 2024)

Financial requirements

\$ 7.0 M

Funding gap 29%
\$ 2.1 M



Funded 71%
\$ 4.9 M