

Russian Federation

December 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 December 2024, **216 refugees**, **9,867 temporary asylum status holders** and **7,032 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: 30 missions carried out to 29 regions (Tatarstan (2), Bryansk, Vladimir, Rostov, Tver, North Ossetia-Alania, Kaluga, Krasnoyarsk, Veliky Novgorod, Arkhangelsk, Krasnodar Krai, Penza, Chelyabinsk, Omsk, Mordovia, Komi, Voronezh, Tula, Tyumen, Oryol, Khanty-Mansiysk AO, Volgograd, Stavropol, Murmansk, Tambov, Samara, Nizhny Novgorod, Moscow region, Sverdlovsk region)

UNHCR and partners response in 2024:

44,847 refugees provided with information through telephone counselling/hotline of UNHCR and Partner NGOs

47,127 refugees provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

20,796 refugees received protection services in border regions (Kursk, Belgorod, Voronezh, Rostov)

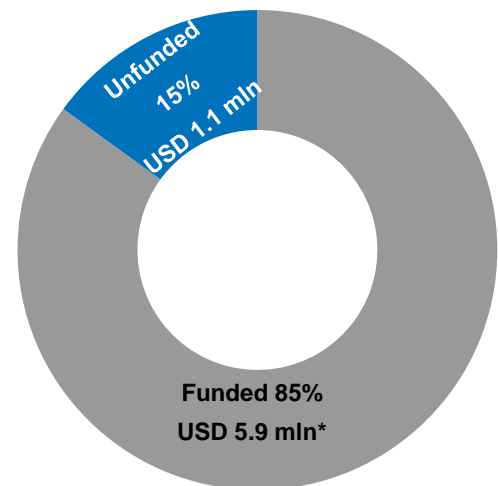
12,537 refugees received protection services in other Russian regions (including Moscow and Saint Petersburg)

UNHCR missions from 2022-2024: 77 missions in 46 regions

FUNDING (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2024)

USD 7.0 million

requested for the operation in Russia in 2024



* funding allocated from unearmarked contributions



Psychosocial Support (PSS) workshop in Moscow backed by UNHCR © UNHCR



UNHCR meeting with Ukrainian refugees living outside of Temporary Accommodation Points at the local branch of the Russian Red Cross in Yekaterinburg © UNHCR

- **Activities within the campaign “16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence”.** From November 25 to December 10, UNHCR held a series of events including workshops on psychosocial support (PSS) in the Russian cities of Kazan, Moscow, Ivanovo, and Krasnodar. The workshops, attended by 202 refugee women mainly from Afghanistan, were aimed at raising awareness of different forms of gender-based violence and equipping participants with self-care tools to manage stress and trauma. Also, in December, 48 refugee girls and women participated in nine workshops of the “Second Breath” Foundation in Moscow to learn basic knitting and sewing techniques, embroidery, as well as how to create shopping bags and toys from recycled materials, and make bijouterie using beads, metal, and different fabrics. The workshops combined educational and social components, to strengthen social bonds and help refugees feel part of their new community.

- **Mission to Sverdlovsk region.** From December 2 to 5, UNHCR, in cooperation with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the RF, visited the Sverdlovsk region. The region has a number of good practices, such as considering refugees eligible for subsidized housing; employers covering accommodation costs for refugees; and local authorities encouraging businesses to employ refugees from Ukraine. During the visits to Temporary Accommodation Points (TAPs) in Irbit and Yekaterinburg, residents confirmed access to employment and pensions. Parents reported that some children face difficulties enrolling in colleges and universities because they missed on education during the war. UNHCR referred students to its NGO partner “Home is Near” for preparatory courses. Some refugees raised concerns about requests made by the regional Social Fund to the Ukrainian authorities to confirm their previous work experience. As these requests remain unanswered, the Regional Commissioner for Human Rights plans to arrange a meeting between the refugees and Social Fund representatives to try to resolve the matter.

- **Mission to Pushkino (Moscow region).** On December 11, UNHCR, together with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the RF, visited the TAP “Rodnik” located in Pushkino, Moscow region. Although the number of TAPs in the Moscow region reduced from 13 to five in the past two years, they remain in great demand. The number of refugees living in the region independently remains among the highest in the country. Children living with their families at the TAP have many opportunities to engage in cultural activities and crafts, with various sponsors organizing visits to theatres in Moscow. Volunteers come to the TAP to teach children to play musical instruments and engage them in extra-curricular activities. However, refugees expressed that access to information on assistance programmes could be improved.

- **UNHCR engagement with students.** On December 4, UNHCR met with the participants of the Model of the United Nations (MUN) at the Ural Federal University. The students were interested in learning about the challenges faced by refugees in Russia, the types of assistance provided by UNHCR, the Russian asylum procedure, and actions taken to support refugees. On December 19, UNHCR delivered a lecture for students from the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University) on the international refugee protection legal framework, as well as UNHCR’s activities in Russia. UNHCR also awarded three students on their papers on forced displacement and access to rights and socio-economic inclusion in the host country in the 2024 contests sponsored by the regional Ombudspersons in Saint Petersburg and Tambov.

- **Public talk within Daira Fest in Saint Petersburg.** On December 21, UNHCR attended a public talk within the Daira Festival of Oriental Arts in Saint Petersburg. The discussion revolved around the need to create more sociocultural projects with a component on displacement experiences, examples of implemented art projects involving or speaking about refugees and stateless people in Russia, and an experience-sharing session followed by Q&A.

- **Seminar for lawyers of Moscow Region Bar Association.** On December 17-18, a seminar for lawyers on legal assistance to forcibly displaced and stateless persons was held in Moscow. The event was organized by UNHCR with the support of the Federal Union of Lawyers of Russia, the Moscow Regional Bar Association and UNHCR’s partner organization “Faith, Hope, Love”. The participants were familiarized with UNHCR’s mandate, its activities globally and in the Russian Federation, as well as the international and domestic legal frameworks on refugee and statelessness matters and the aspects of legal work of UNHCR and its partners.

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