

Russian Federation

November 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: 28 missions carried out to 27 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)

UNHCR and partners response in 2024:

37,911 refugees provided with information through telephone counselling/hotline of UNHCR and Partner NGOs

32,333 refugees provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

19,108 refugees received protection services in border regions (Kursk, Belgorod, Voronezh, Rostov)

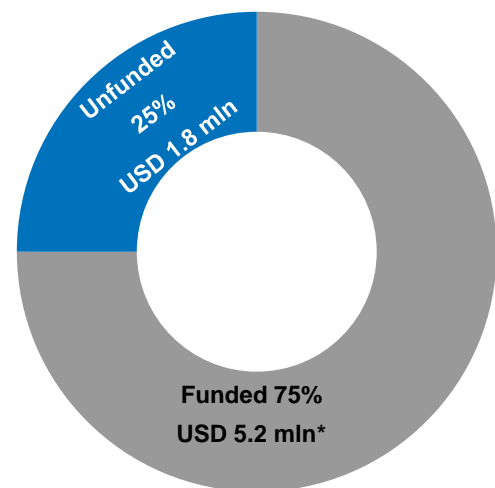
11,645 refugees received protection services in other Russian regions (including Moscow and Saint Petersburg)

UNHCR missions from 2022-2024: 75 missions in 46 regions

FUNDING (AS OF 30 NOVEMBER 2024)

USD 7.0 million

requested for the operation in Russia in 2024



* funding allocated from unearmarked contributions



Participants of the All-Russia Olympics for the students of legal clinics took place on November 28-30 in the Moscow region © UNHCR



Participatory assessment meeting with Ukrainian refugees in Nizhny Novgorod © UNHCR

- **Child protection workshop.** On 14 November, UNHCR conducted a one-day child protection workshop for UNHCR partners in Moscow. The workshop brought together 22 participants who discussed the new UNHCR Child Protection policy and its implementation by partners, including developments on best interest assessments and best interest determinations, practices and minimum standards when dealing with refugee children. UNHCR also initiated a discussion with partners on UNHCR's Global Sports Strategy and how it could be implemented in Russia by offering additional activities to refugee children and youth.
- **Olympics for students of legal clinics.** From November 28 to 30, the Olympics for students of legal clinics took place in Moscow Region – an event organized by the Centre for the Development of Legal Clinics with UNHCR's support and focused on forcible displacement and statelessness. The event brought together 60 students from 23 universities across 16 regions. The Olympics hosted the best participants who had competed on their knowledge of statelessness and asylum matters in different regions of Russia between April and November of 2024. The students participated in a simulation where they used interviewing and counselling skills, as well as legal analysis and case argumentation. As a result of the event, the students and coordinators of legal clinics will be able to better assist forcibly displaced and stateless people.
- **Screening of “Io Capitano” (“Me Captain”) film at the Tolerance Center.** On 11 November, the Tolerance Centre in Moscow hosted an open screening of the film “Io Capitano” directed by Matteo Garrone. The film is emblematic in the context of understanding the concept of mixed migration. After the screening, a public talk with UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was organized, attracting about 40 attendees who were interested in learning more about the challenges that refugees and migrants face, as well as information on the activities carried out in Russia by the two UN agencies.
- **Mission to Samara.** From November 5 to 8, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministry for Emergency Situations (EMERCOM), conducted a mission to Samara. During the mission, UNHCR visited four Temporary Accommodations Points (TAPs) in Samara and Syzran, where they met with 19 refugees from Ukraine. The TAPs visited are organized in accordance with the profiles of the refugees: retired refugees are primarily housed in a TAP located at a resort, relatively far from the city centre, while working-age refugees are placed in TAPs closer to potential employment opportunities. TAP residents have access to education, medical services, social assistance, and employment. Older refugees at risk receive social support, including transportation and accompaniment by social workers, if necessary, which includes medical and personal assistance with buying products, and accompanying to clinics and some leisure activities. There were no specific issues raised by refugees that needed UNHCR or other stakeholders' follow-up.
- **Mission to Nizhny Novgorod.** From November 25 to 27, UNHCR conducted a mission to Nizhny Novgorod in cooperation with the Ministry for Emergency Situations (EMERCOM). UNHCR visited a TAP in the town of Bogorodsk where 13 refugees are hosted, and four apartment-based TAPs hosting four families. Refugees living in TAPs, including apartment-based TAPs, receive electronic food vouchers as well as electronic cards for public transport. In addition, two discussion groups with 14 Ukrainian refugees were held at the office of the Russian Red Cross (RRC). Some refugees who rent apartments on their own noted that they need financial and humanitarian assistance as their expenses have increased significantly. UNHCR conveyed to the Ministry of Social Development the concerns raised by refugees during the meeting at the RRC, including on access to medical rehabilitation treatments and difficulties in obtaining temporary registration, which the ministry promised to follow up on.
- **Mission to Kazan.** On 26 November, UNHCR conducted participatory assessments with Ukrainian and Afghan refugee children living in Kazan. A meeting with 11 Ukrainian refugee children took place in a TAP, which currently hosts 18 Ukrainian refugee families. Five Afghan children were met at the office of the Russian Red Cross. While, in general, children were positive about their experiences in Russia, some concerns were raised around cases of bullying in schools and the lack of remedial education for subjects that children face difficulties in catching up with. Parents have to spend extra money to pay for tutors. As a follow-up action, the Russian Red Cross will look for volunteers qualified to provide targeted support to these children.

CONTACTS:

Magdalena Aguilar Pulido, UNHCR Russia External Relations Officer

Email: aguilarp@unhcr.org

Dinara Galakhova, UNHCR Russia Communications Associate

Email: galakhov@unhcr.org

