

Russian Federation

September 2022

Presence: The UN Refugee Agency has been working in the Russian Federation since 1992. It currently operates through a Country Office 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.

Strategy: UNHCR is striving to keep the people it serves informed of their rights, encouraging positive changes in national asylum legislation and following up on current legal framework.

POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022*

Refugees	1.46 million
Asylum-seekers	4,662
Stateless persons	52,150

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	1,456,250	Ukraine	4,400
Afghanistan	1,084	Afghanistan	109
Syrian Arab Rep.	280	Syrian Arab Rep.	42

*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 30 September, as reported by national authorities **2.8 million** refugees from Ukraine are currently present in the Russian Federation.

Due to the influx of Ukrainian refugees, UNHCR has shifted its protection focus to bolster support to actors working on the response. UNHCR and national NGO partners (RRC, Civic Assistance, Health and Life; Hope, Faith and Love, Human Rights Institute and a network of lawyers and legal counsellors) have expanded their services through in-person counselling and the activation of hotlines.

Russian legislation offers the following options for Ukrainians: refugee status, temporary asylum, temporary and permanent residence as well as citizenship. An August presidential decree foresees that all Ukrainians have a right to unlimited stay in Russia without obtaining any particular status and work without a permit upon fingerprinting registration.

TAPs were made available in 85 regions. So far, UNHCR has organised 10 visits to TAPs, with more missions foreseen. Taps are currently used at 35% capacity (around 35,000 people).

Within the fast-paced environment, UNHCR established a dynamic collaboration with key Russian actors (RRC, EMERCOM and the Commissioner for Human Rights) and

HIGHLIGHTS

New partnership agreement

UNHCR signed a partnership agreement with the Russian Red Cross (RRC) to address some of the humanitarian needs of refugees coming from Ukraine. The agreement covers 8 regions, including border regions, and foresees the procurement and distribution of relief items, basic equipment for temporary accommodation points (TAPs), training in psychosocial support and emergency response for the staff and volunteers of regional RRC branches.

Protection of women and children:

UNHCR is working with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation to address some protection issues related to identification and assistance to vulnerable people, particularly women, children, older people and persons with specific needs. To ensure a regular exchange on needs and concerns identified by partners, UNHCR holds monthly dialogues with the ombudsperson's office and NGOs.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY CELEBRATIONS



Children attending theater performance 'Beauty Aygul' based on an Afghan fairy tale during the World Refugee Day celebrations in Moscow. 18 June 2022

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Key Priorities

- **Protection and advocacy:** By creating discussion opportunities with relevant government officials, UNHCR contributes to an interpretation and application of protection standards in line with international norms. UNHCR and its NGO partners provide legal and social counselling to people of concern, including on access to asylum procedure, and available state services to new arrivals.
- **Capacity-building:** UNHCR conducts trainings and knowledge-sharing sessions on refugee matters, including protection needs, procedures and legislation for NGO staff and legal practitioners to efficiently assist persons of concern.
- **Integration:** UNHCR assists refugees in finding sustainable solutions by facilitating their local integration. UNHCR works with partner NGOs on legal, economic, and social inclusion through assistance in obtaining residence permits, citizenship.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR maintains regular contact with refugee communities to inform them about planned projects and to learn about their initiatives. In the Russian Federation, there is a focus on supporting refugees in learning Russian to have better opportunities to integrate, become self-sustained and independent.
- **Promoting social cohesion:** UNHCR encourages social cohesion initiatives such as workshops, museum activities, festivals aimed at enhancing dialogue, and interaction between refugees and host communities.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, EMERCOM, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS, the institute of Ombudspersons in the RF, academia, culture sector and media.

- **External engagement:** UNHCR seeks to preserve protection space by fostering public awareness of refugee protection and understanding of UNHCR's mandate, global activities, Global Compact on Refugees. UNHCR also strives to raise awareness and promote tolerance towards refugees and stateless persons through information campaigns and awareness-raising activities. These include contests, exhibitions, public talks, roundtables, and special events on World Refugee Day.

Statelessness

- The Russian Federation did not accede to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions.
- In promotion of the #IBELONG campaign to end statelessness by 2024, UNHCR supports government's efforts in statelessness-related policies and procedures that have advanced substantially over the years.

UNHCR Presence in Russia

Staff:

17 National Staff
5 International Staff

Offices:

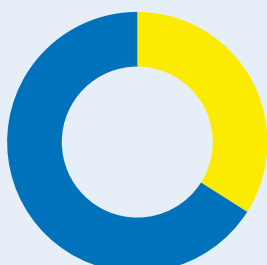
1 Country Office in Moscow

Financial information (September 2022)

Financial requirements

USD 4.6 M

Funding gap
66%
3.1 M



Funded
34%
1.5 M

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