

Russian Federation



Working environment

The context

Migration management is high on the agenda of the Government of the Russian Federation. A number of legal acts addressing migration, which affect UNHCR's protection and assistance activities, were approved in 2006, and a revision of the 1997 Law on Refugees is under way. Efforts undertaken so far have visibly improved access to national procedures for asylum-seekers. The reorganization and strengthening of the Federal Migration Service has reduced the gap between laws and their implementation. Nonetheless, there continues to be a need to eliminate inconsistencies between the various legal texts and restrictive interpretation of existing legislation.

The security situation in the northern Caucasus is still of concern. UNHCR has had limited access to people of concern in that area, even more so after it closed its office in Ingushetia in spring 2007 for security reasons.

The opening of an office in Grozny is pending agreement by the federal authorities.

The needs

Apart from the northern Caucasus, following a needs assessment concluded in early 2007, priority measures being taken for persons of concern to the Office include humanitarian assistance through cash grants and medical care for asylum-seekers.

Outside Chechnya, within the northern Caucasus, an estimated 22,000 people are internally displaced, of whom 15,000 live in Ingushetia and 7,000 in Dagestan. Approximately 20 per cent of those in Ingushetia reside in temporary housing and the remaining IDPs in private accommodation. UNHCR is working with the authorities to identify the most appropriate solutions for the IDPs according to their wishes.

Total requirements

2008: USD 12,511,699
2009: USD 12,447,737

Main objectives

- Support the development of an asylum system in accordance with international standards and ensure full and unhindered access to asylum and effective protection.
- Promote accession to the Statelessness Conventions.
- Identify and pursue appropriate durable solutions for refugees.
- Help meet the assistance and protection needs of IDPs and returnees.
- Work with development and other actors towards (re-)integration, while working to support local capacity building.
- Strengthen public information and awareness and develop local fundraising capacities.

Key Targets for 2008 and 2009

- All asylum-seekers, refugees and IDPs have legal support, proper documents and effective judicial protection.
- All IDPs and refugees in the northern Caucasus are provided with permanent shelter by the end of 2009.
- Returns to Chechnya are voluntary.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers in need of international protection in Moscow and St. Petersburg have access to basic, preventive and reproductive health services, including HIV and Aids prevention.
- Refugee and asylum-seeker children have access to and receive education.
- Cases of statelessness reported to the Office are provided with assistance.
- Training on statelessness and citizenship is supported at the institutional level.
- Local fund-raising capacities are increased by targeting the private sector.
- Public information activities combat xenophobia and encourage more tolerant attitudes towards populations of concern to UNHCR.

Strategy and activities

UNHCR will pursue a strategy to improve protection for populations of concern. Technical recommendations will be provided to assist in the revision of the 1997 Law on Refugees. Resettlement remains a protection tool extended to refugees unable to avail themselves of national protection.

The Office will provide qualified legal advice, analysis and training and will work closely with the competent authorities on the legislative revisions, as well as

conducting advocacy and promotional activities. UNHCR will cooperate with the authorities to design a strategy to promote accession to the Statelessness Conventions as well as solutions to address statelessness.

To respond to domestic violence among identified people of concern, a social protection coordinator will counsel women who are victims of violence and provide appropriate links to available legal, medical, psychological and social assistance.

In the northern Caucasus, UNHCR's collaborative strategy with the Government and the international community will shift from humanitarian assistance to recovery and development. In North Ossetia-Alania, measures are being undertaken to address shelter needs and to regularize the legal status of refugees from Georgia by mid-2009. Refugees willing to return to their country of origin will be eligible for UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme.

In Chechnya, UNHCR will monitor the return of refugees and IDPs and work closely with authorities to identify and support vulnerable people of concern who are unable to benefit from the governmental housing programmes.

In Dagestan, UNHCR will extend voluntary return assistance to those who wish to return to Chechnya. The protection situation and durable solution options for those wishing to remain will also be pursued.

Constraints

Prospects for local integration in the Russian Federation are limited, leaving resettlement as the only durable solution for refugees. Although Moscow city authorities have taken administrative responsibility for the education of refugee children, families require continued support to ensure regular school attendance.

In the northern Caucasus, the overall security environment remains a concern and is affecting the return of refugees and IDPs and their (re-)integration prospects.

Organization and implementation

UNHCR presence

	2008	2009
Number of offices	3	3
Total staff	86	82
International	12	12
National	51	49
UNVs	17	16
JPOs	6	5



UNHCR/T. Makeeva

Republic of Ingushetia. An IDP from Chechnya sets up a carpentry shop with UNHCR's assistance.

Management structure

UNHCR's operations in the Russian Federation will continue to be led and managed by the office in Moscow, of which the Refugee Support Centre is an integral part. UNHCR will have presence in Vladikavkaz. Security permitting, the reopening of a field office in Ingushetia and/or the establishment of a permanent presence in Chechnya will be sought to ensure effective delivery of UNHCR's assistance.

Coordination

UNHCR cooperates with government counterparts at the federal and republic levels. A northern Caucasus theme group within the UN Country Team will ensure continued coordination following the closure of the OCHA office. UNHCR will retain its lead role in the sectors of protection and for remaining shelter activities.

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2008		Dec 2008		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Afghanistan	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
	Various	160	160	130	130	120	120
Asylum-seekers	Afghanistan	250	250	250	250	250	250
	Various	50	50	50	50	50	50
Returnees (refugees)		100	100	100	100	100	100
IDPs		136,550	118,270	116,550	97,710	96,550	77,710
Returnees (IDPs)		3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Stateless Persons		45,000	45,000	40,000	40,000	35,000	35,000
Others of concern	Afghanistan	82,720	2,720	62,380	2,380	42,040	2,040
	Russian Federation	132,580	57,910	132,580	45,260	132,580	45,260
	Various	2,480	2,480	2,420	2,420	2,360	2,360
Total		404,390	231,440	359,060	192,890	313,650	167,480

Partners

Implementing partners

NGOs: Association of Media Managers, Centre for Inter-Cultural Education *Ethnosfera*, Children's Fund of North Ossetia-Alania, Civic Assistance, Danish Refugee Council, *Equilibre* Solidarity, Guild of Russian Filmmakers, Magee Women's Research Institute and Foundation, Memorial Human Rights Centre, *Nizam*, *Stichting* Russian Justice Initiative, St. Petersburg Centre for International Cooperation of the Red Cross, St. Petersburg Red Cross Society, *Vesta*.

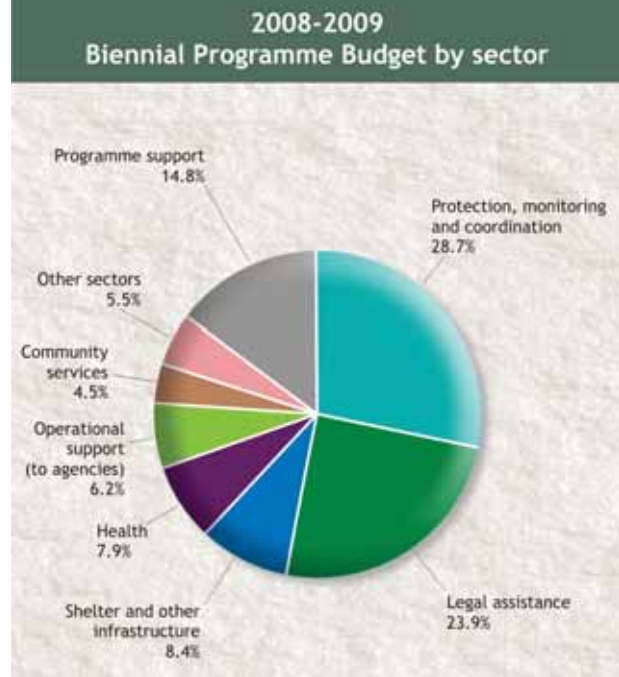
Others: IOM, UNV.

Operational partners

Government: Federal Migration Service of Russia and its Departments in the regions, Governments of Chechnya, Ingushetia and North Ossetia-Alania, Moscow City Education Department, Ombudsman Offices.

NGOs: Psychological Support Center *Gratis*.

Others: Council of Europe, European Council on Refugees and Exiles, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UNAIDS, UNDP.



Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget		
	2007	2008	2009
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,698,479	3,616,867	3,541,733
Community services	503,198	591,924	530,144
Domestic needs	401,687	402,775	402,775
Education	408,232	327,924	247,890
Health	833,856	989,403	984,671
Income Generation	11,827	0	0
Legal assistance	3,900,508	3,011,791	2,964,089
Operational support (to agencies)	1,011,992	688,496	863,859
Shelter and other infrastructure	648,528	1,039,437	1,063,229
Total operations	11,418,306	10,668,617	10,598,388
Programme support	1,997,350	1,843,082	1,849,349
Total	13,415,656	12,511,699	12,447,737