

Russian Federation

February 2023

Presence: UNHCR has been working in the Russian Federation (RF) 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.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-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

*UNHCR 2022 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

2,852,395 refugees from Ukraine arrived in Russia from 24 February to 4 October 2022, according to EMERCOM.

Protection: Refugees from Ukraine without private accommodation have the option of staying in temporary accommodation points. They have access to refugee status, temporary asylum, temporary or permanent residence, as well as citizenship, and the right to work.

Supporting the most vulnerable: UNHCR and its NGO partners provide advice and referrals through in-person counselling and hotlines, as well as support to persons at heightened risk to ensure protection of children, single women, older people and persons with disabilities or serious medical conditions. Legal, psychosocial, humanitarian, medical and limited one-time winter-related financial assistance were provided to persons in need from Ukraine.

Help page: UNHCR updated the [page](#) to respond to needs of refugees from Ukraine, such as on legal status, employment, access to healthcare, free legal aid, pensions.

Coordination: UNHCR exchanges monthly with the Ombudsperson's Office and NGOs on refugee needs and concerns identified by partners.

HIGHLIGHTS

Accompanied protection visits in 2022-2023

By February 2023, UNHCR had visited, accompanied by government officials and partners, 31 temporary accommodation points in 15 regions, hosting 3,068 refugees from Ukraine. They inquired with UNHCR about compensation for lost/destroyed properties, access to pensions and savings.

UNHCR-supported Reception Center

The Reception Center of the Russian Red Cross Society began to operate in Moscow in November 2022. Asylum-seekers, refugees, displaced and stateless persons can access humanitarian aid, legal, psychological support there.

MoU with the Ombudsperson's Office

UNHCR concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, establishing a cooperation framework for issues pertaining to international protection, to facilitate UNHCR outreach and strengthen protection monitoring with a focus on vulnerable refugees.



30TH ANNIVERSARY OF DAFI PROGRAMME

Scholar of the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) Muska from Afghanistan [shares her experience](#) with the programme. 29 July 2022 © Personal archive

Key Priorities

- **Advocacy:** Through regular discussions with government counterparts, UNHCR advocates for access to asylum and inclusion in line with international protection standards
- **Protection:** UNHCR, its NGO partners, as well as a network of lawyers and advocates in 44 regions of Russia provide legal and social counselling, including on the asylum procedure, access to rights and services. With partners, UNHCR holds sessions on the prevention of gender-based violence for refugee women, raises awareness and provides information related to protection against violence and discrimination.
- **Capacity-building:** UNHCR conducts trainings and knowledge-sharing sessions for the first-line responders to the needs of refugees from Ukraine, partners and legal practitioners on forced displacement and statelessness, including on the identification of persons at heightened risk and addressing protection needs, data protection, standards, procedures and the legal framework to efficiently assist asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons.
- **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.

- **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 office of Human Rights Commissioner in the RF and regional ombudsmen, 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

- 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:

16 National Staff
5 International Staff

Offices:

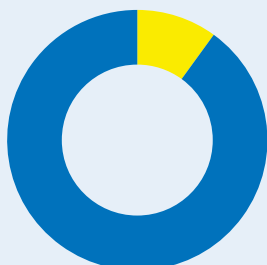
1 Country Office in Moscow

Financial information (February 2023)

Financial requirements
USD 6.2 M

Funded
10%
0.6 M

Funding gap
90%
5.6 M



UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and flexible funding to the 2023 global programmes