

# Russian Federation

February 2022

**Presence:** The UN Refugee Agency works in the Russian Federation (RF) since 1992. It currently operates through a Country Office located in Moscow.

**Legal Framework:** The 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol were acceded to in 1992. The national refugee law was adopted in 1993.

As of 31 December 2021\*, **331 refugees, 10581 temporary asylum (TA) status holders and 540 asylum-seekers** from 70 countries were registered by the Russian Ministry of the Interior.

\*Statistics are updated quarterly

## KEY INDICATORS

**148,322**

Refugees and displaced persons from Ukraine arrived in Russia from 18 to 28 February 2022 (source: EMERCOM)

**775**

Temporary Accommodation Centers (TACs) established in 50 regions throughout Russia (source: EMERCOM)

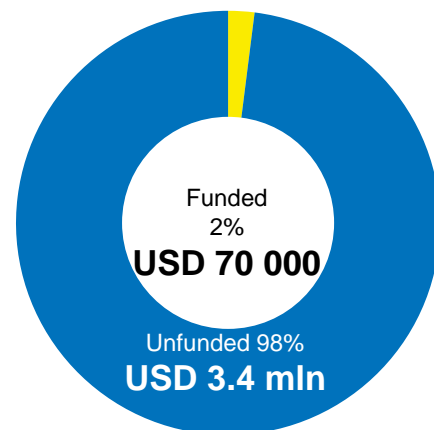
**400**

Refugee children from Donbass enrolled in schools in the Moscow region (source: government of the Moscow region)

## FUNDING (AS OF 22 FEBRUARY 2022)

**USD 3.7 million**

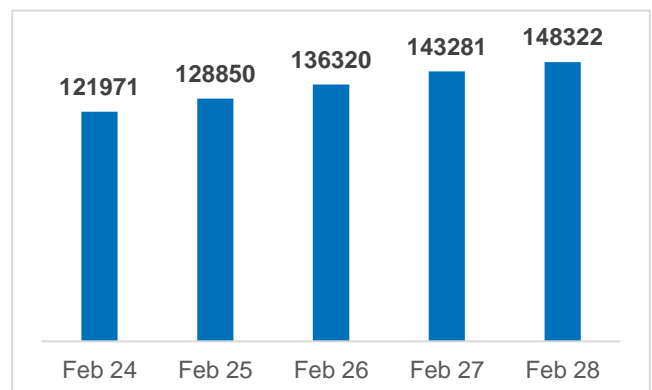
requested for the operation in Russia



Ukraine. Evacuated residents board a train at a railway station before leaving Eastern Ukraine © REUTERS/Alexander Ermochenko

## ARRIVALS FROM UKRAINE TO RUSSIA

(24-28 FEBRUARY 2022)



Source: EMERCOM

## Highlights

On 18 February 2022, women, children, and elderly persons started being evacuated from Donetsk and Luhansk to Russia due to rising tensions in Eastern Ukraine. The Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergency Situations and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM) was designated to organize the reception and provide immediate assistance to new arrivals. EMERCOM stated that from 18 till 28 February 2022 the number of refugees and displaced persons coming from Ukraine accounted for 148,322 persons. This figure includes people from Eastern Ukraine as well as Russian nationals and third country nationals. By the end of February 2022, 775 Temporary Accommodation Centers (TACs) with a total capacity of more than 60,000 people were established in 50 regions throughout the country.

EMERCOM delivered tents, beds, blankets, pillows, mattresses, bedding, lumber, furniture, canned food, water tanks and medical masks to Rostov and Voronezh regions. Two life support camps (capacity for 400 people) have been set up to receive and register new arrivals with subsequent transportation to TACs further afield.

The Russian Red Cross (RRC) was appointed as a coordinator for humanitarian assistance to refugees and to forcibly displaced persons. RRC mobilized its personnel and network of volunteers. A total of 66 regional Red Cross branches are involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance focusing on the needs of the displaced persons who are not staying at TACs. Furthermore, the RRC hotline assists with counselling, psychological support, and aids in tracing and the restoration of family links. The list of immediate needs includes vouchers for food, hygiene items, medicine.

UNHCR Moscow is supporting RRC with acquisition and distribution of basic relief items to the most vulnerable categories among refugees and displaced persons such as single mothers, children, elderly and with basic equipment to some TACs. This also includes training in psychosocial support and emergency response for the staff and volunteers of the RRC in various regional branches.

UNHCR Moscow mobilized its implementing partner NGOs and asked them to extend their services to newly arrived refugees and displaced persons. The Center for International Cooperation of the St. Petersburg Red Cross, one of UNHCR's partners, registered an increase in the number of queries from Ukrainians through its hotline, consulting on developments and updates on the asylum/migration legislation in Russia. Some of the most common inquiries included information on humanitarian corridors from Ukraine to Russia.

UNHCR also mobilized its affiliated network of lawyers and advocates and requested them to provide legal counselling to new arrivals on available options including access to asylum procedure, status, and on referrals to State institutions including medical facilities.

## COVID-19

- Refugees and forcibly displaced persons from Ukraine are not required to undergo COVID-19 tests prior to crossing the border. Checkups are available upon arrival and positive cases are treated in local hospitals. Medical assistance is provided free of charge.
- NGO partners of UNHCR are managing Reception Centres and counselling points for refugees, asylum seekers and forcibly displaced persons residing in Moscow and St. Petersburg. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the modality of work, some of the partners had to switch to the online mode of reception. To ensure continuity in delivering services for the beneficiaries, UNHCR runs 3 hotlines, a dedicated email account, Facebook and WhatsApp messenger to communicate with refugees, asylum-seekers, Temporary Asylum status holders and new arrivals from Ukraine.
- In response to COVID-19 UNHCR and partners provided cash assistance to 149 vulnerable PoC under a winterization programme in February 2022.

## Operational updates



### PROTECTION

- **Coordination meeting with partners:** UNHCR office in Moscow held a coordination meeting with its implementing partners – Civic Assistance Committee, Faith, Hope and Love Foundation, Health & Life NGO, Human Rights Institute (Moscow), St. Petersburg Regional Office of the Russian Red Cross – on 28 February 2022. The participants are responding to the changing environment and are supporting refugees and displaced persons due to the conflict in Ukraine. The legal network of partners that consists of more than 40 lawyers working in 32 regions has been mobilized to assist with counselling and legal orientation.
- **Local Integration:** A total of 10 individuals (4 cases) originating from Afghanistan, including a DAFI program graduate, obtained citizenship of the Russian Federation.



### EDUCATION

- **School enrolment for refugee children from Donetsk and Luhansk:** According to the press-office of the Russian Ministry of Education, the ministry will work jointly with the regional authorities to ensure that all children arriving from Donetsk and Luhansk are included in the education system in Russia. They will be provided with the necessary assistance, textbooks, facilities, and equipment.
- **Volunteer program for refugee students:** 14 DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) students were enrolled in an online volunteer course launched by SilSila foundation for support and protection of people in difficult life situations. The Foundation aims to help refugee and migrant women in Russia who have faced domestic violence through consultations and financial assistance. The course consisted of 3 classes that instructed on the concept of volunteerism and skills required for such work. Participants discussed their motivation for volunteering and explored opportunities for themselves.
- **MUN Refugee Challenge:** UNHCR Russia updated information about the [MUN Refugee Challenge](#) contest for students on its website and published the announcement on its social media. Russian universities organizing Models of the United Nations are invited to discuss one of the following topics in 2022: finding durable solutions for refugees, climate change and displacement or ending statelessness.



### COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- **Online consultation for Afghan refugee women:** On 25 February 2022, UNHCR Moscow, and its partner “Faith Hope and Love” (FHL) organized an online consultation for Afghan refugee women who want to create an NGO to help other refugees (provision of psychological support, assistance with employment and integration in Russia). The NGO will include representatives of the women’s committee of the Afghan diaspora in Moscow. A detailed instruction by lawyers and accountants from FHL was prepared, participants discussed all aspects of this process.

- Cookbook project:** UNHCR Russia prepared a digital version of the cookbook with stories of the refugees and displaced people in Russia and their traditional dishes. A refugee from Luhansk, Inna contributed to the project by sharing her displacement experience with the readers along with the recipes that evoke in her the memories of home. Part of Inna's family could not leave their homeland because of old age or personal reasons. This leaves her with an unhealed wound in her soul. Inna managed to arrange her life in Russia, however, she continues to reflect on her divided family. UNHCR Russia website has a [dedicated section](#) for the project, where it's possible to register and receive the cookbook.



Refugee from Luhansk Inna poses for UNHCR Russia's cookbook project. 12 November 2021 © UNHCR / Ruslan Altimirov



## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- Valdai Conference on Middle East:** On 21-22 February 2022, UNHCR Russia Representative ad interim, Mr. Karim Atassi, attended the [11th Middle East Conference of the Valdai Discussion Club](#) (a prominent think tank and discussion club in Russia). One of the conference's sections was devoted to migration processes in the Middle Eastern region. Prominent scholars, diplomats, including Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mikhail Bogdanov, high-ranking officials, representatives of think tanks were among the event's participants.



Scientific Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences Vitaly Naumkin, Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mikhail Bogdanov and Chairman of the Board of the Foundation for Development and Support of the Valdai International Discussion Club Andrey Bystritsky at Valdai Discussion Club. 21 February 2022 @ Valdai Discussion Club

## Financial Information

Top donors contributing over \$10 million are listed below:

Sweden 77.6 mln | Norway 72.5 mln | Netherlands 37.2 mln | Denmark 35.6 mln | Germany 27.6 mln | Switzerland 18.4 mln | Belgium 11.9 mln | Ireland 11.8 mln

### CONTACTS:

**Magdalena Aguilar Pulido**, UNHCR Russia External Relations Officer

Email: [aguilarp@unhcr.org](mailto:aguilarp@unhcr.org)

**Ararat Babayan**, UNHCR Russia Senior External Relations Assistant

Email: [babayan@unhcr.org](mailto:babayan@unhcr.org)

Follow UNHCR Russia on:

