

# Russian Federation

February 2021

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

**Legal framework:** The 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol were acceded to in 1992. The 1993 national refugee law was amended in 1997. The **State Migration Policy Concept** was endorsed in 2018.

**Strategy:** UNHCR's work is guided by a **Multi-Year Protection Strategy 2021-2023** and Communications **Strategy** from 2019 to 2023.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	<b>28,899</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>630</b>
Stateless people	<b>63,966</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,495</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	<b>27 028</b>	China	<b>296</b>
Afghanistan	<b>784</b>	Afghanistan	<b>142</b>
Syria	<b>415</b>	Ukraine	<b>7</b>

Data source: UNHCR's Refugee Population Statistics Database (MYSR 2020) [data finder](#)

## COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

**Inclusion:** Persons of concern to UNHCR, irrespective of their status, can avail themselves of basic medical assistance if they have symptoms or were diagnosed with COVID-19.

**Communication with Communities:** UNHCR Moscow has created a dedicated [section](#) of the HELP web page to ensure that refugees have access to up-to-date information on COVID-19 prevention measures. Partner NGOs were conducting counselling by phone, hotlines, and ad-hoc WhatsApp chats. All persons of concern could access legal, financial, social, medical and psychological assistance online.

**Health:** UNHCR distributed PPEs to partners, enabling them to continue their activities, while switching to online modalities for capacity development and protection monitoring purposes.

## HIGHLIGHTS 2020

**656,347**

people were naturalized in 2020, of which **409,549** were from Ukraine. **8,086 stateless persons** also acquired RF citizenship.

**14,308**

legal consultations were provided to **4,068 persons of concern** in **52 regions** of Russia by UNHCR and partners

**1,559**

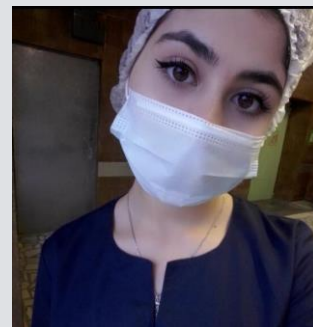
stateless persons received legal assistance from UNHCR and partners

**351**

households (**989 persons**) were given one-time COVID-19 CBI assistance to mitigate risks of homelessness and malnutrition

**85**

cases at risk of refoulement were prevented by UNHCR and partners



### COVID-19: Refugee in Action

Svita isn't quite a doctor yet, but she's doing her part in the fight against COVID-19. She was born in Afghanistan and raised in Russia, where her family sought safety. The 22-year-old is now studying at the Volgograd State University and dreams of becoming a doctor. As a volunteer, she has produced brochures about COVID-19 prophylaxis. Svita also works at a call center and answers people's questions about the coronavirus pandemic. Click [here](#) for the story.

## Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR is supporting authorities in creating a more favourable protection and asylum space.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR is complementing the efforts of the Government to develop a fair and effective asylum system in accordance with international standards.
- **Durable Solutions:** UNHCR assists refugees in Russia to find sustainable solutions by facilitating their [local integration](#), [voluntary repatriation](#) and [resettlement](#) to a third country.
- **Integration:** To facilitate the integration of refugees, CO Moscow works through its partner NGOs on legal, economic, and social inclusion through assistance in obtaining residence permits, temporary residence permits, citizenship, gaining employment and access to education.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR strives to raise awareness and promote tolerance towards refugees and stateless persons through various public information and awareness-raising activities. These include contests, exhibitions and special events dedicated to the World Refugee Day. UNHCR supports a human rights film festival and conducts workshops for journalists.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with state and non-state stakeholders, including the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, EMERCOM, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization, CIS Border Guards, the judiciary, ombudsmen, academia, civil society, and mass 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.

- The first celebrity from RF, musician [Manizha](#), became a Goodwill Ambassador for UNHCR in December 2020.

## Statelessness

- The Russian Federation did not accede to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. Recently, the amendments to the law "On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation", according to which stateless persons in the Russian Federation will be able to obtain temporary identity cards, have been endorsed by the President.
- UNHCR continues to work with authorities to ascertain the number of persons who remain stateless.
- In promotion of the #IBELONG campaign to end statelessness by 2024, UNHCR supports Government's efforts in statelessness-related policies and procedures.
- An [article](#) and [video](#) about Linda, a former stateless person, was published in English, French and Spanish on UNHCR global website



## UNHCR Presence in Russia

### Staff:

17 National Staff  
3 International Staff

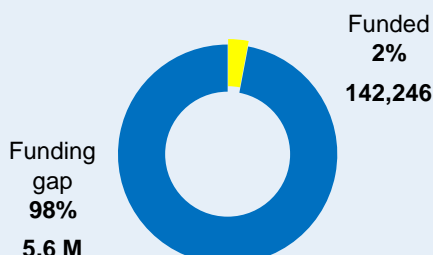
### Offices:

1 Country Office in Moscow



## Financial information (28 February 2021)

Financial requirements  
**USD 5.7 m**



UNHCR is grateful to the major donors of unearmarked contributions\* to the 2021 global programmes:

Norway 80 M | Sweden 66.9 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Germany 22.1 M | Switzerland 16.4 M | Ireland 12.5 M | Belgium 11.9 M

\*Unearmarked contributions allow UNHCR for critical flexibility in how best to reach populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Above are donors of USD 10 million or more.