

Russian Federation

October 2022

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

As of 30 September 2022, **294 refugees**, **88,658 temporary asylum status holders** and **95,100 asylum-seekers** from 75 countries were registered by the Russian Ministry of the Interior (Mol).

Latest figures to date are provided by the Mol

KEY FIGURES

2,852,395

refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine arrived in Russia from 24 February to 4 October 2022

79,200

refugees and displaced persons arriving from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine in Russia received medical assistance as of 4 October 2022

32,472

cases (individuals or families) were assisted by psychologists as of 4 October 2022

84,449

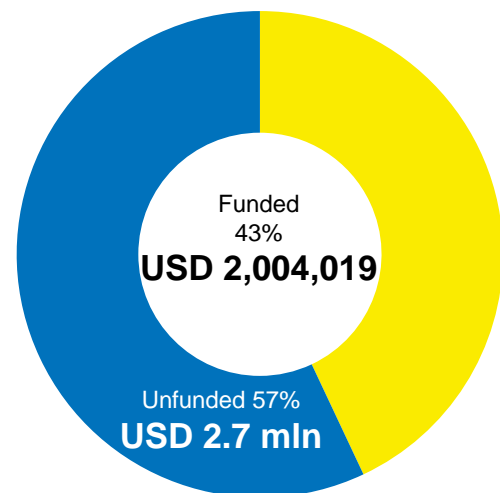
SIM-cards of various mobile operators were issued free of charge by EMERCOM as of 4 October 2022

Latest figures to date are provided by EMERCOM of Russia - pending update

FUNDING (AS OF 31 OCTOBER 2022)

USD 4.7 million

requested for the operation in Russia



"Run can't stay" comic book by UNHCR and Samokat publishing house along with the instruction manual for teachers to conduct lessons in schools on refugee-related topics.
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UNHCR Russia's monitoring mission to Vega Temporary Accommodation Point for Ukrainian refugees (20 km from Cheboksary). © Office of the Ombudsman for Chuvashia

Operational context

- 1,533 temporary accommodation points (TAPs) with a total capacity of more than 95 thousand people have been prepared by EMERCOM and regional authorities on the territory of 85 constituent entities of the Russian Federation to accommodate people arriving from Ukraine. 41.3% of the capacity was being used as of 4 October 2022.

Highlights

- **UNHCR and the Office of the Children’s Ombudsman in the Russian Federation hold first working meeting.** On 17 October, UNHCR Moscow held its first working meeting with the Commissioner for Children's Rights under the President of the Russian Federation. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the situation of unaccompanied and separated children as well as children formerly placed in childcare institutions in Eastern Ukraine, who are now in the territory of the Russian Federation. Among other issues, the need for family tracing and re-establishment of family links was discussed. The Commissioner for Children's Rights briefed about the provision of social support and placement procedures currently in place for these children. UNHCR offered to share information on international standards concerning Best Interests Determination procedures for children and asked to visit some of the children and their foster families. The Office of the Commissioner for Children's Rights and UNHCR have agreed to start exchanging information and explore ways to assist these children with full respect of their Best Interests, in coordination with other relevant international organizations.
- **Memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and the Commissioner for Human Rights.** On 31 October, UNHCR Representative and the Commissioner for Human Rights in the RF concluded a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation. The MoU establishes a framework for cooperation on issues pertaining to international protection of asylum-seekers, refugees, displaced and stateless persons. The MoU aims to facilitate UNHCR protection outreach and strengthen protection monitoring with a specific focus on vulnerable refugee groups, particularly women, children, the elderly, and others with specific needs.
- **Monitoring missions to TAPs.** In October, UNHCR Moscow undertook missions to assess the conditions in TAPs in Russia's Chuvashia Republic and Ryazan Region. These were the first joint visits to TAPs with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation. Four TAPs were visited during these two missions. The needs of the residents were similar: among the issues raised were documentation, pensions and social benefits, concerns were voiced over property restoration or financial compensation for destroyed property in Ukraine. Inhabitants of the TAPs were free to move out but could also return, if needed. In terms of intentions, some of the refugees expressed hopes to go back to Ukraine, especially if a property restoration programme starts. Most refugees in TAPs with whom UNHCR spoke have applied for the simplified naturalization procedure, and none of the persons met by UNHCR expressed their wish to move to third countries (the above-mentioned information reflects the opinion of a select number of TAP residents with whom UNHCR had the opportunity to speak). The Russian Red Cross provides humanitarian assistance to the residents of TAPs as well as Ukrainians staying independently/outside of TAPs.
- **Local Integration.** Three refugees from Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen currently residing in Saint-Petersburg, were granted citizenship of the Russian Federation in October 2022. They were assisted by UNHCR and its partners.
- **Manual for teachers based on UNHCR comic book.** UNHCR Moscow and its partner, the Centre for Promotion of Interethnic Education "Etnosfera", published an instruction manual for the comic book "Run can't stay", a UNHCR and Samokat joint production. The comic book was created to raise awareness and understanding among children and teenagers of the situations experienced by asylum-seekers, refugees and statelessness persons. Thanks to the new teaching tool, the comic book can be used to conduct lessons in schools and other collective venues such as libraries to introduce refugee-related topics and generate compassion and acceptance in the host community.
- **Updated Help Page section for Ukrainian refugees.** UNHCR Moscow updated its [dedicated section](#) of the Help Page for asylum-seekers and refugees from Ukraine. More information based on frequently asked questions was added on employment, legal statuses, access to healthcare, education, free legal aid, pensions. Ukrainian translation was added to the section as well.

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