

Russian Federation

December 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

32,472*

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

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

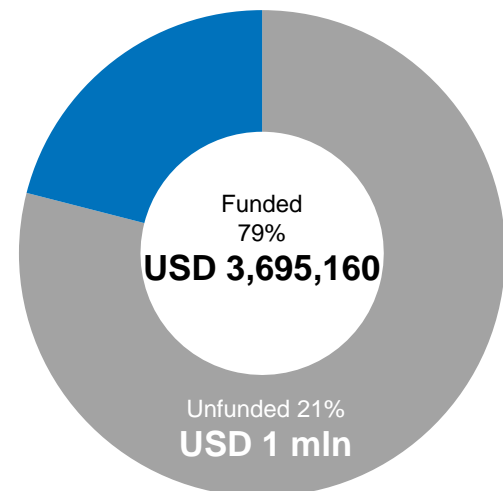
89,000

refugees and displaced persons from Donetsk, Luhansk and other regions of Ukraine were provided with counselling by UNHCR and its partners, either in person or over the phone, as of 31 December 2022

FUNDING (AS OF 29 DECEMBER 2022)

USD 4.7 million

requested for the operation in Russia



A training for refugee women from Afghanistan within the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. Moscow, 02.12.22. © UNHCR/Evgeny Sunozov



Recipients of the DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarship during their annual meeting in the UN House in Moscow. 12.12.2022 © UNHCR/Evgeny Sunozov

Highlights

- **Missions to Temporary Accommodation Points (TAPs).** During December 2022, UNHCR Russia visited TAPs hosting Ukrainian refugees in the following regions:
 - On December 6-7, UNHCR Russia visited the Oryol Region. The visit was organized and accompanied by representatives of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation and the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Oryol. According to the regional Ombudsperson, in 2014, the region received approximately 60,000 refugees from Ukraine. During the mission, the delegation observed the living conditions of residents in the children's sanatorium "Orlovchanka" and the boarding house "ZIL," 7 km from Nechaevskii town, where over 200 people were staying. The issues related to social and medical support, as well as employment were raised and clarified during individual discussions.
 - On December 7, as part of the joint mission in the Oryol Region, the Ombudsperson's Office arranged for a visit to the boarding school "Naryshkino" where 57 unaccompanied children from Donetsk were living. During the visit, UNHCR observed three classes (1st, 3rd, and 4th grades) which had no more than 5 students per grade. In addition to regular daily activities (gymnastics, breakfast, dinner, classes, etc), children take part in art performances and sports (swimming pool, karate lessons, football, hockey).
 - On December 22, UNHCR Russia visited the municipality of Klin (100 km from Moscow) together with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation. In the Moscow region, there are 9 TAPs hosting 1,196 Ukrainian refugees (505 adults and 691 children as of 8 December 2022). Two TAPs were visited during the mission: "Zvonkie Golosa", which accommodates 352 Ukrainian refugees, and a health centre "Gorizont" which hosts Russian nationals relocated from the Belgorod region. "Zvonkie Golosa" also hosts 150 unaccompanied children (aged 7-17 years old). According to the administration, these children were temporarily sent by their relatives from Donetsk and Luhansk to Russia.
- **Winter allowance for vulnerable categories of asylum-seekers and refugees.** The winter allowance provided by UNHCR through its partners targeted some of the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine who arrived in Russia from 24 February 2022 onwards, as well as refugees of other nationalities in a similar situation. The following categories were covered by this one-time assistance: children aged up to 17 years, refugees aged 60+, single parents with children, victims of sexual/gender-based violence and applicants with serious health problems. The target population was 780 people from Ukraine and 620 from other countries. Most of the allowances were paid in December 2022, with the remaining payments to be finalized in January 2023.
- **Event linked to 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign.** On December 2, UNHCR Russia partners "Health and Life", SilSila foundation and a representative of the Afghan refugee community held an event for 11 women refugees from Afghanistan. The psychologist of the SilSila foundation delivered a presentation on psychological assistance and protection against violence and discrimination. The representative of the Afghan refugee community in Russia made a presentation on the prevention of domestic violence in Dari and Russian. Following the presentations, a discussion took place with refugee women.
- **Seminar with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights and regional Ombudspersons in the Russian Federation.** On December 15, UNHCR organized a seminar for representatives of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation and regional Ombudspersons to share expertise and experience. The following regions were represented at the seminar: Moscow, Voronezh, Ivanovo, Kaluga, Kostroma, Kursk, Lipetsk, Oryol, Smolensk, Tambov, and Yaroslavl regions, as well as from the Nenets Autonomous District. Amongst the topics discussed were protection risks for persons with specific needs for identifying those at heightened risk and referrals to the available response mechanisms.
- **Seminar with the Russian Red Cross.** On December 13, UNHCR organized a seminar for representatives of the central office and regional branches of the Russian Red Cross (RRC) to enhance cooperation and build capacity. The RRC staff responsible for reception of refugees and displaced persons, case management, hotline, psychosocial support from Moscow, Vladimir, Lipetsk, Kursk, Volgograd, Kazan, Voronezh, Rostov-on-Don, Kaluga, and Belgorod attended the seminar. UNHCR presented the Agency's mandate and activities in Russia, humanitarian principles, and standards of working with refugees and displaced persons, protection risks for persons with specific needs, the heightened risk identification tool (HRIT), and important aspects of communication with refugees.
- **Winter School for Legal Clinics.** On December 7-11, the UNHCR-supported Winter School for students of Legal Clinics on "Asylum and Statelessness" was held in Nizhny Novgorod. More than 64 students from leading universities of 20 regions of Russia took part in the event. The participants practiced interviewing skills, counselling, writing a position statement and drafting a legal document. Such events provide future practitioners and members

of law enforcement agencies with an opportunity to expand their knowledge in the field of international refugee law, as well as to ensure their knowledge on international standards in the domain of asylum and statelessness. The Winter School also hosted a “training of trainers” for university professors and practicing lawyers.

- **Local Integration.** Four refugees from Afghanistan residing in Moscow and Voronezh were granted citizenship of the Russian Federation in December 2022. Prior to the acquisition of Russian citizenship, all of those who obtained citizenship had various legal statuses in Russia and received legal assistance from UNHCR partners. The overall number of people who received citizenship with the assistance UNHCR partners in 2022 is 171.
- **DAFI students’ Annual Meeting.** In 2022, the DAFI programme celebrated its 30th anniversary worldwide. From 1994, more than 200 refugees have had a unique chance to receive secondary or higher professional education in the Russian Federation. On December 12, the [annual meeting of the DAFI students](#) was held in the UN House with the participation of 11 students from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Ivanovo, and Saratov. The UNHCR Representative delivered a welcoming speech and wished the students success in attaining their objectives. UNHCR invited professional experts to the meeting to support students’ learning and integration. The students had an opportunity to discuss their life goals and values with a psychologist; held a Q&A session with a lawyer concerning their legal and economic integration in Russia; discussed the possibility of volunteering with the Russian Red Cross and met with the recruitment agency ANCOR that shared information about internship programmes and employment opportunities for students and graduates.
- **Stalker film festival on human rights.** On December 10-15, the Stalker international human rights film festival was held in Moscow, featuring, among other topics, movies on migration and forced displacement. UNHCR has been supporting the festival for over 20 years and awards a special prize. In 2022, UNHCR’s prize was given to the film “[Illegal](#)” by Dmitry Davydov. The film festival is organized annually, the main screenings of the year take place in the Russian capital, screenings in Russia’s regions are held throughout the year.
- **Model UN in Russia’s Far East discusses refugee-related topics.** The Model UN of the Russian Far East was held on December 1-5 in the Far Eastern Federal University campus. Students from universities located in the Far East have been participating in the MUN Refugee Challenge since 2020. In 2022, they addressed the issue of refugees fleeing the effects of climate change. UNHCR made an online presentation for the Model’s participants to support the ongoing discussion of the topic.

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