

Russian Federation

January 2023

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 31 December 2022, **277 refugees**, **67,496 temporary asylum status holders** and **100,995 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

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

6,258

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, in January 2023

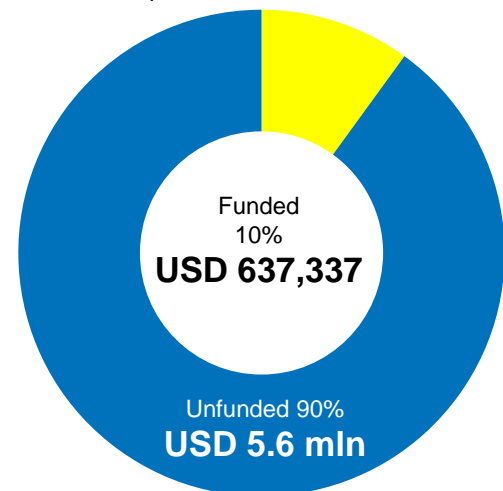
750

refugees from Ukraine were provided with psychosocial support by UNHCR partner Russian Red Cross in Belgorod, Vladimir, Volgograd, Voronezh, Kursk, Lipetsk, Rostov and Moscow regions and Republic of Tatarstan in January 2023

FUNDING (AS OF 31 JANUARY 2023)

USD 6.2 million

requested for the operation in Russia in 2023



UNHCR Russia hosting monthly coordination with partners to discuss plans for 2023. Moscow
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UNHCR Russia staff and representatives of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Russia during a visit to a TAP in Klin, Moscow region.
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Highlights

- **UNHCR Russia partner selection completed.** UNHCR Russia conducted the process of selection of partners that included a Call for Proposals and identified partners to implement projects in 2023. In January 2023, six Project Partnership Agreements have been signed to implement protection and assistance activities in favour of refugees. Selected partners will provide legal and psychosocial support for refugees in the Russian Federation.
- **Recommendations to the draft law on Asylum.** At the start of the year, UNHCR shared its recommendations related to the draft law on Asylum with the Ministry of Interior. UNHCR has requested the Ministry to consider the possibility to extend some protection measures related to reception, legal status and integration of Ukrainian refugees to refugees and asylum-seekers from other countries which will contribute towards a uniform approach and an overall more favorable environment for all refugees seeking protection in the country.
- **Monthly meeting with partners.** On January 24, UNHCR hosted the monthly partners coordination meeting, including an end-of-year reflection and discussion of 2023 plans. All partners noted that their workload has become enormous since March 2022 due to the unprecedented influx of refugees from Ukraine. Partners also drew attention to the fact that non-Ukrainian refugees continue to face obstacles in terms of access to the asylum procedure, as well as to rights and services. UNHCR highlighted the strengthened collaboration with all partners, and the establishment of new partnerships in 2022 and 2023. UNHCR reaffirmed that it would continue to assist all refugees, regardless of where they come from, and aim to support their needs in accordance with their intentions.
- **Annual Judicial Engagement Meeting.** On January 31, UNHCR Russia participated in the Annual Judicial Engagement meeting organised by UNHCR Brussels where an overview of the engagement with legal communities in Russia was presented during one of the sessions. It included a short briefing on the consequences of the cessation of membership of Russia to the Council of Europe and the European Convention on Human Rights and a review of available domestic remedies and UN Treaty Bodies as means used by Russian lawyers to strengthen protection of forcibly displaced and stateless persons.
- **Assistance to cases in detention and at risk of refoulement.** Some asylum-seekers considered as staying irregularly in Russia were not admitted to the asylum procedure and subjected to administrative proceedings before courts. With the assistance of UNHCR legal partners in Moscow and Yekaterinburg, two asylum-seekers were protected from refoulement and admitted to the asylum procedure. Support was provided through a legal letter advocating for access to the asylum procedure, non-penalization for irregular entry and stay, and non-refoulement. UNHCR also intervened in cases of pre-removal detention in the bordering regions of Russia. Jointly with partners, assistance was rendered to persons detained in view of expulsion decided by court decisions. UNHCR provided legal letters regarding five cases from a refugee-producing country for which UNHCR has a non-return advisory. In view of country-of-origin information and submitted asylum applications, the court decided to overturn the expulsion rulings and to release all of the concerned asylum-seekers from pre-removal detention.
- **Model UN Refugee Challenge 2023.** UNHCR Russia invited schoolchildren and students to become participants of the MUN Refugee Challenge and invited the organizers of the Model UN conferences to include issues related to forced displacement on the agenda, including Ensuring the Safety of Asylum Seekers, Protecting Refugee Children, Refugees' Access to Jobs and Financial Services, and Addressing Internal Displacement. The resolutions adopted as a result of the Models will be submitted to the jury, which will include members of UNHCR, young refugee leaders and independent experts. The best ideas will be brought to the attention of political officials and presented on the Agency's social media platforms.

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