

Russian Federation

November 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

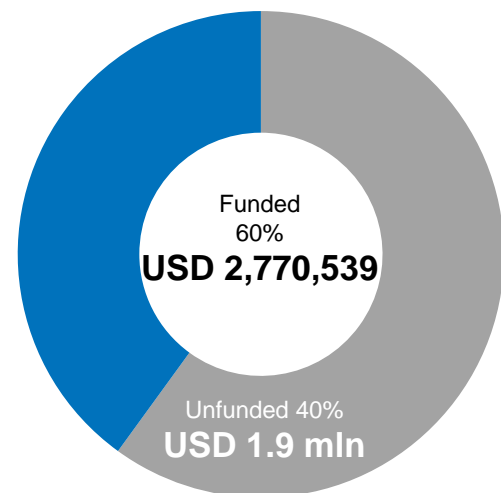
SIM-cards of various mobile operators were issued free of charge by EMERCOM as of 4 October 2022

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

FUNDING (AS OF 24 NOVEMBER 2022)

USD 4.7 million

requested for the operation in Russia



Presentation of "Kitchen Stories" cookbook at the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center featuring one of the refugee heroes of the project, creators of the book and the editor-in-chief of the "Novyi Ochag" magazine.
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UNHCR Russia staff during a monitoring visit to a family of Ukrainian refugees in one of the TAP-apartments in Nizhny Novgorod. © Press Office of the Ombudsman

Highlights

- **Monitoring mission to Temporary Accommodation Points (TAPs) in Nizhny Novgorod.** On November 1-2, UNHCR undertook a monitoring mission to Nizhny Novgorod to observe the reception conditions for Ukrainian refugees. 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 Nizhny Novgorod. During the mission, two TAPs, as well as two families hosted in TAP-apartments were visited. It was the first time that UNHCR observed the practice of accommodating refugee families in apartments rented and paid for by the regional authorities. The initial duration of stay in the TAP-apartments is three months, which can be extended.
- **Art installation about refugees organized with UNHCR.** On November 9, an art installation about refugees was shown in the Siberian city of Tyumen as part of the festival of contemporary national theatres “Who are you and where are you from?”. The creators of the project took inspiration from the comic book “Run can’t stay” created by UNHCR together with Samokat publishing house. The festival included an extensive educational program, a civic theatre laboratory and a series of online meetings in which participants, under the supervision of a playwright, wrote their families’ stories.
- **Presentation and public talk about the cookbook project prepared by UNHCR.** On November 14, UNHCR Moscow arranged an [event to promote “Kitchen Stories”](#), a collection of refugee stories and recipes prepared by UNHCR. The event was held in partnership with the “Centre of Tolerance and Jewish Museum” in Moscow, within the framework of Tolerance Week, held annually in November. UNHCR Moscow moderated a panel event in which refugees featured in the book, the editor-in-chief of a lifestyle magazine and the coordinator of the project “Assistance to refugees” from the Pomosch foundation, took part. The attendees received the cookbooks to familiarize themselves with the situation of refugees living in the Russian Federation.
- **Opening of the Reception Center of the Russian Red Cross in Moscow.** On November 15, the RRC Reception Center began operating in Moscow. The Reception Center works within the RRC Migration Center, and provides access to humanitarian aid, legal support, and psychological support for asylum-seekers, refugees, displaced persons, stateless persons and migrants in Russia. It also hosts the RRC Training Center for refugee and migrant children. The Center will facilitate identification of cases with specific needs, which will then be referred to lawyers, psychosocial support experts, and, if necessary, other specialized NGOs or government institutions. The Reception Center is supported by UNHCR, specifically the components on legal and psychosocial assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees.
- **VI International Scientific and Practical Conference “Human rights protection in Eurasia: exchange of best practices of ombudspersons”.** On November 16, the UNHCR Russia Representative attended a conference organised by the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation, with participation of Ombudsmen from 29 countries, as well as from regions of the RF, and representatives of governmental institutions, international organizations (IOM, ICRC, OHCHR), academia, and civil society. The participants exchanged best practices for safeguarding human rights and the provision of assistance and protection.
- **Participatory Assessment in St. Petersburg.** On November 23, UNHCR and the Saint Petersburg branch of the Russian Red Cross (RRC) conducted participatory assessment sessions with Ukrainian refugees. Focus group discussions were carried out with groups of men and women aged 18-59, single parents and older persons. The purpose was to assess the situation of Ukrainian refugees staying in urban settings outside the TAPs. Participants said they came to Saint Petersburg as they had relatives or friends who could provide support or had some other connection with the city. Some participants had already obtained or submitted applications for temporary asylum or other types of legal status. Some had managed to find employment, and children were admitted to schools in St. Petersburg. However, they also mentioned that they needed financial and humanitarian assistance, and some required legal and psychosocial support. Arrangements were made for participants to meet the RRC legal advisor. RRC shared their contact details and brochure on employment of refugees and temporary asylum holders.
- **Activities to mark the 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.** To commemorate the annual international campaign “16 days of activism against gender-based violence,” UNHCR Russia organized and participated in a series of events:
 - ✓ On November 12, UNHCR Moscow invited the SilSila Foundation, established by UNHCR Russia Goodwill Ambassador Manizha, to organize a webinar on financial literacy for refugee women. The speakers focused on setting financial goals, planning expenses, managing funds, defining personal financial plans, identifying talents and turning them into a source of income, and avoiding financial dependence. The webinar was attended by 24 participants.

- ✓ On November 24, UNHCR made a presentation at the UN Thematic Gender Group. The presentation covered UNHCR activities aimed at the prevention of violence against women and girls. UNHCR partner NGO Civic Assistance and the SiSila Foundation also made presentations at the event.
 - ✓ On November 26, UNHCR Moscow invited the SiSila Foundation to conduct an online training for its partners and refugee women. The training was an interactive discussion and emphasized importance of uniting to combat gender-based violence. SiSila presented several case studies related to female genital mutilation and gender-based violence in the context of human trafficking. The participants discussed the cases and the necessity to address these through collaboration. Overall, over 20 participants took part in the discussion.
- **Local Integration.** 28 beneficiaries from Afghanistan and Syria in Moscow and Saint Petersburg were granted citizenship of the Russian Federation in November 2022. The cumulative number of beneficiaries known to UNHCR who were granted citizenship of the Russian Federation for the period January-November 2022 is 67 persons. Prior to the acquisition of Russian citizenship, all of those who attained citizenship had various legal statuses in Russia and received legal assistance from UNHCR partners through the process of obtaining citizenship.

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